

# SAN TAN MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK JUNE 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 (05/06 - 10/07)**  
Monday thru Saturday: 8 am – 3 pm  
Sunday: Closed  
**WINTER (10/89 – 05/05)**  
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 & Ride

**Date:** 6/1/2019 **Time:** 7 a.m.

**Description:** 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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## All About Desert Snakes

**Date:** 6/1/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** When it comes to snakes in the desert, many residents and visitors focus only on our infamous rattlesnakes. However, there are also several non-venomous snakes that are found in our park and the surrounding area. This indoor class will shed light on both types of snakes: their anatomy, behaviors and benefits to humans. You'll even have an opportunity to meet the snakes who serve as Animal Ambassadors in our critter

room. Meet in the Nature Center. 10-11:30am. \*\*Each family in attendance will receive one raffle ticket entry into a drawing for a Family 4-pack of tickets provided by Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix! (\$180 value)

**Core:** Animals

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## Night Shredders Mountain Biking

**Date:** 6/5/2019 **Time:** 7 p.m.

**Description:** 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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## Critters and a Movie

**Date:** 6/7/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** Meet some of our Animal Ambassadors and cool off with an

entertaining movie inside our Nature Center. Today's Movie: Disney's The Living Desert. Learn about Skinny, the mischievous round-tailed ground squirrel, and a whole host of other fascinating creatures in this documentary about our Sonoran Desert that earns two thumbs-up from the Park Ranger. This classic film has incredible footage of animal behaviors and species interactions that people rarely, if ever, get to see in person. The humorous narration and lively music will keep kids captivated and give grown-ups a chuckle. This is a great educational resource that will forever change your way of seeing our living desert! Meet inside the Visitor Center. 10am-12pm. \*\*Each family in attendance will receive one raffle ticket entry into a drawing for a Family 4-pack of tickets provided by Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix! (\$180 value)

**Core:** Animals

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### Morning Hike

**Date:** 6/8/2019 **Time:** 6 a.m.

**Description:** Start your day with an early morning guided hike with the Ranger. Our journey will be 4-5 miles long on moderate terrain. We'll stop along the way for water breaks and to talk about critters and plants of interest. What to bring: Water, hat, sunscreen, closed-toe shoes. Meet at the Main Trailhead map kiosk. 6-8am.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### Beginner Skill Level Mountain Bike Ride

**Date:** 6/8/2019 **Time:** 7 a.m.

**Description:** 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:** 6/12/2019 **Time:** 7 p.m.

**Description:** 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:** 6/13/2019 **Time:** 7 p.m.

**Description:** 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. Have \$7 exact cash for the self-pay station or your annual pass. What to bring: Closed-toe shoes, water, camera. Tripods are welcome. Meet at the Main Trailhead map kiosk. 7-8pm.

**Core:** Entertainment & Social Skills

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### Tortoise Feeding and Kids' Activities

**Date:** 6/14/2019 **Time:** 7 a.m.

**Description:** Come say hello to Santana and Shelly, our two Desert Tortoise ambassadors, and watch as they devour their tasty breakfast with no utensils or table manners required! The Ranger will talk about what they like to eat, their unique personality traits and their quirky behaviors. We will also have some kids activities set up in a shady spot nearby to learn more about our tortoises and their desert friends. Meet at the Tortoise Habitat inside the Nature Center complex. 10:30-11:30am.

**Core:** Animals

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### Beginner Skill Level Mountain Bike Ride

**Date:** 6/15/2019 **Time:** 7 a.m.

**Description:** 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 the Summer Monsoon

**Date:** 6/15/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** June 15 is the official start of Arizona's Summer Monsoon. This is the time of year when weather patterns change and the potential for extreme weather – such as dust storms, thunderstorms, wind, lightning and downpours – increases. This indoor presentation will explain some of the conditions that bring about this weather, why this season is important to desert plants and animals and how you can stay safe when Mother Nature livens things up. Meet inside the Visitor Center. 10-11am.

**Core:** Outdoor Skills

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### Night Shredders Mountain Biking

**Date:** 6/19/2019 **Time:** 7 p.m.

**Description:** 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:** 6/21/2019 **Time:** 7 p.m.

**Description:** On a warm summer night, scouring the desert floor, the scorpions of San Tan look for their next meal. Who are the Big 3 Stingers of San Tan?

During a short indoor presentation, learn some fascinating stories about these mysterious creatures and find out which ones are fact and which ones are fiction.

After that you will be ready to meet them "face to face" on an exciting Scorpion Search walk starting at 8pm. Indoor class limited to 50 people. Meet inside the Visitor Center. 7-7:30pm.

**Core:** Animals

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### Scorpion Search Trail Walk

**Date:** 6/21/2019 **Time:** 8 p.m.

**Description:** Join us as we set out on a desert exploration at night to search for scorpions and observe how they hunt for food and make their way through the desert. Please wear closed-toe shoes, bring plenty of water, a regular flashlight and a black light. Black lights are available for purchase inside the Visitor Center. No pets, please. Meet at Main Trailhead Map Kiosk. 8-9pm

**Core:** Animals

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### Beginner Skill Level Mountain Bike Ride

**Date:** 6/22/2019 **Time:** 7 a.m.

**Description:** 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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### Critters and a Movie

**Date:** 6/22/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** Meet some of our Animal Ambassadors and cool off with an

entertaining movie inside our Nature Center. Today's Movie: Disney's Wings of Life. The beautiful cinematography of this film captures the important relationship between flowers and their winged pollinator partners. Get an up-close view of butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and bats as they collect their food and in turn help flowers produce foods on which we humans often rely. Discover how we depend on these fascinating creatures, and how we can protect them, as they help life regenerate itself over and over again. Meet inside the Nature Center. 10am-12pm. \*\*Each family in attendance

will receive one raffle ticket entry into a drawing for a Family 4-pack of tickets provided by Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix! (\$180 value)

**Core:** Animals

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### Night Shredders Mountain Biking

**Date:** 6/26/2019 **Time:** 7 p.m.

**Description:** 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 Vultures

**Date:** 6/28/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** What do you picture when you think of vultures? A group of silhouettes perched in a dead tree? Dark figures circling over the open desert? A lurching animal picking at road kill in a desolate area? Well, all of these are true! However, the vultures' ominous reputation often overshadows their very important place in the ecosystem. Join us for an indoor class on two common desert residents – turkey vultures and black vultures – and find out how they live and what they do to keep the desert clean.

Meet inside the Nature Center. 10-11:30am

**Core:** Animals

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### Morning Hike

**Date:** 6/29/2019 **Time:** 6 a.m.

**Description:** Start your day with an early morning guided hike with the Ranger. Our journey will be 4-5 miles long on moderate terrain. We'll stop along the way for water breaks and to talk about critters and plants of interest. What to bring: Water, hat, sunscreen, closed-toe shoes. Meet at the Main Trailhead map kiosk. 6-8am.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### Beginner Skill Level Mountain Bike Ride

**Date:** 6/29/2019 **Time:** 7 a.m.

**Description:** 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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### 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.