

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:

<https://www.maricopacountyparks.net/>



Maricopa County

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



MARCH 2018 FEATURED PROGRAMS

Reptiles of AZ!

Date: 3/3/2018 **Time:** 12 p.m.

Description: It's Spring! Our Arizona reptiles will be waking up from their winter slumber. We will welcome special guest speaker Griffin Logue from Mesa Community College to McDowell Mountain Regional Park to help prepare us for their arrival. We will have several species of live animals on display, and discuss the biology of these animals and answer the most frequently asked questions. Join us for the fun! Program held outside at the Visitor Center.

Core: Animals

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Introduction to Archery

Date: 3/16/2018 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: This program will teach you the basics of learning to target shoot with a bow and arrow in a safe and controlled environment. Participants will experience an introduction to international-style target archery. Equipment is provided. Space is limited. RSVP required. To RSVP, contact amyroberts@mail.maricopa.gov to RSVP. Additional details will be provided. Participants must be at least 10 years of age.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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Bird Walk

Date: 3/17/2018 **Time:** 7:45a.m.

Description: This guided bird walk will allow birders to enjoy a morning of

searching for their latest and greatest bird sightings to add to their lists! All levels of birding experience welcomed. Meet at the Visitor Center. Walk led by Kathe Anderson

Core: Animals

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Plants and Ancient People

Date: 3/15/2018 **Time:** 11 a.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: Archaeology & History

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History of the Stoneman Road Hike

Date: 3/22/2018 **Time:** 7:30

a.m.

Description: What we know today as the "Stoneman Wash Trail" was formerly known as the Stoneman Road. This trail is a significant part of Arizona's rich history. Join local expert Len Marcisz on this hike that will transport you back in time thru his colorful storytelling! The hike will be 3-4 miles, most of it through loose sandy soil. Please have enough water, a hat, sunscreen, and any supplies you will need to spend a few hours of your morning on the trail. Meet at the Wagner Trailhead.

Core: Archaeology & History

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MONTHLY EVENTS

A Walk on the Wild Side

Date: 3/1/2018 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: Take a walk on the wild side and learn about some of the plants and animals that call the Sonoran Desert home. This short walk (0.5-mile) will be on an ADA-accessible trail and suitable for all ages and abilities. Experience the feeling of being way out in the wild, without too much effort! Meet at the Nursery Tank Trailhead, which is approximately 5-miles from the park entrance.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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Intro to Archery

Date: 3/2/2018 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: This program will teach you the basics of learning to target shoot with a bow and arrow in a safe and controlled environment. Participants will experience an introduction to international-style target archery. Equipment is provided. Space is limited. RSVP required. To RSVP, contact amyroberts@mail.maricopa.gov to RSVP. Additional details will be provided. Participants must be at least 10 years of age.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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Description: It's Spring! Our Arizona reptiles will be waking up from their winter slumber. We will welcome special guest speaker Griffin Logue from Mesa Community College to McDowell Mountain Regional Park to help prepare us for their arrival. We will have several species of live animals on display, and discuss the biology of these animals and answer the most frequently asked questions. Join us for the fun! Program held outside at the Visitor Center.

Core: Animals

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Plants and Ancient People

Date: 3/4/2018 **Time:** 11 a.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: Archaeology & History

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Self-guided Walk on North Trail

Date: 3/7/2018 **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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Bird Basics

Date: 3/8/2018 **Time:** 8:30 a.m.
Description: Bird watching is a fun hobby that can be done anywhere, by people of all ages and abilities. Let us help you get started with this fun new hobby today! Bring binoculars if you have them, but if you don't we will have a limited supply available to borrow. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Core: Animals

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Trailside Ranger – North Trail

Date: 3/9/2018 **Time:** 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Description: Experience the beauty of the Sonoran Desert along the popular 3-mile North Trail loop. This trail has a difficulty rating of "easy" and is suitable for most people, even less experienced hikers. As you hike the trail, many of your questions can be answered by the interpretive brochure that corresponds with the trail, but the Park Ranger will be in the area and roving around the on the trail (note the times listed) to help you answer you answer your most important questions, like "What's in that hole?!". See you on the trail!

Core: Plants

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Bites and Stings - What do I do?!

Date: 3/10/2018 **Time:** 2 p.m.
Description: An expert from Banner Poison Control will be here to share important information about what you can expect if you have an unfortunate encounter with some of Arizona's most common venomous creatures. As the desert springs into motion with warming temperatures, so does our chance of an encounter with a venomous critter. Some of these venomous animals will also be on live display for you to see! Program held at the Visitor Center.

Core: Health & Fitness

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100 Miles in 100 Days Celebration!

Date: 3/10/2018 **Time:** 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Description: Have you completed your 100 miles and turned in your required logs? If so, we want to help you celebrate your achievement! We will host an open-house style celebration for you at the Visitor Center. Pick up your T-shirt and enjoy light refreshments as you exchange tales of the trail with fellow participants. If you are unable to attend, please make arrangements to pick up your T-shirt at a later time by contacting amyroberts@mail.maricopa.gov.

Core: Entertainment & Social Skills

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Bats! Truth or Tale?

Date: 3/10/2018 **Time:** 7 p.m.
Description: Enjoy an evening outdoors learning about bats! Discover their important role in the Sonoran Desert ecosystem and develop a new appreciation for these nocturnal friends! Bring a camp chair or blanket to sit on for this presentation. Special guest speaker Brian Buttazoni. Program will be held outside at the Visitor Center.

Core: Animals

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Goodies on the Ground! Tracks & Scat

Date: 3/14/2018 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: What walked the trail before you? Are you curious about the signs you see along the trail left by desert wildlife but need some help "connecting the dots" to get a better picture? Join us for this mini-adventure into the world of tracks and scat on the all-accessible 0.6-mile Nursery Tank Trail. Meet the Ranger at the Nursery Tank Trailhead.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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Plants and Ancient People

Date: 3/15/2018 **Time:** 11 a.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: Archaeology & History

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Introduction to Archery

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McDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Core: Animals

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Saguaro Secrets – Exposed!

Date: 3/18/2018 **Time:** 11:30 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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Self-guided Walk on North Trail

Date: 3/21/2018 **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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Core: Archaeology & History

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Creature Feature

Date: 3/22/2018 **Time:** 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

Description: Stop by the Visitor Center anytime between 10am-11am to visit up close and personal with a live desert critter! The Ranger will have a desert critter out for a show and tell session. Stop by to learn about our featured creature and say Hello!

Core: Animals

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Introduction to Archery

Date: 3/30/2018 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: This program will teach you the basics of learning to target shoot with a bow and arrow in a safe and controlled environment. Participants will experience an introduction to international-style target archery. Equipment is provided. Space is limited. RSVP required. To RSVP, contact amyroberts@mail.maricopa.gov to RSVP. Additional details will be provided. Participants must be at least 10 years of age.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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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.

