



# Saguaro National Park (West)

## Naturalist Program Schedule

Programs meet at the Red Hills Visitor Center, 2700 N. Kinney Road, and last 30 to 45 minutes, unless noted otherwise. All programs are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5158 for updates the day of the program. Program listings can also be found at [www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu).

**October 1, 14, 21, 28** 2:15 p.m. **Desert Dragons** Talk: 30 minutes

What's a desert dragon? Clue: It's not a bearded dragon and google isn't going to help much. Come discover these fascinating creatures and what's myth or fact in this fun and informative talk. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**October 1, 18, 22** 11:15 a.m. **Play Sonoran Desert Bingo!** Game: 1 hour

Learn about the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert while enjoying a rousing version of Bingo! Get five in a row – down, across, or diagonally – and win a non-monetary prize. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**October 12, 26** 10:15 a.m. **Mountain Lions: Beyond the Myth** Talk: 45 minutes

Envision a puma stalking its prey, then uncover the true nature of this elusive but essential predator. Misunderstood, maligned, and nearly eradicated by settlers, the mountain lion remains threatened by human encroachment. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**October 7, 14, 21, 28** 3:15 p.m. **Lizards are Hot, Lizards are Cool** Talk: 30 minutes

Lizards are small denizens of the desert that are a critical component of our desert community. Find out what it means when they do pushups or exhibit other odd behaviors. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**October 6, 13, 20, 27** 3:15 p.m. **Kangaroo Rat: Super Survivor** Talk: 45 minutes

Learn about the remarkable behavioral and physical adaptations these rodents possess that allow them to survive harsh desert environments. Find out how this nocturnal animal escapes predators, evades heat, and endures aridity. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**October 4, 18** 3:15 p.m. **Meet the Cuckoo of the Desert: The Roadrunner** Talk: 30 minutes

The Greater Roadrunner is a popular and charismatic member of the desert community. Join a park naturalist for a Power Point presentation about the natural history, behaviors, and other facts about this colorful creature. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**October 11, 25** 3:15 p.m. **How Do They Do It?** Walk: 15 minutes, 100 yards

Discover how the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert have adapted to the harsh conditions of this unique environment. (This program also is offered in Spanish October 4, 18 at 12:15 p.m.) *Wheelchair accessible.*

**October 1, 8, 15, 18, 22, 26** 2:15 p.m. **Javelinas: Our Desert Neighbors** Talk: 30 minutes

Sometimes referred to as the "desert pig," the javelina is not a pig at all. Learn about this intriguing creature and how it survives in this arid environment. *Wheelchair accessible.*

(This program also will be given in Spanish October 1, 22 at 12:15 p.m.)

**October 6, 13, 20, 27, 29** 11:15 a.m. **Living With Giants** Talk: 45 minutes

**ALSO October 8, 15** 3:15 p.m.

The saguaro celebrates events and faces challenges throughout its life. A biologist explains how it provides shelter and substance for wildlife; when it flowers; its growth patterns; and how it fights for survival against drought, lightning, frost, and other dangers. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**October 17, 19, 25, 29** 2:15 p.m. **Creepy Crawlers: The Silent Majority** Talk: 30 minutes

Learn about some of our most feared and misunderstood arthropods who call this park home. Come discover how essential they are for our desert community and why we shouldn't fear these mostly harmless creatures.

## Daytime Walks

**October 11, 25** 10:15 a.m. **Adaptations: Recipe for Survival** *Easy 100-yard walk: 30 minutes*  
Take a walk in our Cactus Garden to discover some physical and behavioral adaptations of desert plants.

**October 11, 25** 11:15 a.m. **Life Cycle of the Saguaro: Seed to Giant** *Walk: 45 minutes, 100 yards*  
Hear some astonishing reasons about why so few Saguaro seeds make it to fruition.

**October 5, 19** 10:15 a.m. **Sonoran Secrets to Desert Survival** *Talk & Walk: 60 minutes, 200 yards*  
Begin with comments on the shaded patio, then stroll a sidewalk next to the Visitor Center and identify the most common hazards hidden in the desert, uncover survival strategies of native plants and animals, and acquire practical tips to ensure your safety, particularly as temperatures rise with the approach of summer. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**October 17, 18, 19, 26** 11:15 a.m. **Spiny, Shady, and COOL!** *Walk: 30 minutes, 100 yards*  
Come for a short walk and discover the great variety of cacti that inhabit this unique and fascinating desert.

**October 8, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29** 10:15 a.m. **Cactus Garden Stroll**  
Enjoy a stroll in our Cactus Garden while learning about the park's cacti, trees, and more. Keep an eye out for birds and lizards and discuss the day's "catch", you'll never know what you'll see this day! *Wheelchair accessible.*

**October 27** 2:15 p.m. **Synergy in the Desert: The Sonoran Habitat** *Talk and Walk: 45 minutes*  
For all of life, "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts" is true. The iconic Saguaro is the focal point for a discussion of how the parts of the Sonoran Desert work together to create a rich living desert that is unique in the world.

## Spanish Language Programs

**October 4, 18** 12:15 p.m. **¿Como Pueden Sobrevivir?** *Walk: 15 minutes, 100 yards*  
**(Spanish version of How Do They Do It?)** Charla en Español donde discutiremos como las plantas y animales del desierto Sonorense se han adaptado a través de los años para poder sobrevivir y florecer en nuestro único y duro ambiente. *Wheelchair accessible.*

**October 1, 22** 12:15 p.m. **Jabalíes, Nuestros Vecinos Del Desierto** *Talk: 30 minutes*  
**(Spanish version of Javelina: Our Desert Neighbors)** Usted está invitado a acompañar a un naturalista del parque durante su presentación "Jabalíes, Nuestros Vecinos del Desierto." A veces referido como el cerdo del desierto, averigüe por qué el jabalí no es un cerdo. Descubra la historia natural de este fascinante animal y cómo se las arregla para sobrevivir en este ambiente árido. *Wheelchair accessible.*