

SPUR CROSS RANCH CONSERVATION AREA

JUNE 2019



Maricopa County
Parks and Recreation Dept.
Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area
44000 N. Spur Cross Road
Cave Creek, AZ 85331
Phone: (602) 506-2930



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

PARK HOURS:

Sunday – Thursday: 6 am – 8 pm
Friday – Saturday: 6 am – 10 pm
Open 365 days a year

ADMIN. OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8 am – 4 pm

📍 PARK FEES:

\$3 per person day-use entry fee. Children 15-years and under free (no additional fees for programs, unless otherwise noted).

📍 DIRECTIONS:

Interstate 17, State Route 51, and Loop 101 can all be used to reach the park. From the intersection of Carefree Highway and Cave Creek Road head north on Cave Creek Road about 2.5 miles to Spur Cross Road. Turn north for approximately 4.5 miles to the public parking area. After 3 miles the road turns to all-weather graded. The last 1.5 miles can be confusing; continue north on the graded road past the greenhouse, through the tall gateposts and on past the horse corrals to the signed public parking area on the right.

🌐 WEBSITE:

<https://www.maricopacountyparks.net/park-locator/spur-cross-ranch-conservation-area/>

✉ EMAIL ADDRESS:

maricopacountyparks@mail.maricopa.gov

📘 FACEBOOK PAGE:

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

STAFF:

Park Supervisor: Darci Kinsman
Interpretive Ranger: Kevin Smith

Rock Art of Spur Cross

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

Description: The petroglyphs found in Spur Cross were created hundreds of years ago by the Hohokam people. Come and walk in their footsteps as we visit a few of the more impressive sites in the park during this moderate two-hour hike. No dogs on this hike, please. (moderate)

Core: Archaeology & History

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Geology, Gold, and Streams Walk

Date: 6/2/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Learn about the geology and streams of the Spur Cross region on an easy two-mile walk with nationally known earth science author Thomas McGuire. Visit an abandoned gold mine, Nutcracker Rock, and a Hohokam rock art site along Cottonwood Wash. Bring plenty of water and your natural curiosity. Meet at the main trailhead area. No reservations are required.

Core: Geology

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Life on the Creek

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

Description: Join Ranger Kevin as we look at the plants and animals that live in the riparian area along a perennial stretch of Cave Creek. The hike will take us through the Jewel of the Creek Preserve and along the lower Dragonfly Trail for a distance of approximately 1.5 miles. (moderate)

Core: Plants & Animals

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Desert Wash Walk

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

Description: Come discover the fascinating world of a desert wash. This hike will feature the exploration of one of the larger drainages in the conservation area. Along the way, we will discuss desert washes and mesas and how the ecosystems differ. Long pants and sturdy shoes are recommended. No dogs on this hike, please. (moderate)

Core: Plants

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Full Moon Hike

Date: 6/15/2019 **Time:** 8 p.m.

Description: Spur Cross is a different experience when seen softly illuminated by the silver moon. While we will attempt to minimize the use of flashlights, bring one in case you need it. (easy)

Core: Astronomy

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Hohokam Houses: the Ruins of Spur Cross

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

Description: Join us for this 2.5-mile hike that will introduce you to the rich archaeological history of the area. See evidence of prehistoric Hohokam dwellings and learn about their culture as we trek up to one of their mesa-top compounds. No dogs on this hike, please.

Core: Archaeology & History

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Exploring Spur Cross

Date: 6/28/2019 **Time:** 7 a.m.

Description: Join us for a two-hour introductory exploration of the conservation area. From its Hohokam prehistory and historic gold mining to the romantic days when Spur Cross meant

vacation from a saddle, we explore the wonders of Spur Cross. (easy)

Core: Archaeology & History

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Fairy Duster/Mariposa/Metate Loop Hike

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

Description: Come out and explore the newest trails in the conservation area – the Fairy Duster Trail and the Mariposa Hill Trail. We will also add a trip around the Metate Trail for a grand total of about three miles. (moderate)

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 Cave Creek Regional Parks programs and events! Please include Ranger Mark's email address – markpaulat@mail.maricopa.gov - in your postings so park visitors can contact the park directly with general questions about programs, updates, and changes.

Other:

