

USERY MT. REGIONAL PARK

APRIL, 2019 PROGRAMS



Maricopa County

Parks and Recreation Dept.
Usery Mountain Regional Park
3939 N. Usery Pass Road
Mesa, AZ 85207
(602) 506-2930



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

PARK HOURS:

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

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 – Saturday: 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, I-10 east to US 60 east.
Exit Ellsworth Road north to the Usery
Mountain Regional Park entrance.

💻 WEBSITE:

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

✉ EMAIL ADDRESS:

userypark@mail.maricopa.gov

📘 FACEBOOK PAGE:

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

STAFF:

Park Supervisor: Shayla Gunn

Interpretive Ranger: Brennan Basler

Office Asst. Andrea Despotides

Maintenance: Robert Mansfield, Ray Martin
and Sharon Richards

Contact Station Assistant: Aldo Gonzalez

The Ancients of the Valley

Date: 4/3/2019 **Time:** 12 p.m.

Description: Who were the ancient inhabitants that lived here before us? How did they survive and thrive in this desert environment? Where did they go? Feel free to bring your lunch with you inside our Nature Center as Ranger B shares some insights on the ancient people who once walked this land.
Location: Nature Center.

Core: Archaeology & History

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Sonoran Stroll

Date: 4/5/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Enjoy this casual 1-2 mile stroll in our beautiful Sonoran Desert with our park ranger. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Meet at Trailhead Staging.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Meet "Jake" the Snake

Date: 4/6/2019 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

Description: Visit our Nature Center and see the longest species of snake found in Arizona! Ranger B will be at this drop-in style event to share some amazing facts about this super snake. Visit anytime between 1:30pm-3:30pm.

Core: Animals

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Amazing Desert Plants Walk

Date: 4/7/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: What are the names of the unique plants that grow in our desert? How do they survive (and thrive!) in such a harsh environment? Discover the

special strategies of these incredible plants when you join our Interpretive Ranger for this quarter-mile stroll along the scenic Desert Hawk Trail. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes.
Location: Nature Center.

Core: Plants

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Tortoise Day: Feeding, Reading & More!

Date: 4/10/2019 **Time:** 10:30 a.m.

Description: Help us celebrate our desert tortoise as he wakes up from his long winter nap! We'll start outdoors with a feeding and a meet 'n' greet with our park tortoise "Al." We'll then head inside for a special time with local author, Carol Hageman, as she reads "Bubby's Puddle Pond," her charming "Tortuga Tale" that teaches kids and adults about the life of an adopted desert tortoise. Carol's book will be available for purchase and Carol will be on hand to sign your copy. We'll wrap up the program with coloring and worksheet activities for the kids. Meet at the Nature Center.

Core: Entertainment & Social Skills

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Three Mile Thursday**Date:** 4/11/2019 **Time:** 8 a.m.**Description:** Want to get in shape and stay in shape? Want to meet others who want to do the same? Join us for this fun 3 mile/1 hour brisk-pace hike through our scenic desert. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Meet at Trailhead Staging.**Core:** Health & Fitness

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Exploring Desert Washes**Date:** 4/12/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.**Description:** Have you ever walked inside a desert wash? What makes them so special and unique? How do washes contribute to the health of the desert itself? Join us for a look at the fascinating world of desert washes as we explore their importance to the desert ecosystem. This walk is 1.5 mile in length. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Meet at Trailhead Staging.**Core:** Aquatics

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All About Butterflies**Date:** 4/13/2018 **Time:** 6 p.m.**Description:** What makes butterflies different from other insects? How do they survive and thrive in the wild? Discover the answers to these questions and more in this exciting one-hour presentation! Join us inside our Nature Center as Ranger B shares some amazing facts about these colorful creatures. Watch us feed our snakes after the program at 7pm. Then join our "Night Safari" at 7:30pm at no extra cost!**Core:** Animals

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Night Safari**Date:** 4/13/2019 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.**Description:** What are the wild animals that live in our desert? How do they survive and thrive here? What should you do if you encounter one? Discover amazing things about our desert animals when you join our park ranger for this 1-mile/1-hour walk along the Merkle Trail. The hard-smooth surface of this trail accommodates wheelchairs and strollers. Please bring a flashlight, water, and closed-toe shoes. No pets, please. Meet at Area 6. Join our "All About Butterflies" program inside our Nature Center at 6pm, and our snake feeding at 7pm at no extra cost!**Core:** Animals

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Our Sonoran Desert**Date:** 4/17/2019 **Time:** 12 p.m.**Description:** What makes our Sonoran Desert the most unique desert on Earth?

What are the important things you need to know about this fascinating place?

Discover the answers to these questions and more during this inspiring one-hour presentation. Feel free to bring your lunch with you inside our Nature Center as Ranger B shares amazing facts about our delightful desert. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Entertainment & Social Skills

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Full Moon Hike**Date:** 4/19/2019 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.**Description:** Join us for this 2-mile hike under the glowing light of the full moon! This is a great opportunity to experience new sights and sounds of the desert at night. Bring your sense of adventure on this interpretive hike with our park ranger. Please bring a flashlight, water, and closed-toe shoes. No pets, please. Carpooling is strongly recommended as parking is limited for this event. Meet at Trailhead Staging.**Core:** Health & Fitness

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Spectacular Saguaros**Date:** 4/20/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.**Description:** Saguaros give our desert its character! Discover amazing things about these desert giants as you join Ranger B on this quarter-mile stroll along our scenic Desert Hawk Trail. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Meet at the Nature Center.**Core:** Plants

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Find the Ranger on the Wind Cave Trail**Date:** 4/21/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.**Description:** Hike the Wind Cave Trail and find our park ranger! This fun hike is challenging and provides great views of the Valley along the way. You'll find Ranger B walking somewhere along this 1.5-mile trail, ready to answer any questions you may have about the park, desert plants and animals. Anytime between 9am-11am.**Core:** Health & Fitness

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Sky Islands of Arizona**Date:** 4/25/2019 **Time:** 12 p.m.**Description:** Where are Arizona's sky islands? What would we see if we traveled to these sky islands? Why does such a vast array of plants and animals survive and thrive in these places? Discover the answers to these questions and more in this exciting one-hour presentation! Feel free to bring your lunch with you inside our Nature Center as Jim Taylor (former biology teacher)

and his wife, Judy, give us rich insight into one of North America's most interesting regions: the Sky Islands of Arizona!

Core: Animals

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Movie Night in the Park: "Grand Canyon Adventure"**Date:** 4/26/2019 **Time:** 7 p.m.**Description:** This exciting movie follows the great Colorado River as it reveals one of the most pressing issues of our time – the world's growing shortage of water. Join a group of rafters as they travel deep into the Grand Canyon on a thrilling ride through raging rapids and breathtaking canyons. With stunning photography and sweeping aerial shots, this movie captures the majesty of one of the seven natural wonders of the world. Feel free to bring snacks and drinks with you (no glass bottles), otherwise, they're available for sale. As a bonus, watch us feed our snakes after the movie! Location: Nature Center.**Core:** Aquatics

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

Other: