

# MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

## JANUARY 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](mailto:mcdowellpark@mail.maricopa.gov)

#### FACEBOOK PAGE:

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

#### STAFF:

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

#### Desert Holes

**Date:** 1/3/2019      **Time:** 2 p.m.  
**Description:** There are a whole lotta holes in the desert ground. What makes all the holes? Join the Ranger on an easy walk on a ADA-accessible barrier free trail to help better understand the world of desert holes. Meet at the Nursery Tank Trailhead (approximately 5-miles from the park's main entrance).  
**Core:** Animals

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#### Friday Fitness Hike – Four Peaks

**Date:** 1/4/2019      **Time:** 8 a.m.  
**Description:** This week's hike will begin from the Four 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 will be led by Kevin B.  
**Core:** Health & Fitness

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#### Hiking Toward 100!

**Date:** 1/5/2019      **Time:** 9 a.m.  
**Description:** Are you participating in the 100-mile in 100 Day Challenge? If so, join us for this hike that will help you to log some miles to your adventure in beautiful McDowell Mountain Regional Park! Hike distance will be between approximately 5-7 miles. Meet at the Trailhead  
**Core:** Health & Fitness

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#### Desert Giants – The Saguaro Cactus

**Date:** 1/5/2019      **Time:** 11 a.m.  
**Description:** We will explore the topic of these jolly green giants on an easy and informative walk along our 0.5-mile barrier free trail. How long do they live? Why are the holes there? Can I get water from it if I need too? Get the answers to these questions and more! This program is suitable for all ages and abilities. Meet at the Nursery Tank Trailhead.  
**Core:** Plants

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#### Walk and Learn – Self-guided Walk on the North Trail

**Date:** 1/6/2019      **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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#### Hike to the Historic PB Ranch

**Date:** 1/10/2019      **Time:** 10 a.m.  
**Description:** Hike begins from the PB Trailhead Staging area. This 3-mile roundtrip hike is rated as easy. Enjoy a morning on the trail as we walk back in time and imagine the days before this scenic area became a County Park!  
**Core:** Archaeology & History

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**Friday Fitness Hike – Dixie Mine****Date:** 1/11/2019 **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:** 1/12/2019 **Time:** 3:00 p.m.

**Description:** Discover the world you never knew you wanted to know about! If you are new to Arizona (or just visiting) and curious about our desert critters, join us for an introduction to these seemingly scary creatures. We have live animals on display in the Nature Center so you can see them up close, but not by surprise. Program held at the Visitor Center.

**Core:** Animals

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**SUNday for Snakes****Date:** 1/13/2019 **Time:** 1 p.m.- 3 p.m.

**Description:** Stop by the Visitor Center anytime between 1pm-3pm to learn about our native Sonoran Desert Snakes and see some up close and personal. This is a great opportunity to help anyone overcome their fear of snakes.

**Core:** Animals

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**Goodies on the Ground****Date:** 1/17/2019 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Description:** What walked the trail before you? Are you curious about the signs you see along the trail left by desert wildlife but need some help "connecting the dots" to get a better picture? Join us

for this mini-adventure into the world of tracks and scat on the all-accessible 0.6-mile Nursery Tank Trail. Meet the Ranger at the Nursery Tank Trailhead

**Core:** Animals

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**Friday Fitness Hike - Wagner****Date:** 1/18/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

**Description:** This week's hike will begin from the Wagner 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 will be led by Kevin B.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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**Hiking toward 100****Date:** 1/19/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

**Description:** Are you participating in the 100-mile in 100 Day Challenge? If so, join us for this hike that will help you to log some miles to your adventure in beautiful McDowell Mountain Regional Park! Hike distance will be between approximately 5-7 miles. Meet at the Trailhead

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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**Friday Fitness Hike –Tom's Thumb****Date:** 1/25/2019 **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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**Out of the House Homeschool – Sonoran Spotlight on Cactus****Date:** 1/31/2019 **Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Description:** Attention Homeschoolers! Get out of the house and have a fun day of learning and play in the park. This month's focus will be on Cactus of the Sonoran Desert. Bring a lunch and plan to stay and play at the park playground where the kids can enjoy our giant rattlesnake slide! Meet at the Nursery Tank Trailhead (approximately 5-miles from the park's main entrance). Please RSVP to amyroberts@mail.maricopa.gov or call 480-471-0173.

**Core:** Plants

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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:**