

McDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

PARK HOURS:

Sunday – Thursday: 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday – Saturday: 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.
365 days a year

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Summer (5/9 - 10/9)

Monday thru Saturday: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

Winter (10/10 - 5/8)

Sunday thru Saturday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

PARK FEES:

\$6 vehicle day-use entry fee (no additional fees for programs, unless otherwise noted)

ONLINE RESERVATIONS:

<http://www.maricopacountyparks.org/>

DIRECTIONS:

From central Phoenix, take Loop 202 east to Beeline Highway (SR 87). Continue northeast on SR 87 to Shea Blvd. Travel west on Shea Blvd. to Saguaro Blvd.; turn north. Continue through Town of Fountain Hills to Fountain Hills Blvd; turn right and travel four miles to the McDowell Mountain Regional Park entrance.

WEBSITE:

<http://www.maricopacountyparks.net/mcdowell-mountain-regional-park/>



Maricopa County

Parks and Recreation Dept.
McDowell Mountain Regional Park
16300 McDowell Mountain Park Drive
MMRP, AZ 85268
Ph: 480-471-0173
Fax: 480-471-3523
mcdowellpark@mail.maricopa.gov



FEBRUARY 2018 FEATURED PROGRAMS

What's at the waterin' hole?

Date: 2/1/2018 **Time:** 11 a.m.

Description: Join the Ranger on the ADA accessible, barrier-free Nursery Tank Trail for this 0.6-mile walk. We will explore the desert habitat around us and maybe even spot some wildlife at the watering hole! Several benches are available near the watering hole so we can sit, wait & watch! Bring a camera and binoculars if you have them. Meet at the Nursery Tank Trailhead.

Core: Animals

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Stargazing for Everyone

Date: 2/17/2018 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.

Description: Tony LaConte and Carole LaConte bring the universe to you! Learn star names, see the constellations, and listen to stories of the night sky. View the moon, planets, star clusters, nebula, galaxies and more through their telescopes. We encourage you to bring your digital camera and binoculars to enjoy the views. The stargazing programs are outdoor events, dress appropriately and bring chairs or blankets for your seating comfort. Watch the park's website for more information, updates or changes, in case of inclement weather, prior to the event. Event will be held at the Trailhead Staging Area.

Core: Astronomy

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Reptile Feeding

Date: 2/10/2018 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: Find out if our desert reptiles prefer fast food, or casual dining.

What's on the menu? Mice! Join our captive reptiles as they enjoy being served an a la carte meal. Casual attire only please. Program takes place at the Visitor Center.

Core: Animals

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Dog Safety in the Desert

Date: 2/18/2018 **Time:** 11 a.m.

Description: It's snake season and a good time to learn about dog safety in the desert. Protect your best friend and hiking buddy from some of the hazards of the desert environment. Friendly, leashed animals welcomed. Program held at the Visitor Center.

Core: Animals

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Friday Fitness Hikes!

Date: Every Friday **Time:** 8am

Description: These fitness hikes are designed for the experienced hiker who would like to socialize and stay active. Hike distances usually range from 8-12 miles and begin from different locations throughout the park each week. Please check weekly schedule for start locations.

Core: Health & Fitness

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MONTHLY EVENTS

What's at the waterin' hole?

Date: 2/1/2018 **Time:** 11 a.m.
Description: Join the Ranger on the ADA accessible, barrier-free Nursery Tank Trail for this 0.6-mile walk. We will explore the desert habitat around us and maybe even spot some wildlife at the watering hole! Several benches are available near the watering hole so we can sit, wait & watch! Bring a camera and binoculars if you have them. Meet at the Nursery Tank Trailhead.
Core: Animals

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Friday Fitness Hike – Trailhead Staging Area

Date: 2/2/2018 **Time:** 8 a.m.
Description: This week's hike will begin from the Trailhead Staging Area. Hike distance will be between 8-12 miles. Bring plenty of water, and snacks and make sure to have comfortable shoes & clothing. Hike will be led by Kevin B.
Core: Health & Fitness

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Trailside Ranger - North Trail

Date: 2/3/2018 **Time:** 1 p.m.-2:30pm
Description: The North Trail is our most popular hiking trail due to the diversity of the desert plants along the trail and the ease of the terrain on this 3-mile loop. Come out and see for yourself and find the Ranger trailside to answer some of your questions before you hit the hiking trail for this on your own hike! The Ranger will be at the North Trailhead between 1-2:30pm.
Core: Plants

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Get Lost in the Desert

Date: 2/4/2018 **Time:** 1 p.m.
Description: This is a non-hiking program designed to help you "get lost" from the demands of everyday life. Let us guide you through some activities that will allow you to spend time losing yourself in the great outdoors. Disconnect from stress and connect with nature as we enjoy some "trail therapy". Gain a better understanding the desert around you. Get inspired by being out in nature. Enjoy some relaxation on this outdoor journey. Meet at the Nursery Tank Trailhead. We will do some slow walking- you may go as far as you wish, but the trail is only 0.6 mile. The trail is ADA accessible, so it is suitable for all physical abilities.
Core: Entertainment & Social Skills

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Self-guided Hike on the North Trail

Date: 2/7/2018 **Time:** All Day
Description: The North Trail is the most popular hiking trail in the McDowell Mountain Regional Park. It is a 3-mile loop trail that has an accompanying interpretive pamphlet. It is rated as "easy" and suitable for most folks who want to get out and enjoy a hike. Come out and enjoy a walk, at your own pace. Interpretive pamphlets are available at the trailhead. Stop by the Visitor Center if you need directions!
Core: Plants

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Plants and Ancient People

Date: 2/8/2018 **Time:** 1 p.m.
Description: How did the native ancient people survive in such a harsh climate without the modern conveniences we take for granted today? Join the Ranger on this easy walk and immerse yourself into ancient culture for his short walk on the 0.6-mile ADA accessible trail is suitable for all ages and abilities. Meet at the Nursery Tank Trailhead.
Core: Plants

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Friday Fitness Hike – Dixie Mine

Date: 2/9/2018 **Time:** 8 a.m.
Description: Meet in the parking lot for the Dixie Mine Trailhead at the end of Golden Eagle Blvd in Fountain Hills. (The trailhead is the same as that for the Sonoran Trail.) Hike distance will be between 8-12 miles. Participants should have previous hiking experience. Park access from this trailhead is "hike only" so please come prepared with a \$2 park entrance fee. Please make sure to have enough water, comfortable shoes and clothing, and a hat. Hike led by Kevin B.
Core: Health & Fitness

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Reptile Feeding!

Date: 2/10/2018 **Time:** 2 p.m.
Description: Find out if our desert reptiles prefer fast food, or casual dining. What's on the menu? Mice! Join our captive reptiles as they enjoy being served an a la carte meal. Casual attire only please. Program takes place at the Visitor Center.
Core: Animals

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Saguaro Secrets – Exposed!

Date: 2/15/2018 **Time:** 11 a.m.
Description: These classic icons of the Sonoran Desert have their secrets, just like many of your favorite celebrities! We

will expose their private lives and discover if there are any truths to the rumors that you may have heard about these "locals". Program held at the covered Picnic Ramada at the Trailhead Staging Area. Bring your lunch if you would like!
Core: Plants

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Friday Fitness Hike – Tom's Thumb

Date: 2/16/2018 **Time:** 8 a.m.
Description: Hike distance will be between 8-12 miles. This week's hike starts OUTSIDE OF THE PARK at the Tom's Thumb Trailhead, off of 128th Street in Scottsdale (off of Dynamite). Park access from this trailhead is "hike only" so please come prepared with a \$2 (cash) park entrance fee. This is a difficult hike that involves a good amount of elevation and loose rocks. A hiking pole is recommended for this hike that starts in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Please call the Park if you need directions to the Trailhead. Bring plenty of water, snacks and make sure to have comfortable shoes, clothing and a hat. Hike will be led by Kevin B.
Core: Health & Fitness

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Stargazing for Everyone

Date: 2/17/2018 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.
Description: Tony LaConte and Carole LaConte bring the universe to you! Learn star names, see the constellations, and listen to stories of the night sky. View the moon, planets, star clusters, nebula, galaxies and more through their telescopes. We encourage you to bring your digital camera and binoculars to enjoy the views. The stargazing programs are outdoor events, dress appropriately and bring chairs or blankets for your seating comfort. Watch the park's website for more information, updates or changes, in case of inclement weather, prior to the event. Event will be held at the Trailhead Staging Area.
Core: Astronomy

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Dog Safety in the Desert

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Core: Animals

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McDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Self-guided Hike on the North Trail

Date: 2/21/2018 **Time:** All Day
Description: The North Trail is the most popular hiking trail in the McDowell Mountain Regional Park. It is a 3-mile loop trail that has an accompanying interpretive pamphlet. It is rated as "easy" and suitable for most folks who want to get out and enjoy a hike. Come out and enjoy a walk, at your own pace. Interpretive pamphlets are available at the trailhead. Stop by the Visitor Center if you need directions!
Core: Plants

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Desert Creature Feature

Date: 2/22/2018 **Time:** 1:30 p.m. - 3:00pm
Description: Stop by the park Visitor Center anytime between 1:30pm-3pm to visit up close and personal with a live desert critter! The Ranger will have a desert critter out for a show & Tell session so stop by for a visit to learn about our featured critter to say hello!
Core: Animals

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Friday Fitness Hike – Horse Staging Area

Date: 2/23/2018 **Time:** 8 a.m.
Description: This week's hike will begin

from the 4 Peaks/Horse Staging Area. Hike distance will be between 8-12 miles. Participants should have previous hiking experience. Bring plenty of water, and snacks and make sure to have comfortable shoes & clothing. Hike led by Kevin B.

Core: Health & Fitness

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STAFF:

Park Supervisor: Shayla Gunn
Interpretive Ranger: Amy Roberts
Office Asst. Jeanine O'Reilly
Maintenance: Mark Ostapczuk and John Grutzmacher

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MESSAGE FROM THE PARK SUPERVISOR:

Thank you for your continued support and interest in McDowell Mountain Regional Park. We realize that you have a choice when it comes to selecting recreation venues and appreciate your business!

Sincerely,

Shayla Gunn

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WHAT TO BRING:

Please wear closed-toe shoes or boots for most programs, and bring plenty of drinking water. See descriptions below for specifics.

Notes: Fees for our programs are included in the park entry fee of \$6 per vehicle or with your annual pass or camping fee. Reservations are not required unless specified in the program description. Hikes/programs are canceled if heavy inclement weather is imminent. If possible, canceled hikes will be posted on our website.

MEDIA PARTNERS:

Thank you for helping us advertise McDowell Mountain Regional Park's programs and events! Please include Ranger Amy's email address – amyroberts@mail.maricopa.gov - in your postings so park visitors can contact the park directly for with general questions about programs, updates, and changes.

