

SAN TAN MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

May 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: 5/1/2019 **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: Stars and Storms

Date: 5/2/2019 **Time:** 9:30 a.m.

Description: Thursday – Welcome homeschoolers to a class where the sky is the limit! The first part of the class will focus on our nighttime sky and introduce you to some of the constellations, planets and other sky events that you can see from your neighborhood. This is a great lead-in to our special event program two days later – Stargazing for Everyone, which features telescope viewings with

professional stargazers! The second part of the class will focus on our daytime sky and what to look out for during our summer monsoon. We'll talk about how duststorms form, what happens when two inches of rain falls in 30 minutes and how you can stay safe. This class will have an indoor discussion, hands-on activities, a take home project and a short walk outside. Be sure to wear closed-toe shoes and bring water, a hat and sunscreen. Meet inside the Nature Center. 9:30-11am.

Core: Astronomy

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Master Gardeners Series: Sunset Saguaro Stroll

Date: 5/3/2019 **Time:** 6:30 p.m.

Description: Friday - The San Tan Valley Master Gardeners invite you to join them for an evening that celebrates the saguaro cactus on an easy to moderate trail stroll. Mother Nature may treat us to a saguaro blossom in the process of opening or perhaps a bat drinking nectar and pollinating the bloom. Of course, we will see the beauty of a sunset behind our magnificent mountains! During the walk we will talk about the significance of the saguaro in our environment and share some fascinating fun facts with you. Suitable for all ages. Be sure to wear closed-toe shoes and bring water and a camera. Binoculars recommended. Meet at the Main Trailhead map kiosk. 6:30-7:30pm.

Core: Plants

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MTB 101 – Beginner Mountain Bike Clinic and Ride

Date: 5/4/2019

Time: 7 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. 7-9am.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Stargazing for Everyone – Telescope Viewing

Date: 5/4/2019

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Description: Saturday - Join professional stargazers as they take you on a journey through the sky! Learn the names of common stars and constellations and see them up close through massive telescopes. If conditions are right you can see the Milky Way, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, the rings of Saturn and the craters of the Moon! This is a fun night out alone, with a friend or take your entire family or group. Please bring lawn chairs, a blanket and a sweater for your comfort. Flashlight recommended for walking through parking lot. Meet at the Main Trailhead. 7:30-9:30pm.

Core: Astronomy

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Night Shredders Mountain Biking

Date: 5/8/2019

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: Archaeology and the Hohokam

Date: 5/9/2019

Time: 9:30 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, a take home project and a short trail walk. Be sure wear closed-toe shoes and bring water, a hat and sunscreen. Meet inside the Nature Center. 9:30-11am.

Core: Archaeology & History

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Heat Safety

Date: 5/10/2019

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Description: Friday – Summertime doesn't mean that you need to pack away your hiking shoes and hide indoors. Hitting the trail early (really early!) is one way to get your workout in before the heat becomes dangerous. There are also other things you can do to prepare and protect yourself, including pre-hydration and wearing proper clothing and accessories. During this indoor discussion we'll share tips on how to stay safe during the summer, whether you are hiking outdoors or staying active closer to home. Meet inside the Visitor Center. 9:30-10:30am.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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Trailwork Volunteer Day

Date: 5/11/2019

Time: 7 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. 7-10am.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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Beginner Skill Level Mountain Bike Ride

Date: 5/11/2019

Time: 7 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. 7-9am.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Desert Animal Moms Worksheet

Date: 5/4/2018

Time: 8 a.m.

Description: Saturday – In honor of Mother's Day take an opportunity to learn about desert animal moms with a self-guided worksheet that will be available in the Nature Center from 8am-4pm. How many babies do different animal moms have? How do they raise and protect them? You can make observations for some of the activities as you walk on the trail and others you can do at home. Appropriate for youngsters and the young-at-heart. Worksheets available at the Entry Window or inside the Nature Center during regular office hours 8am-4pm.

Core: Animals

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Night Shredders Mountain Biking

Date: 5/15/2019

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 Scorpions

Date: 5/17/2019 **Time:** 7 p.m.
Description: Friday – Summertime is all about scorpions! During this short presentation, learn about the Big 3 Stingers of San Tan and find out which stories about them are fact and which are fiction. After that you will be ready to meet them "face to face" on an exciting Scorpion Search walk in the full moonlight starting at 8p.m. Limited to 50 people for this indoor presentation. Meet inside the Visitor Center. 7-7:30pm.
Core: Animals

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Scorpion Search Moonlight Hike

Date: 5/17/2019 **Time:** 8 p.m.
Description: Friday - It's our FIRST scorpion search of the year! Join us as we set out on a desert exploration under an almost-full moon to search for these cool arachnids. How many will we find? Please wear closed-toe shoes, bring plenty of water, and a black light. A limited number of black lights are available for purchase inside the Nature Center. No pets, please. Meet at Main Trailhead. 8-9pm.
Core: Animals

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Beginner Skill Level Mountain Bike Ride

Date: 5/18/2019 **Time:** 7 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. 7-9am.

Core: Health & Fitness

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All About Bats

Date: 5/18/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: Saturday – As the nights get warmer bats will be more active and you have a better chance of seeing one during an evening hike or a walk around your neighborhood. Where do they live? What do they eat? Should humans be afraid of them? Learn the answers to these questions and more as we discuss the amazing lives of these fascinating mammals. After the talk we'll have a meet and greet with some of the critters in the classroom. Meet inside the Visitor Center. 10-11am.
Core: Animals

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Night Shredders Mountain Biking

Date: 5/22/2019 **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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Sunset Photography Walk

Date: 5/23/2019 **Time:** 7 p.m.
Description: Thursday – The Sonoran Desert can provide us with spectacular sunsets that inspire and amaze. We'll take a walk to explore some great vantage points for capturing the colors, shadows and silhouettes of our beautiful desert. This is generally an out-and-back walk that covers no more than two miles round trip. We go out as a group and meander back at our own pace. You can make it longer or shorter to suit your artistic eye

or your walking feet. What to bring: Closed-toe shoes, water, camera. Tripods are welcome. Meet at the Main Trailhead map kiosk. 7-8pm.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Beginner Skill Level Mountain Bike Ride

Date: 5/25/2019 **Time:** 7 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. 7-9am.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Desert Walk & Talk

Date: 5/25/2019 **Time:** 8:30 a.m.
Description: Saturday – 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 can be seen. 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 flourish. We'll also touch upon San Tan's interesting geologic and cultural history. Be sure to wear closed-toe shoes and bring water, a hat and sunscreen. Meet at the flag pole. 8:30-9:30am.

Core: Plants

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Tortoise Feeding

Date: 5/25/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: Watch our tortoises get excited about and devour their leafy green breakfast inside their enclosure. The Ranger will also talk about the habits, adaptations and the quirky personalities of this dynamic reptilian duo. Be sure to bring a hat, sunscreen and your camera. Meet outside at the Tortoise Habitat. 10-10:30am.

Core: Animals

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Night Shredders Mountain Biking

Date: 5/29/2019 **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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Morning Hike with the Saguaros

Date: 5/31/2019 **Time:** 7 a.m.

Description: Friday - Rise and shine for this early morning guided hike with the ranger. We'll trek 4-5 miles on moderate trails and be on the lookout for saguaro blossoms and other flowering cacti. Bring plenty of water and wear

closed-toe shoes, a hat, long sleeves and sunscreen. Hiking poles are a plus. Meet at the Main Trailhead map kiosk. 7-9am.

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 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.

