

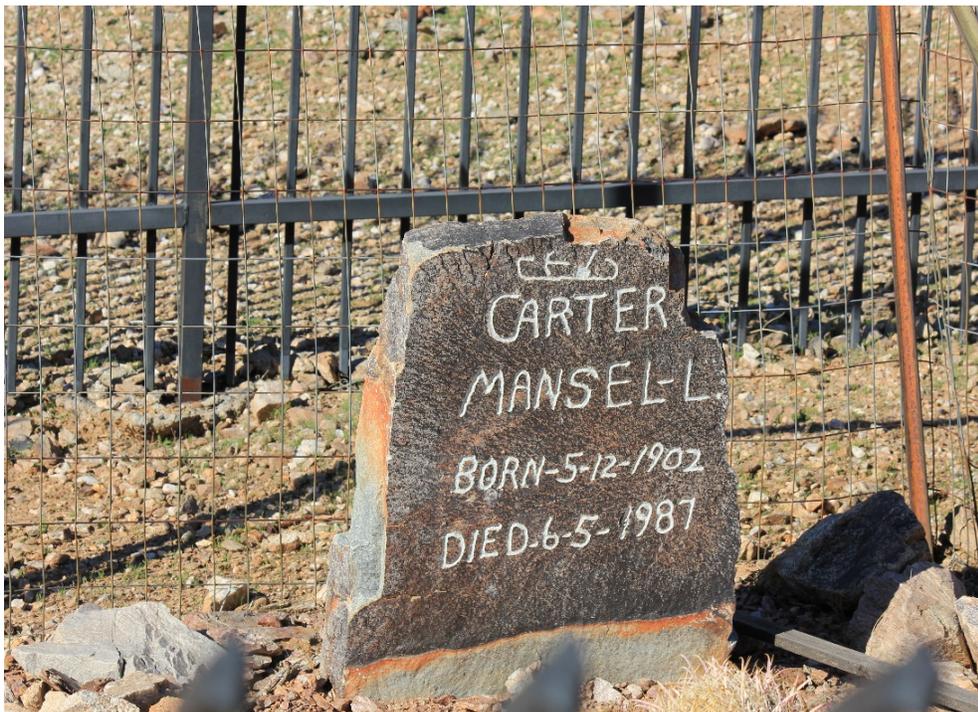
# SAN TAN MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

## February Programs



### Maricopa County

Parks and Recreation Dept.  
San Tan Mountain Regional Park  
6533 W. Phillips Road  
Queen Creek, AZ 85142  
(480) 655-5554



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

### PARK HOURS:

Sunday – Thursday: 6 am – 8 pm  
Friday – Saturday: 6 am – 10 pm  
365 days a year

### NATURE CENTER HOURS:

**SUMMER (05/07 - 10/08)**  
Monday thru Saturday: 8 am – 3 pm  
Sunday: Closed  
**WINTER (10/09 – 05/06)**  
Sunday thru Saturday: 8 am – 4 pm

### ADMIN. OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8 am – 4 pm

### PARK FEES:

\$7 per vehicle day-use entry fee (no additional fees for programs, unless otherwise noted)

### DIRECTIONS:

From central Phoenix, take I-10 east to US 60 east. Exit Ellsworth Road south to Hunt Highway. Travel east on Hunt Highway to Thompson Road south. Turn west on Phillips Road to the San Tan Mountain Regional Park entrance.

### WEBSITE:

<https://www.maricopacountyparks.net/park-locator/san-tan-mountain-regional-park/>

### EMAIL ADDRESS:

[santanpark@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:santanpark@mail.maricopa.gov)

### FACEBOOK PAGE:

<https://www.facebook.com/SanTanMtnPark/>

### STAFF:

**Park Supervisor:** Richard Plautz  
**Interpretive Ranger:** Nikki Bunnell  
**Office Asst.** Blake Spanier  
**Contact Station** JoAnn Lezeau  
**Maintenance:** Peter Marsala

### MTB 101 – Beginner Mountain Bike Clinic and Ride

**Date:** 2/2/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.  
**Description:** Saturday – If you're looking to learn new skills, increase your confidence on the bike, or simply enjoy the sport like never before, our MTB 101 class is just for you. This is the perfect introduction that teaches all the basic skills needed to ride in the desert & mountain terrain. Get to know your bike and riding equipment, learn how to balance, shift, and control your speed with proper braking, and familiarize yourself with riding protocol and safety. This introductory 30 min class is also followed by a short 3-4 mile ride to practice what you just learned. A helmet is required for safety reasons and please bring plenty of water, and an extra tube and tools to change a flat tire. If you're a mountain bike beginner and have never ridden on the desert trails, you don't want to miss this event! Meet at the Main Trailhead. 8-10am.  
**Core:** Health & Fitness

### Pack Rat Guided Hike

**Date:** 2/2/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.  
**Description:** Saturday – You may have heard of the term "pack rat" before but may not know it is inspired by an actual animal – one that lives in our desert! Join us for a guided 4.5 mile loop along San Tan, Hedgehog and Moonlight Trails to see special dwellings created by these interesting park residents and learn what the familiar term and the elusive animal have in common. Wear closed-toe shoes and bring water, a hat, snacks and your camera. Meet at the Main Trailhead map kiosk. 9-11am.  
**Core:** Health & Fitness

### San Tan Cacti

**Date:** 2/3/2019 **Time:** 1 p.m.  
**Description:** Sunday – Do you know the difference between a saguaro and a barrel cactus? How about the difference between varieties of cholla? With this class we'll start indoors with a presentation on cacti that can be found in our park and follow up with a 2.2 mile hike around Stargazer and Moonlight Trails to see them firsthand. See them at every phase of the life cycle and discuss their roles within the desert ecosystem. You'll learn about the types of flowers they produce and when you can expect to see them during your springtime hikes. Wear closed-toe shoes and bring water, sunscreen and a hat. Meet inside the Nature Center. 1-3pm.  
**Core:** Plants

### Night Shredders Mountain Biking

**Date:** 2/6/2019 **Time:** 6 p.m.  
**Description:** Wednesday – Welcome to the San Tan Bikes sponsored "Night Shredders"! If you're looking for an adventure where your trail riding abilities will be challenged, then look no further than the Night Shredders. When you're on a bike on the trail at night, every bump, dip and shadow gives an extra pop of adrenaline. Darkness heightens your senses, sharpens your skills and makes you feel more alive. And isn't that why you bike in the first place? Our policy, "No Rider Left Behind," means we ride together in a group for safety reasons. It is mandatory to wear a helmet and please bring plenty of water, an extra tube and tools to change a flat tire, and 2 sources of light; LED rechargeable

lights with at least 650 lumen. Why? The desert gets very dark at night. Riders under 18-years of age must complete a Parental Consent form. Hope to see you on the trail soon. Meet at the flagpole at 5:50 PM. 6-8pm.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### **Homeschool: Mansel Carter – Old Man of the Mountain\*\***

**Date:** 2/7/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** Thursday – \*\*This class meets at the Goldmine Trailhead off Wagon Wheel Road\*\* Come have a fun adventure as we talk about the history of San Tan Park and one of its well-known former residents: Mansel Carter. We'll take a short walk up Goldmine Trail to visit the graves of Carter and his buddy, Marion Kennedy, and discover what it was like to live at the mountain and mine for gold more than 60 years ago. This class will have an outdoor presentation, hands-on activities and a one-mile roundtrip walk on the trail. Be sure to bring water, closed-toe shoes and a hat. Meet at the Goldmine Trailhead off Wagon Wheel Road. 10-11:30am.

**Core:** Archaeology & History

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### **Wrap-up Hike for the 100 Miles Challenge**

**Date:** 2/8/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

**Description:** Friday – Today is the last day to log Challenge miles and wrap up this year's adventure. Where did the time go? Celebrate with a 5 mile hike with the Ranger to meet your goal or push beyond it. Wear closed-toe shoes and bring water and a hat. Meet at the Main Trailhead map kiosk. 9-11am.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### **Beginner Skill Level Mountain Bike Ride**

**Date:** 2/9/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

**Description:** Saturday – Join us for an exciting beginner mountain bike ride among the beautiful San Tan Mountains. This 5.5-mile ride is open to all ages and skill levels. Our local experts will be available to help you understand your bike's features and learn the ins and outs of safe riding. "No Rider Left Behind" is our policy, because we ride together in a group. This is your opportunity to be around others who are passionate about mountain biking as a sport to have fun and get some exercise. Helmets are required. Under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Essentials: water, helmet, extra tube, tools to change a flat tire. Meet at the San Tan Trail sign at the main trailhead. 8-10am.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### **Master Gardeners Series: Exploring Soils of Arizona, North America and Beyond**

**Date:** 2/9/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** Join the San Tan Valley Master Gardeners to get all the "dirt" on soil! With this family-friendly drop-in session you'll find out interesting things about something that's under our feet, such as what black sand from Hawaii looks like and how beach sand from the Pacific coast differs from beach sand found in the Great Lakes region. Investigate several soil samples from different parts of our country and even different parts of the world to learn what components make them up. Kids (and adults!) will have the opportunity to "paint" a picture using different colors and textures of soil found in San Tan Park and have a unique souvenir to take home. Meet in the gated area outside the Nature Center. 10am-12pm.

**Core:** Geology

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### **Night Shredders Mountain Biking**

**Date:** 2/13/2019 **Time:** 6 p.m.

**Description:** Wednesday – Welcome to the San Tan Bikes sponsored "Night Shredders"! If you're looking for an adventure where your trail riding abilities will be challenged, then look no further than the Night Shredders. When you're on a bike on the trail at night, every bump, dip and shadow gives an extra pop of adrenaline. Darkness heightens your senses, sharpens your skills and makes you feel more alive. And isn't that why you bike in the first place? Our policy, "No Rider Left Behind," means we ride together in a group for safety reasons. It is mandatory to wear a helmet and please bring plenty of water, an extra tube and tools to change a flat tire, and 2 sources of light; LED rechargeable lights with at least 650 lumen. Why? The desert gets very dark at night. Riders under 18-years of age must complete a Parental Consent form. Hope to see you on the trail soon. Meet at the flagpole at 5:50pm. 6-8pm.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### **San Tan History**

**Date:** 2/15/2019 **Time:** 2 p.m.

**Description:** Friday – What was the area now known as San Tan Park like 50 years ago? 100 years ago? 1000 years ago? Travel back in time with this indoor class that explores the Park's interesting past from mining and the "Old Man of the Mountain" to the ancient Hohokam civilization that left behind clues to their existence here and elsewhere in the Valley. Afterwards, we'll take a 30-minute hike around Littleleaf and Goldmine Trails to see some points of interest firsthand. Wear closed-toe shoes and bring water and a hat. Meet inside the Nature Center. 2-3:30pm.

**Core:** Archaeology & History

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### **Beginner Skill Level Mountain Bike Ride**

**Date:** 2/16/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

**Description:** Saturday – Join us for an exciting beginner mountain bike ride among the beautiful San Tan Mountains. This 5.5-mile ride is open to all ages and skill levels. Our local experts will be available to help you understand your bike's features and learn the ins and outs of safe riding. "No Rider Left Behind" is our policy, because we ride together in a group. This is your opportunity to be around others who are passionate about mountain biking as a sport to have fun and get some exercise. Helmets are required. Under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Essentials: water, helmet, extra tube, tools to change a flat tire. Meet at the San Tan Trail sign at the main trailhead. 8-10am.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### **Intro to Archery**

**Date:** 2/16/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

**Description:** Saturday – This beginner class will introduce you to International Style Target Archery in a safe and fun outdoor environment. We will focus on proper form and range safety with target games at the end to test your skills. Open to adults and kids over 10 years old. You must have the arm/shoulder strength to successfully draw the bow. Equipment is provided. Choose your hour-long session: 9am or 10:15am. Max 10 students per class. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Please wear long sleeves and closed-toe shoes and bring plenty of water. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Contact: nikkibunnell@mail.maricopa.gov. Meet at the south end of the overflow parking area.

**Core:** Outdoor Skills

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### **Get Ready for Wildflowers**

**Date:** 2/16/2019 **Time:** 2 p.m.

**Description:** Saturday – Wildflower season is just around the corner. The amount of winter rain received around the valley will determine how strong the wildflower showing will be in any given area. Do you know what trails to explore to see the best displays? In a classroom presentation we'll review the conditions that areas have experienced and talk about some of the best places to see favorites such as poppies, lupine, filaree and flowering shrubs such as brittlebush and globemallow. After the talk we'll take a 1-mile walk to search for and identify early sprouts and buds. Wear closed-toe shoes and bring water and a hat. Meet inside the Nature Center. 2-3:30pm.

**Core:** Plants

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### **Meet the Critters**

**Date:** 2/17/2019 **Time:** 2 p.m.

**Description:** Sunday – Stop by this “open house” style meet and greet with some of the animal ambassadors in our Critter Room, hosted by Ranger Nikki. Learn about what they eat, how their relatives survive in the wild and how we can safely enjoy hiking in their neighborhoods. You might even have a chance to get up close and personal! This drop-in program is from 2-3pm. Meet inside the Nature Center.

**Core:** Animals

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### Night Shredders Mountain Biking

**Date:** 2/20/2019 **Time:** 6 p.m.

**Description:** Wednesday – Welcome to the San Tan Bikes sponsored “Night Shredders”! If you’re looking for an adventure where your trail riding abilities will be challenged, then look no further than the Night Shredders. When you’re on a bike on the trail at night, every bump, dip and shadow gives an extra pop of adrenaline. Darkness heightens your senses, sharpens your skills and makes you feel more alive. And isn’t that why you bike in the first place? Our policy, “No Rider Left Behind,” means we ride together in a group for safety reasons. It is mandatory to wear a helmet and please bring plenty of water, an extra tube and tools to change a flat tire, and 2 sources of light; LED rechargeable lights with at least 650 lumen. Why? The desert gets very dark at night. Riders under 18-years of age must complete a Parental Consent form. Hope to see you on the trail soon. Meet at the flagpole at 5:50pm. 6-8pm.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### Full Moon Hike

**Date:** 2/20/2019 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Description:** Wednesday – Discover the beauty of the Sonoran Desert at night we hike under the light of the moon. During this 2.2 mile slow-paced walk along the moderate terrain of Moonlight and Stargazer Trails we’ll listen for the sounds of wildlife and embrace the nighttime atmosphere. Wear closed-toe shoes and bring water and a flashlight. No pets, please. Meet at the Main Trailhead map kiosk. 7:30-8:30pm.

**Core:** Astronomy

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### Homeschool: People of the Past

**Date:** 2/21/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** Thursday – Join us as we explore how archaeologists search for and study ancient objects that were left behind by humans to learn about their activities and ways of life. How did the prehistoric Hohokam cultures survive in the desert and what kind of clues did they leave behind? What will future archaeologists learn about us hundreds of years from now? This class will have both indoor and outdoor

presentations, hands-on activities and a short trail walk to help you imagine what the park was like in the past. Be sure to bring water, closed-toe shoes and a hat. Meet inside the Nature Center. 10-11:30am.

**Core:** Archaeology & History

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### Sunset Yoga in the Park\*

**Date:** 2/22/2019 **Time:** 5:15 pm

**Description:** Friday - Have you ever wanted to try doing yoga outside? Join us at San Tan for a Sunset Yoga class that is appropriate for all levels. Certified instructor Cathy Glaess will guide you through basic poses and breathing techniques as the sun sets over a beautiful desert environment. Be sure to bring a water bottle and a yoga mat. Wear comfortable clothing that allows you to move easily. This class is included with your park entry fee. Meet at the main entrance trailhead area. \*Please note the start time! 5:15-6:15pm.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### Beginner Skill Level Mountain Bike Ride

**Date:** 2/23/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

**Description:** Saturday – Join us for an exciting beginner mountain bike ride among the beautiful San Tan Mountains. This 5.5-mile ride is open to all ages and skill levels. Our local experts will be available to help you understand your bike’s features and learn the ins and outs of safe riding. “No Rider Left Behind” is our policy, because we ride together in a group. This is your opportunity to be around others who are passionate about mountain biking as a sport to have fun and get some exercise. Helmets are required. Under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Essentials: water, helmet, extra tube, tools to change a flat tire. Meet at the San Tan Trail sign at the main trailhead. 8-10am.

**Core:** Archaeology & History

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### Archaeology Day

**Date:** 2/23/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

**Description:** Saturday – Learn about the Hohokam culture that existed in and around San Tan Mountain Regional Park with demonstrations, displays and informal talks presented by local agencies and craft specialists. There will also be opportunities for you to get hands-on experience with ancient skills that were both utilitarian and artistic. This drop-in style event will be set up at the Main Trailhead and you can visit before or after you hike. 9am-12pm.

**Core:** Archaeology & History

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### Night Shredders Mountain Biking

**Date:** 2/27/2019 **Time:** 6 p.m.

**Description:** Wednesday – Welcome to the San Tan Bikes sponsored “Night

Shredders”! If you’re looking for an adventure where your trail riding abilities will be challenged, then look no further than the Night Shredders. When you’re on a bike on the trail at night, every bump, dip and shadow gives an extra pop of adrenaline. Darkness heightens your senses, sharpens your skills and makes you feel more alive. And isn’t that why you bike in the first place? Our policy, “No Rider Left Behind,” means we ride together in a group for safety reasons. It is mandatory to wear a helmet and please bring plenty of water, an extra tube and tools to change a flat tire, and 2 sources of light; LED rechargeable lights with at least 650 lumen. Why? The desert gets very dark at night. Riders under 18-years of age must complete a Parental Consent form. Hope to see you on the trail soon. Meet at the flagpole at 5:50pm. 6-8pm.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### PARK NOTES:

Please wear sturdy closed-toe shoes, dress appropriately for the weather and bring more water than you think you will need. Stay on designated trails for your own safety and that of our sensitive desertecosystem. Did you know that leaving a designated trail or walkway between trailheads is a violation of Park Rule R-118 that could result in a Class 2 Misdemeanor? Know your limits and stay safe! Be sure to follow the principles of Leave No Trace and dispose of litter properly. Please remember universal Trail Etiquette as you enjoy our Park. Bikers yield to horses and hikers. Hikers yield to horses. Yield means that you must slow down or stop to determine if you can safely pass the other party. Call out to horse riders when approaching them, whether from the back or front, to ensure everyone’s safety. We love dogs! They must be on a leash extending no more than 6 feet. Please pick up your dog’s waste and dispose of the bag in a trash can. Programs and hikes are included in your park entry fee or with your annual pass. 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 the website or Facebook

Media Partners: Thank you for helping us advertise San Tan Mountain Regional Parks programs and events! Please include the \$7 per vehicle park entry fee and Ranger Nikki’s email address – NikkiBunnell@mail.maricopa.gov - in your postings so park visitors can contact the park directly with general questions about programs, updates, and changes.