

MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

NOVEMBER PROGRAMS



Maricopa County

Parks and Recreation Dept.
McDowell Mountain Regional Park
16300 McDowell Mountain Park Drive
MMRP, AZ 85268
(602) 506-2930 ext. 3



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:

Maricopacountyparks@mail.maricopa.gov

FACEBOOK PAGE:

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

STAFF:

Park Supervisor: Ossana Wolff

Interpretive Ranger: Amy Roberts

Park Office Asst.: Laura Horton

Maintenance Supervisor: Mark Ostapczuk and Jake Carpenter

Contact Station: Dianna Manasse

100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge Begins!

Date: 11/1/2019 **Time:** 6 a.m.

Description: Are you up for a challenge? The Maricopa County Parks Department is challenging you complete 100 Miles in 100 Days! To make things more interesting, we're going to let you decide when and how to complete your challenge. You can choose to hike, mountain bike, on horseback, or choose to combine two of those activities to reach your goal of 100 miles in 100 days (Challenge ends February 8, 2020). Here are your options: Hiking: 100 miles Mountain Biking or Horseback Riding: 200 miles. You must visit 3 Maricopa County Parks during the Challenge. The Maricopa Trail can be counted as a park. We've started a community Facebook page so you can share your success stories, connect with others participating in the Challenge, and participate in specific Challenge hiking events! Lace-up your hiking boots, dust off your mountain bikes and saddle up those horses! On November 1st, we'll make everything available at www.maricopa.gov/parks to you can hit the trails. Good luck!

Core: Health & Fitness



Friday Fitness Hike from Dixie Mine Trailhead

Date: 11/1/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Hike leader Kevin B. will meet hikers at the Dixie Mine Trailhead Parking Lot (at the end of Golden Eagle Blvd in the town of Fountain Hills, not the main entrance to MMRP). Hike distance will be between 8-12 miles, so

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, a snack, a hat, comfortable shoes, and clothing.

Core: Health & Fitness



Friday Fitness Hike from Wagner Trailhead

Date: 11/8/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Hike leader Kevin B. will meet hikers at the Wagner Trailhead (near the entrance to the E.I. Rowland Campground). Hike distance will be between 8-12 miles, so participants should have previous hiking experience. Bring plenty of water, a snack, a hat, and make sure to have comfortable shoes & clothing.

Core: Health & Fitness



Plants that Hitchhike

Date: 11/14/2019 **Time:** 1 p.m.

Description: The desert is a tough environment. Take an easy, short (0.5-mile) walk on a barrier-free trail to discover specific strategies some of them use for survival and reproduction. Meet at the Nursery Tank Trailhead (near the Lousely Hill Trailhead approximately 5 miles from the park's main entrance.)

Core: Plants



Friday Fitness Hike – Begins from Four Peaks Trailhead

Date: 11/15/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Hike leader Kevin B. will meet hikers at the 4 Peaks Trailhead

(First right turn after entering the park) for this week's hike. Hike distance will be between 8-12 miles. Participants should have previous hiking experience. Bring plenty of water, a snack, a hat and make sure to have comfortable shoes & clothing.

Core: Health & Fitness

An Introduction to Desert Birds

Date: 11/16/2019 **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 a beginning birder experience. 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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Lunch with the "Locals" Reptile Feeding

Date: 11/16/2019 **Time:** 2 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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Reptile Residents

Date: 11/21/2019 **Time:** 1 p.m.

Description: Learn about some of the common reptiles that call McDowell Mountain Regional Park home. If you are a winter visitor, this presentation will introduce you to some of the activity that you are missing during a typical Arizona

summer. Program held at the Visitor Center and some of these live animals are on display.

Core: Animals

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Friday Fitness Hike from Tom's Thumb Trailhead

Date: 11/22/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Hike leader Kevin B. will meet hikers at the Tom's Thumb Trailhead on the north side of the McDowell Mountains in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve (OUTSIDE OF MMRP - off of 128th Street & Dynamite Rd. in Scottsdale). This is a difficult hike for experienced hikers only. It involves a good amount of elevation and loose rocks, so hiking poles are recommended. Hike will be between 8-12 miles. Bring plenty of water, snacks, a hat, and comfortable shoes & clothing. Please note, there is NO WATER available at the Tom's Thumb Trailhead. Directions to trailhead: From Scottsdale Rd or Pima Rd, turn East onto Happy Valley Rd. Proceed about 2 miles past Alma School and turn right (East) onto Ranch Gate. Proceed to the end of Ranch Gate and then turn right (South) onto 128 St and you'll arrive at the trailhead in less than a mile.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Introduction to Archery

Date: 11/23/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: Participants will experience a safe introduction to international-style target archery. Participants should be at least 10 years old. Equipment is provided. Space is limited. RSVP required. To RSVP, contact amy.roberts@maricopa.gov to RSVP. Additional details will be provided.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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Self-guided Hike on the North Trail

Date: 11/29/2019 **Time:** All Day

Description: The North Trail is the most popular trail in McDowell Mountain Regional Park. It is a 3-mile loop trail that has an accompanying interpretive pamphlet so you can walk the trail at your own pace, and learn about the surrounding environment as you go. It is rated as "easy" and is suitable for most folks who want to get out and enjoy a walk in nature. Interpretive pamphlets are available at the Visitor Center and at the Trailhead. Stop by the Visitor Center if you have any questions!

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 – Amy.Roberts@maricopa.gov - in your postings so park visitors can contact the park directly with general questions about programs, updates, and changes.

