

# MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

## SEPTEMBER 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](mailto: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

#### Sonoran Desert Secrets

**Date:** 9/5/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

**Description:** Join us for an informative, easy walk on a 0.5-mile barrier-free trail. We will have a trailside talk about our Sonoran Desert environment along the way. How long does that plant live? What makes all the holes? Can I get water from a cactus if I need too? This program is suitable for all ages and abilities. Meet at the Nursery Tank Trailhead.

**Core:** Plants

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#### Friday Fitness Hike – Dixie Mine

**Date:** 9/6/2019 **Time:** 6:30 a.m.

**Description:** Meet in the parking lot for the Dixie Mine Trailhead (outside of the 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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#### Bike Hike

**Date:** 9/12/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

**Description:** Join the Ranger on this interpretive trail ride! If you've ever wondered "what plant is that?" or "what lizard is that?" as you've ridden the trails, come out for an enjoyable ride and learn as you go! We will take a casual bike ride, enjoy the scenery and see what we can discover. Bring your own bike and

required a helmet, along with some of your questions about the desert. Meet the Ranger at the Visitor Center.

**Core:** Outdoor Skills

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#### Friday Fitness Hike - Wagner

**Date:** 9/13/2019 **Time:** 6:30 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. The hike will be led by Kevin B.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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#### Discover the Desert Walk

**Date:** 9/14/2019 **Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Description:** Join the Ranger on the 3-mile loop hike on the North Trail. We will take some time to enjoy the beauty of the desert around us and learn about the flora and fauna of the area. Please bring plenty of water, sunscreen, and a hat. Meet the Ranger at the North Trailhead.

**Core:** Plants

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#### Ranger-led Walk on ADA-accessible trail

**Date:** 9/19/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

**Description:** This adventure promises amazing views and the chance to learn about local Sonoran Desert flora and fauna. The trail is short (but sweet) and ADA-accessible, making it a great opportunity for everyone to enjoy and explore the great outdoors. Meet at the Nursery Tank Trailhead for this ADA-accessible walk.

**Core:** Aquatics

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### Friday Fitness Hike – Four Peaks Staging Area

**Date:** 9/20/2019 **Time:** 6:30 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 led by Kevin B.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### Reptile Feeding

**Date:** 9/21/2019 **Time:** 11:30 a.m.

**Description:** Reptiles are fascinating animals. Spend some time learning to appreciate them and their role in our desert ecosystem by joining them for their lunch. Program held at the Visitor Center

**Core:** Animals

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### Bike Hike

**Date:** 9/26/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

**Description:** Join the Ranger on this interpretive trail ride! If you've ever wondered "what plant is that?" or "what lizard is that?" as you've ridden the trails, come out for an enjoyable ride and learn as you go! We will take a casual bike ride, enjoy the scenery and see what we can discover. Bring your own bike and required a helmet, along with some of your questions about the desert. Meet the Ranger at the Visitor Center.

**Core:** Outdoor Skills

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### Friday Fitness Hike – Tom's Thumb Trailhead

**Date:** 9/27/2019 **Time:** 6:30 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. The 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. The hike will be led by Kevin B.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### Introduction to Archery

**Date:** 9/27/2019 **Time:** 8 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 amyroberts@maricopa.gov

**Core:** Outdoor Skills

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### KIDs– Kids in the Desert!

**Date:** 9/28/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

**Description:** The best place to learn about the desert is IN the desert! Bring your kid(s) out to McDowell Mountain Regional Park to learn about the desert! If your child is an outdoor adventurer already or aspires to learn about the outdoors, we have the desert, you bring the kids! Meet the Ranger at the playground (in the park's E.I. Rowland campground) for some fun outdoor activities.

**Core:** Entertainment & Social Skills

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

**Date:** 9/28/2019 **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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### 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.

