

# SAN TAN MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

## March 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

### **P** **PARK FEES:**

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

### **D** **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.

### **W** **WEBSITE:**

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

### **E** **EMAIL ADDRESS:**

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

### **F** **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

### Guided Hike on Dynamite and Goldmine Trails

**Date:** 3/1/2019 **Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Description:** Friday – This Ranger-led hike starts at the main entrance trailhead and follows Goldmine Trail to San Tan, along Dynamite and then up the north (difficult) side of Goldmine to come back to the visitor center. This 6-mile trek is rated moderate/difficult and hiking poles are recommended for the Goldmine ascent. Please wear closed-toe shoes and bring water, a hat, sunscreen and snacks. Meet at the Main Trailhead map kiosk. 8:30-11:30am.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### MTB 101 – Beginner Bike Clinic and Ride

**Date:** 3/2/2019 **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

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### Trailhead Chat with the Ranger

**Date:** 3/2/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

**Description:** Saturday – The Ranger will be at the main trailhead to answer questions, suggest routes and share hiking tips. You can also learn about proper trail etiquette for hikers, bikers and equestrians. Get great information about the plants and animals found in our park and how to stay safe while on the trail. Also learn about our educational programs and volunteer opportunities to become more involved with our park. Be sure to bring your water, hat and sunscreen. 9-11am.

**Core:** Outdoor Skills

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### Welcome to the Sonoran Desert: Walk & Talk

**Date:** 3/3/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

**Description:** Sunday - Whether you are a new desert dweller or a longtime resident you will enjoy this introduction to our fascinating Sonoran Desert landscape and some of the treasures that springtime brings. How do plants and animals survive in a place that receives less than 10 inches of rain per year? This mile-long walk and talk will explore some nature's efficient survival strategies that allow

them to do so. We'll also touch upon San Tan's interesting geologic and cultural history. What to bring: Closed-toe shoes, water, hat, sunscreen. Meet at the flag pole. 9-10am.

**Core:** Plants

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### **Night Shredders Mountain Biking**

**Date:** 3/6/2019 **Time:** 7 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 6:50 PM. 7-9pm.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### **Homeschool: Desert Plants**

**Date:** 3/7/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** Thursday – Welcome to the wonderful world of desert flowers, shrubs, cacti and trees! Learn about the amazing adaptations that these plants have made over time to survive in a dry and hot (and sometimes freezing!) desert environment. We'll talk about photosynthesis, water availability in the desert, and how animals and people rely on them for a food source. You'll also become a junior scientist with hands-on samples to identify and examine for unique characteristics. After the indoor class we'll take a mile-long walk to see some these plants face to face. Be sure to wear closed-toe shoes and bring water, your hat and sunscreen. Meet inside the Nature Center. 10-11:30am.

**Core:** Plants

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

**Date:** 3/9/2019 **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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### **100 Miles Challenge Celebration**

**Date:** 3/9/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** Saturday – Congratulations to everyone that took part in 100 Miles in 100 Days 2018-19! Today is the day to celebrate your accomplishments with your friends, fellow participants and park staff. Share stories about your journeys, enjoy both sweet and healthy snacks, receive your participation certificates and, of course, those coveted limited-edition Challenge t-shirts! Check in at the Nature Center entry window for the celebration location. 10am-12pm.

**Core:** Entertainment & Social Skills

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### **Night Shredders Mountain Biking**

**Date:** 3/13/2019 **Time:** 7 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 6:50 PM. 7-9pm.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### **Breakfast Time for the Critters**

**Date:** 3/14/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** Thursday – Have a seat and watch as some of the animal ambassadors in our critter room enjoy a

morning snack. Which one prefers vegetarian options? Which ones are carnivores? You'll learn about some of the ways these critters search for food in the wild and see how there's no such thing as table manners when it comes to animal chow time! If our tortoises are out of hibernation, we'll visit with them, too. Feel free to bring your own snack to enjoy with the critters! Meet inside the Visitor Center. 10-11am

**Core:** Animals

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### **Kids' Walk: Cactus Faces**

**Date:** 3/15/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** Friday – Take a stroll with the ranger on this family-friendly trail walk in search of saguaros. As you focus in on the tall columns or individual arms you can often notice holes, creases and other markings that form interesting expressions and facial features. A smiling cactus? A winking cactus? You never know what you'll see! What to bring: Closed-toe shoes, water, hat, sunscreen. Meet at the Main Trailhead map kiosk. 10-11am.

**Core:** Plants

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

**Date:** 3/16/2019 **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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### **Wildflower Hike**

**Date:** 3/16/2019 **Time:** 1 p.m.

**Description:** Saturday – Springtime in the desert is a sight to see. Join us for a casual hike (2-4 miles, route tbd) led by the ranger where we'll scan around us for lupine, scorpion weed, poppies, hedgehog cactus blooms and more! Be sure to bring your camera because we'll stop for photos along the way. A wildflower guide or handbook is helpful so please bring if

you have one. This hike is offered on Saturday 3/16, Friday 3/22 and Sunday 3/31 from 1-2:30pm. What to bring: Closed-toe shoes, hat, sunscreen and water. Meet at the Main Trailhead map kiosk. 1-2:30pm.

**Core:** Plants

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### Sunset Yoga in the Park

**Date:** 3/16/2019 **Time:** 5:30 p.m.

**Description:** Saturday – Join us here at San Tan for an outdoor 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, yoga mat and towel or blanket for extra knee cushion. (Your mat will be on dirt ground). Wear comfortable clothing that allows you to move easily. This class is included with your park entry fee. Meet at the main entrance trailhead. 5:30-6:30pm.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### Find the Ranger

**Date:** 3/17/2019 **Time:** 1 p.m.

**Description:** Sunday – Ranger Nikki will be hiking along Moonlight and Stargazer Trails between 1 and 3pm. Can you find her? Do you know the difference between a saguaro and a barrel cactus? Can you spot a palo verde growing along the trail? Be sure to say hello to her and be ready for a history or plant quiz. What to bring: Closed-toe shoes, water, hat and sunscreen. 1-3pm.

**Core:** Outdoor Skills

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### Sunset & Full Moonrise Hike

**Date:** 3/20/2019 **Time:** 6 p.m.

**Description:** Saturday - Discover the beauty of the Sonoran Desert on the first day of spring with an opportunity to enjoy both the last rays of daylight and the rising full moon. This hike will be just over two miles long and be at a slow pace to enjoy the surroundings and take lots of photos. What to bring: Closed-toe shoes, water, camera, flashlight. Meet at the Main Trailhead map kiosk. 6-7:30pm

**Core:** Astronomy

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### Night Shredders Mountain Biking

**Date:** 3/20/2019 **Time:** 7 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 6:50 PM. 7-9pm.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### Master Gardener Series: Desert Edibles

**Date:** 3/21/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** Thursday – Join the San Tan Valley Master Gardeners to explore the food sources that are found in the Sonoran Desert. Local plants supply food for not only desert animals in the ecosystem but also for humans, and have done so for native populations for hundreds of years. Learn about the plants in our area, how different parts were used as sustenance and cautions that need to be taken when preparing them. The instructors will have a display of resources and marketplace items that are already prepared, as well as take-home information that includes how to grow edibles in your back yard. 10-11:30am.

**Core:** Plants

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### Hiking 101 for Kids

**Date:** 3/22/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** Friday – Join the Ranger on a family style one mile hike that will introduce kids to hiking. Learn the basics of trail safety, preparation and etiquette. We'll also talk about the principles of "Leave No Trace" and how that protects plants, animals and other resources in our mountains. Learn how to read our park maps, trail signs and more! We'll even do our part to pick up trash along the way. Wear closed-toe shoes and bring water, hat, sunscreen. Meet at the Main Trailhead map kiosk. 10-11am.

**Core:** Outdoor Skills

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### Wildflower Hike

**Date:** 3/22/2019 **Time:** 1 p.m.

**Description:** Friday – Springtime in the desert is a sight to see. Join us for a casual hike (2-4 miles, route tbd) led by the ranger where we'll scan around us for lupine, scorpion weed, poppies, hedgehog cactus blooms and more! Be sure to bring your camera because we'll stop for

photos along the way. A wildflower guide or handbook is helpful so please bring if you have one. This hike is offered on Saturday 3/16, Friday 3/22 and Sunday 3/31 from 1-2:30pm. What to bring: Closed-toe shoes, hat, sunscreen and water. Meet at the Main Trailhead map kiosk. 1-2:30pm.

**Core:** Plants

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### Trailwork Volunteer Day

**Date:** 3/23/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

**Description:** Saturday - Trail volunteers provide a much-needed source of labor to assist Park Staff with trail repair and enhancements. This, in turn, helps provide for visitor safety and natural/cultural resource protection. We are looking for a few good volunteers to lend a hand! Potential projects include pruning, erosion control, post installation and trail improvements. By the end of the day, each volunteer will know the basics of trail maintenance and have an insider's view of the park. Meet outside the Visitor Center. Please consider wearing long sleeves to protect from the sun and branches. Bring water, gloves, hat, sunscreen and any tools you might have (we will provide tools for you to use if you don't have any). Suitable for ages 12 and up. Please RSVP by contacting Ranger Nikki at: [nikkibunnell@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:nikkibunnell@mail.maricopa.gov). 8-11am.

**Core:** Outdoor Skills

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### Beginner Skill Level Mountain Bike Ride

**Date:** 3/23/2019 **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:** Health & Fitness

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### Night Shredders Mountain Biking

**Date:** 3/27/2019 **Time:** 7 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 6:50 PM. 7-9pm.  
**Core:** Animals

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**Homeschool: Buds and Blooms**

**Date:** 3/28/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.  
**Description:** Thursday – Join us as we explore the fascinating field of phenology – the study of recurring plant and animal life cycle events such as leafing and flowering of plants, emergence of insects and migration of birds. We'll become citizen scientists as we make observations at select locations along the trail and record our findings on datasheets. We'll then discuss how data like ours is used by scientists worldwide to understand the relationship between life cycle events and environmental change. What to bring: Closed-toe shoes, water, hat, sunscreen. Meet inside the Visitor Center. 10-11:30am.  
**Core:** Plants

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**Beginner Skill Level Mountain Bike Ride**

**Date:** 3/30/2019 **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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**Goldmine Trail History Hike**

**Date:** 3/30/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.  
**Description:** Saturday – Learn about the history of Goldmine Trail and Mountain as we hike to the popular lookout point and enjoy the valley view below. Did anyone really mine for precious metal there? What points of interest can you see from the top? This hike is just over 3 miles roundtrip and is rated difficult for a steep climb near the top. Wear closed-toe shoes and bring water, hat, sunscreen and camera. Hiking poles are helpful. Meet at the Main Trailhead map kiosk. 9-11am.  
**Core:** Health & Fitness

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**Wildflower Hike**

**Date:** 3/31/2019 **Time:** 1 p.m.  
**Description:** Sunday – Springtime in the desert is a sight to see. Join us for a casual hike (2-4 miles, route tbd) led by the ranger where we'll scan around us for lupine, scorpion weed, poppies, hedgehog cactus blooms and more! Be sure to bring your camera because we'll stop for photos

along the way. A wildflower guide or handbook is helpful so please bring if you have one. This hike is offered on Saturday 3/16, Friday 3/22 and Sunday 3/31 from 1-2:30pm. What to bring: Closed-toe shoes, hat, sunscreen and water. Meet at the Main Trailhead map kiosk. 1-2:30pm.  
**Core:** Plants

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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 desert ecosystem. 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.

