

SAN TAN MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

April Programs



Maricopa County
Parks and Recreation Dept.
San Tan Mountain Regional Park
6533 W. Phillips Road
Queen Creek, AZ 85142
(602) 506-2930 ext. 7



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

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

Night Shredders Mountain Biking

Date: 4/3/2019 **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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All About Saguaros

Date: 4/5/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: Friday – Join the ranger for a talk on this majestic green giant of the desert. Learn about its life stages, adaptations, and important place in the lives of many desert creatures. The indoor class will be followed by a saguaro trail walk (1-2.5 miles) on easy/moderate terrain. Be sure to wear closed-toe shoes and bring water, hat and sunscreen. Meet inside the Nature Center. 9-11am.

Core: Plants

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MTB 101 – Beginner Mountain Bike Clinic & Ride

Date: 4/6/2019 **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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Rattlesnakes! Fact & Fiction

Date: 4/6/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Saturday – Join the professionals from Rattlesnake Solutions for an awesome educational experience! In working with thousands of rattlesnakes and people in the valley, they've heard every myth and "fish story" ever told. They will go through the top 10 bits of popular misinformation, why people

believe it, and get to the real story. Learn to stay safe in the outdoors, what to do if you see a rattlesnake, and most importantly, what not to do. A Gila monster and live rattlesnakes from all around Arizona will be on display (safely behind locked glass!) from 10am-3pm. Presentations will be at 11am and 1pm (40 minutes, limited seating, arrive early) inside the Nature Center. Learn everything you've ever wanted to know about our most misunderstood native wildlife. Bring your questions and we'll see you there! Meet inside the Nature Center.

Core: Animals

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Night Shredders Mountain Biking

Date: 4/10/2019 **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: Super Saguaros

Date: 4/11/2019 **Time:** 9:30 a.m.

Description: Thursday – Come learn about our desert's most famous native plant – the saguaro! We'll start indoors with a lesson on its life cycle, growth, adaptations and how it serves as a "hotel" for several desert critters. This includes hands-on activities and a take home project. After that, we will take a one-mile trail walk to see saguaros big and small, standing alone and standing with their friends! We will measure some young saguaros, estimate their age and compare that to our "human ages" to see which ones around us could be siblings, parents or grandparents! Bring water, hat, and sunscreen. Meet inside the Nature Center. 9:30-11am.

Core: Plants

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Beginner Skill Level Mountain Bike Ride

Date: 4/13/2019 **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: Watersheds

Date: 4/13/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: Saturday – The San Tan Valley Master Gardeners will be on hand for this all-ages drop-in session to teach you about watersheds and how our precious desert water resource gets to us – from near and from far! Perform an experiment to see how water travels through different types of soil and relate that to our gentle winter rains and monsoon downpours. You can also have fun with a hands-on activity to design your own watershed, create your own rainstorm and watch what happens. The Gardeners will also touch upon the important topics of water quality, pollution prevention and conservation. Meet outside the Nature Center in the gated parking area. 9-11am.

Core: Geology

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Cactus Walk & Talk

Date: 4/14/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: Sunday – Join the ranger for an introduction to the various cacti that can be found at San Tan. Which one "jumps"? Which ones are edible? Learn some fun facts and interesting myths on this one-mile journey (easy/moderate terrain). Be sure to wear closed-toe shoes and bring water, a hat and sunscreen. Meet at the flag pole. 9-10am.

Core: Plants

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Night Shredders Mountain Biking

Date: 4/17/2019 **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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Meet the Critters and Tortoise Feeding

Date: 4/19/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Friday – Stop by this "open house" style meet and greet with some of the animal ambassadors in our Critter Room, hosted by the ranger. Learn about what they eat, how their relatives survive in the wild and how we can safely enjoy hiking in their neighborhoods. Around 10:45, the ranger will head outdoors to give our resident tortoises a leafy green breakfast inside their habitat. Meet inside the Nature Center. 10-11am.

Core: Animals

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Beginner Skill Level Mountain Bike

Date: 4/20/2019 **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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Find the Ranger**Date:** 4/20/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: Saturday – Ranger Nikki will be hiking along Moonlight and Stargazer Trails between 9 and 11am. 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 an animal or plant quiz. Be sure to wear closed-toe shoes and bring water, hat and sunscreen. 9-11am.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Night Shredders Mountain Biking**Date:** 4/24/2019 **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: Eco-Hike**Date:** 4/25/2019 **Time:** 9:30 a.m.

Description: Thursday – If you love nature and want to learn how to see the desert as more than just a beautiful landscape, be sure to join us for a short classroom presentation followed by a guided walk and talk that focuses on adaptations, life cycles and the special relationships between our desert plants and animals. How do plants survive with very little rainfall? What happens when they don't survive? Animals can benefit from plants that are alive as well as those that are decaying. We'll examine various specimens along the trail and see firsthand the importance of our desert plants at all stages of life. Please bring water, hat, sunscreen and closed-toe shoes. Meet in the Nature Center. 9:30-11am

Core: Plants

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Sunset Yoga in the Park**Date:** 4/26/2019 **Time:** 6 p.m.

Description: Friday – 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. 6-7pm.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Intro to Archery**Date:** 4/27/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Saturday – 8-9am or 9:15-10:15am. 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: 8am or 9:15am. 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. This class is included with your park entry fee. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Send Names, Ages, Time Choice & Phone # to: nikkibunnell@mail.maricopa.gov. Meet at the south end of the overflow parking area.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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Beginner Skill Level Mountain Bike Ride**Date:** 4/27/2019 **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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Sonoran Desert Walk & Talk**Date:** 4/28/2019 **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 of 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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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.