

MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS



Maricopa County

Parks and Recreation Dept.
McDowell Mountain Regional Park
16300 McDowell Mountain Park Drive
MMRP, AZ 85268
(480) 471-0173



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

PARK HOURS:

Sunday – Thursday: 6 am – 8 pm
Friday – Saturday: 6 am – 10 pm

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 Loop 202 east to Beeline Highway (SR 87). Continue northeast on SR 87 to Shea Blvd. Travel west on Shea Blvd. to Saguaro Blvd.; turn north. Continue through Town of Fountain Hills to Fountain Hills Blvd; turn right and travel four miles to the McDowell Mountain Regional Park entrance.

WEBSITE:

<https://www.maricopacountyparks.net/mcdowell-mountain-regional-park/>

EMAIL ADDRESS:

mcdowellpark@mail.maricopa.gov

FACEBOOK PAGE:

<https://www.facebook.com/mcdowellmntnprk/>

STAFF:

Park Supervisor: Teresa Retterbush
Interpretive Ranger: Amy Roberts
Park Office Asst.: Jeanine O'Reilly
Maintenance Supervisor: John Grutzmacher, Mark Ostapczuk

Friday Fitness Hike – Dixie Mine

Date: 2/1/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Meet in the parking lot for the Dixie Mine Trailhead (outside of park - at the end of Golden Eagle Blvd in Fountain Hills). Hike distance will be between 8-12 miles. Participants should have previous hiking experience. Park access from this trailhead is "hike only" so please come prepared with a \$2 (cash only) park entrance fee. Please make sure to have enough water, comfortable shoes and clothing, and a hat. Hike led by Kevin B.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Reptile Feeding

Date: 2/2/2019 **Time:** 3 p.m.

Description: Join the staff for an afternoon break and see for yourself how our cold-blooded residents eat their monthly meals! Frozen rodent entrees will be served to the critters. Feeding takes place at the Visitor Center.

Core: Animals

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Stargazing for Everyone

Date: 2/2/2019 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.

Description: Come watch the sky with us! Come look through telescopes and enjoy a slide presentation under the stars. Learn the names of stars, see the constellations, and listen to stories of the night sky. When visible, view the craters of the moon, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and the rings of Saturn. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for your comfort. We will have information about the Challenger Learning Center of Arizona, telescopes

will be setup to view the night sky, and we will be doing a slide program on the night sky. This is a fun night out, come alone or bring your entire family or group. This is a fun, exciting, family activity, we hope to see you at one of these events. We encourage you to bring your binoculars and enjoy the views!

Core: Astronomy

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Beginner Desert Birding

Date: 2/7/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: Are you curious about some of the birds you see in your yard, but having trouble identifying them? Join us for some beginner birding with the Ranger! Learn tips and tricks that will help you begin to identify them. Bird watching is a fun hobby that can be done anywhere, by people of all ages and abilities. Let us help you get started today! Bring binoculars if you have them, but if you don't we will have a limited supply available to borrow. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Core: Animals

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Friday Fitness Hike – PB Trailhead Staging Area

Date: 2/8/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Meet at the main Pemberton Trailhead Staging Area. Hike distance will be between 8-12 miles. Bring plenty of water, and snacks and make sure to have comfortable shoes & clothing. Hike will be led by Kevin B

Core: Health & Fitness

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Bites & Stings**Date:** 2/9/2019 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: An expert from Banner Poison Control will be here to share important information about what you can expect if you have an unfortunate encounter with some of Arizona's most infamous venomous critters. As the desert springs into motion, so does our chance of an encounter with a venomous critter. Some of these venomous animals will also be on display for you to see. Program held at the Visitor Center.

Core: Animals

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Walk and Learn – Self-guided Walk on the North Trail**Date:** 2/10/2019 **Time:** All Day

Description: The North Trail is the most popular hiking trail in the McDowell Mountain Regional Park. It is a 3-mile loop trail that has an accompanying interpretive pamphlet. It is rated as "easy" and suitable for most folks who want to get out and enjoy a hike. Come out and enjoy a walk, at your own pace. Interpretive pamphlets are available at the trailhead. Stop by the Visitor Center if you need directions!

Core: Plants

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The Sonoran Desert in a Nutshell**Date:** 2/14/2019 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: Join us for an introduction to the Sonoran Desert! This brief program will give you an overall idea of what may seem like an alien environment. This program will be held outdoors at the visitor center and suitable for all ages and abilities. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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Friday Fitness Hike – Tom's Thumb**Date:** 2/15/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: This week's hike starts OUTSIDE OF THE PARK at the Tom's Thumb Trailhead, off of 128th Street in Scottsdale (off of Dynamite). This is a difficult hike that involves a good amount of elevation and loose rocks. A hiking pole is recommended for this hike that starts in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Hike will be between 8-12 miles. Please call the Park if you need directions to the Trailhead. Bring plenty of water, and snacks and make sure to have comfortable shoes & clothing. Previous hiking experience is required for this difficult hike. Hike will be led by Kevin B.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Sunset Hike on the Scenic Trail**Date:** 2/16/2019 **Time:** 4 p.m.

Description: Enjoy scenic sunset views on this moderate 4.5-mile hike. Bring your camera, a flashlight (just in case!), plenty of water and make sure to have appropriate attire for this fun fitness hike. Meet at the PB Trailhead Staging Area.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Get Lost in the Desert**Date:** 2/21/2019 **Time:** 11 a.m.

Description: Spend some time losing yourself in the Great Outdoors! Disconnect from stress and connect with nature as we enjoy some "trail therapy" on this easy 3-mile loop walk. Gain a better understanding of the desert around

you and connect with like-minded individuals. Meet at the North Trailhead.

Core: Plants

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Friday Fitness Hike – Four Peaks**Date:** 2/22/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: This week's hike will begin from the 4 Peaks Trailhead. Hike distance will be between 8-12 miles. Participants should have previous hiking experience. Bring plenty of water, and snacks and make sure to have comfortable shoes & clothing. Hike led by Kevin B.

Core: Health & Fitness

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PARK NOTES:

What to Bring: Please wear sturdy shoes (closed-toe), dress appropriately for the weather and bring more water than you think you will need. See descriptions for specifics. Fees for guided hikes and programs are included in the 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.

Media Partners: Thank you for helping us advertise McDowell Mountain Regional Parks programs and events! Please include Ranger Amy's email address – AmyRoberts@mail.maricopa.gov - in your postings so park visitors can contact the park directly with general questions about programs, updates, and changes.

Other:

