

# WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK MONTHLY PROGRAMS

## PARK HOURS:

Sunday – Thursday: 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Friday – Saturday: 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.  
365 days a year

## NATURE CENTER HOURS:

### Summer (5/09 - 10/09)

Monday thru Saturday: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Sunday: Closed

### Winter (10/10 - 5/08)

Sunday thru Saturday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## ADMIN. OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## PARK FEES:

\$6 vehicle day-use entry fee (no additional fees for programs, unless otherwise noted)

## DIRECTIONS:

**FROM THE NORTH:** Take 303 South and exit at Peoria Ave. Take Peoria west (right) to Cotton Lane. Turn south (left) on Cotton and then west (right) on Olive Ave. Follow Olive Ave. 6 miles to park entrance.

**FROM THE SOUTH:** Take I-10 to 303 North. Exit 303 at Northern Ave. Turn west (left) on Northern to Cotton Lane. Turn north (right) on Cotton and then west (left) on Olive Ave. Follow Olive Ave. 4 miles to park entrance.

## WEBSITE:

<http://www.maricopacountyparks.net/park-locator/white-tank-mountain-regional-park/>



## Maricopa County

Parks and Recreation Dept.  
White Tank Mountain Regional Park  
20304 W. White Tank Mountain Road  
Waddell, AZ 85355  
Phone: (623) 935-2505  
Fax: (623) 535-4291  
whitetankpark@mail.maricopa.gov



## FEBRUARY

### FEATURED PROGRAMS

#### History Hike to Willow Canyon Springs and Farm Ruins

Date: 2/7/2018 Time: 8 a.m.

**Description:** Join us on a hike back in time! Our journey will take us to the Willow Springs area, where we will visit the remains of an abandoned dwelling and historic site to see what stories the pieces of the past can tell us. The hike is 7 miles roundtrip and is rated moderate to difficult. Please bring at least one gallon of water and a snack. This hike is limited to 10 people. Please meet at Area 7 for the hike. Please call the park Nature Center, 623-935-2505, to register, beginning February 1st. Please leave your dog at home.

**Core:** Archaeology & History

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#### Sonoran Desert Flowers

Date: 2/15/2017 Time: 11 a.m.

**Description:** Presenter Dave Sussman will showcase his photos of a selection of desert wildflowers in this slideshow program. While most of the photos were taken in the KOFA National Wildlife Refuge in western Arizona, many of the flowers are also found in White Tank Mountain Regional Park. Emphasis will be on the beauty of the blossoms, some tidbits on their blooming stories, and the excitement of discovering them in the desert wilderness. Program will be held in the Nature Center classroom.

**Core:** Plants

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#### Early Bird Walk

Date: 2/17/2018 Time: 8 a.m.

**Description:** Join birder Joe Ford from the Sonoran Audubon Society for an early morning bird walk along the Goat Camp Trail. Bring your bird book if you have one. Binoculars may be available to borrow. Please meet at Area 1 in the park (see park map). Please leave your dog at home.

**Core:** Animals

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#### Moonlight Hike

Date: 2/28/2018 Time: 6 p.m.

**Description:** See the desert in a different light – moonlight! Load up the kids and join us for a 2 mile hike along Black Rock Long Loop, where we will listen, smell and experience the Sonoran desert under the moonlight. This hike will be a moderate hike. Please wear close-toed shoe and leave your dog at home. See you at Area 4 for the walk, near the restroom.

**Core:** Astronomy

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## MONTHLY EVENTS

### Desert Fables

**Date:** 2/2/2018 **Time:** 2:30 p.m.

**Description:** Join storyteller Ann McDermott before our snake feeding to enjoy tales of desert plants and animals, inspired by 30 years of rural life in central Arizona. Q & A time afterward. Be ready for a pop quiz! Program will be held in the Nature Center classroom.

**Core:** Entertainment & Social Skills

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### Snake Feeding

**Date:** 2/2/2018 **Time:** 3 p.m.

**Description:** Our resident reptile friends are hungry! Come to the Nature Center to see our snakes enjoy their meal. Park staff will be doing the feeding. Observe the feeding behaviors of the rattlesnakes, colubrid snakes, scorpions, and a desert tortoise.

**Core:** Animals

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### How to Read a Map

**Date:** 2/3/2018 **Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Description:** Can't read a map? Get lost with your map? Join Marie and Ranger J.D on Feb 3 where we will use our maps to navigate. Met at Area 1. Hike will be approx. 2.7 miles. This is an easy to moderate hike. Please wear closed toed shoes, hat and water.

**Core:** Outdoor Skills

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### White Tank Wildlife: Skulls

**Date:** 2/3/2018 **Time:** 12 p.m.

**Description:** Put your Osteologist hats on because in this class, you will be investigating animal skulls! We need your help to identify these awesome skulls. In turn you will learn about how these animals survived in the wild! Please join us in the Nature Center Classroom for this skull-tastic event!

**Core:** Animals

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### History Hike to Willow Canyon Springs and Farm Ruins

**Date:** 2/7/2018 **Time:** 8 a.m.

**Description:** Join us for a hike back in time! Our journey will take us to the Willow Springs area, where we will visit the remains of an abandoned dwelling and historic site to see what stories the pieces of the past can tell us. The hike is seven (7) miles roundtrip and is rated moderate to difficult. Please bring at least one gallon of water and a snack. This hike is limited to 10 people. Meet at Area 7 for the hike. Please call the park Nature Center, 623-935-2505, to

register, beginning February 1st. Please leave your dog at home.

**Core:** Archaeology & History

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### Desert Awakens

**Date:** 2/7/2018 **Time:** 9 a.m.

**Description:** Join park volunteer Cindy Smith to explore various park trails and look for signs of spring. Each hike will be 2-3 miles at a leisurely pace. Please call park Nature Center for specific trail, 623-935-2505.

**Core:** Plants

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### Introduction to Outdoor

#### Photography

**Date:** 2/8/2017 **Time:** 11 a.m.

**Description:** Want to learn more about taking awesome outdoor photos? Bring your camera (including cell phone cameras) and join park volunteer Chris Reed for a Basic Outdoor Photography workshop. Learn about camera operations, picture composition, lighting effects, and other essentials. The first portion of the program will be classroom instruction in the Nature Center classroom. Afterwards, we will take a short walk outside along a park trail to practice our new skills. Please meet in the Nature Center classroom. This program is geared toward teens and adults.

**Core:** Outdoor Skills

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### Nature Discovery Hour

**Date:** 2/9/2018 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** Looking for a fun and engaging hour focused around children's outdoor education? Join Ranger Justin at the Waterfall Trailhead as he leads you on a hike about the geology of the White Tanks. These hands on program will encourage kids to get in touch with nature. Children must be accompanied by an adult during Nature Discovery Hour.

**Core:** Geology

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### Hike with the Supervisor

**Date:** 2/10/2018 **Time:** 8 a.m.

**Description:** Have you been wanting to hike the challenging Ford Canyon Loop Trail but didn't want to do it alone? Did you know that the White Tank Mountain Regional Park supervisor used to be an outdoor adventure guide? Come join her in hiking this beautiful 9.3 mile loop. This hike is strenuous and for in-shape hikers only, who are familiar with hiking on primitive trails and are able to hike this long distance. Please bring 3 liters of

water, lunch, snacks, sunscreen, and hiking poles are recommended. This hike will take a minimum of 5 hours. Please leave your dog at home, and meet at the Ford Canyon trailhead at Area 9 near the bathroom.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### Hike with the Ranger

**Date:** 2/11/2018 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** Would you like some company on your morning hike? Join our enthusiastic Ranger J.D. on a four (4) mile hike! This hike will be a moderate hike. Please meet at the Goat Camp trailhead. Please leave your dog at home.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### Sonoran Craft Storytime and Play

**Date:** 2/14/2018 **Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Description:** Join Ranger J.D. in the Nature Center for this open house-style story, craft, and play time – arrive anytime during program hours (10:30am-12:00pm). A variety of Sonoran Desert-themed, age-appropriate board books, puzzles, stuffed animals, and coloring sheets will be available for your child for learning, discovery, and creative play. A desert-themed craft/project will also be available for your child to complete and take home. Maybe Ranger Justin will even introduce you to one of the friendly snakes that live at the Nature Center! This program is geared toward preschool-aged children and their caregivers, but older children are always welcome!

**Core:** Entertainment & Social Skills

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### Desert Awakens

**Date:** 2/15/2018 **Time:** 9 a.m.

**Description:** Join park volunteer Cindy Smith to explore various park trails and look for signs of spring. Each hike will be 2-3 miles at a leisurely pace. Please call park Nature Center for specific trail, 623-935-2505.

**Core:** Plants

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**Description:** Presenter Dave Sussman will showcase his photos of a selection of desert wildflowers in this slideshow program. While most of the photos were taken in the KOFA National Wildlife Refuge in western Arizona, many of the flowers are also found in White Tank Mountain Regional Park. Emphasis will be on the beauty of the blossoms, some

# WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

tidbits on their blooming stories, and the excitement of discovering them in the desert wilderness. Program will be held in the Nature Center classroom.

**Core:** Plants

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## Desert General Store

**Date:** 2/16/2018 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** The Sonoran Desert is home to many plants that have been used by people for thousands of years for food, medicine, and other essentials. Some of the products we consume and use even today have their origins in the desert. Join park volunteer Cindy Smith on a short "shopping trip" along the Black Rock Short Loop Trail (1/2 mile, barrier-free) to see and learn about some of these fascinating plants. After the walk, we will have the opportunity to try a few samples of food and drink made from some of the plants discussed during the walk.

**Core:** Plants

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## Early Bird Walk

**Date:** 2/17/2018 **Time:** 8 a.m.

**Description:** Join birder Joe Ford from the Sonoran Audubon Society for an early morning bird walk along the Goat Camp Trail. Bring your bird book if you have one. Binoculars may be available to borrow. Please meet at Area 1 in the park (see park map), Goat Canyon Trailhead. Please leave your dog at home.

**Core:** Animals

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## 8th Annual White Tank Arts and Crafts Fair

**Date:** 2/17/2018 **Time:** 10 a.m. – 3:00 pm

**Description:** Dozens of local artists will be exhibiting their works against the scenic backdrop of the White Tank mountains. A variety of works including jewelry, paintings, sculpture, carvings, fabric arts, and photographs will be available for viewing and purchase. Food vendors will also be on-site so you can make a day of it. The park entry fee will be waived for Art Fair attendees. This year's Art Fair will be held for 2 days, Feb. 17th and 18th. This annual event is co-sponsored by the Friends of White Tank Park and the White Tank Mountains Conservancy. The event will be held at the Competitive Track area in the park.

**Core:** Entertainment & Social Skills

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## Crows and Ravens

**Date:** 2/17/2018 **Time:** 11 a.m.

**Description:** This program explores the world of ravens and to a lesser degree, other members of the Corvid Family. Information about their courtship, lifestyle, and several species of ravens is highlighted along with legends, myths, and the importance of ravens to the native west coast cultures. This is a power-point style presentation in the Nature Center classroom.

**Core:** Animals

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## Snake Feeding

**Date:** 2/17/2018 **Time:** 1 p.m.

**Description:** Our resident reptile friends are hungry! Come to the Nature Center to see our snakes enjoy their meal. Our park staff will be doing the feeding. Observe the feeding behaviors of rattlesnakes, colubrid snakes', scorpions, and a desert tortoise.

**Core:** Animals

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## Desert Awakens

**Date:** 2/22/2018 **Time:** 9 a.m.

**Description:** Join park volunteer Cindy Smith to explore various park trails and look for signs of spring. Each hike will be 2-3 miles at a leisurely pace. Please call park Nature Center for specific trail, 623-935-2505.

**Core:** Plants

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## Library Series: Sonoran Animals

**Date:** 2/22/2018 **Time:** 2 p.m.

**Description:** Join Ranger Justin in the White Tank Branch Library classroom for this open house-style program where you can use your senses to examine, explore, and even touch various objects from the natural world. Get an up close look at a tiny hummingbird nest! Feel animal fur! Program will be held 2:00-3:00pm – arrive anytime during program hours and stay as long as you want.

**Core:** Animals

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## What's In Your Pack?

**Date:** 2/24/2018 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** Are you prepared for a hike in the desert? At the Waterfall trailhead we will have items on display that should always be in your pack or pocket. We will cover topics from reading maps (and actually using them)

to first aid and hydration. Stop by and chat with us and learn how a little hiking preparation can go a long way. Be sure to have your water, hat and sunscreen.

**Core:** Outdoor Skills

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## Find the Ranger

**Date:** 2/25/2018 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** Bring your family and friends along on this 1.8 mile hike at our popular Waterfall Trail! Keep a lookout for Ranger J.D. He'll have an exciting surprise! Please leave your dog at home. Please meet at the Waterfall trailhead.

**Core:** Archaeology & History

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## Moonlight Hike

**Date:** 2/28/2018 **Time:** 6 p.m.

**Description:** See the desert in a different light – moonlight! Load up the kids and join us for a 2 mile hike along Black Rock Long Loop, where we will listen, smell and experience the Sonoran desert, under the moonlight. This hike will be a moderate hike. Please wear close-toed shoe and leave your dog at home. See you at Area 4 for the walk, near the restroom.

**Core:** Astronomy

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## STAFF:

**Park Supervisor:** Dove Luidhardt

**Interpretive Ranger:** Justin Williams

**Admin. Staff:** David Chatfield

**Park Maintenance:** Eldon Heydenreich and Tom Rychtik

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PARK SUPERVISOR:

Thank you for your continued support and interest in White Tank Mountain Regional Park. We realize that you have a choice when it comes to selecting recreation venues and appreciate your business!

Sincerely,

Dove Luidhardt

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