

# USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

## FEBRUARY, 2019 PROGRAMS



### Maricopa County

Parks and Recreation Dept.  
Usery Mountain Regional Park  
3939 N. Usery Pass Road  
Mesa, AZ 85207  
(480) 984-0032



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 (5/7 – 10/8)

Monday - Saturday: 8 am – 3 pm

### WINTER (10/9 - 5/6)

Sunday – 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)

### 📍 DIRECTIONS:

From central Phoenix, I-10 east to US 60 east.  
Exit Ellsworth Road north 7 miles.

### 💻 WEBSITE:

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

### ✉ EMAIL ADDRESS:

[userypark@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto: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:** Ray, Robert, & Sharon  
**Contact Station Assistant:** Aldo Gonzalez

### Sonoran Stroll

**Date:** 2/1/2019      **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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### Wag 'n' Walk Dog Adoption Hike

**Date:** 2/2/2019      **Time:** 9 a.m.

**Description:** Don't have a dog? No problem! Maricopa County's Animal Care & Control and Parks and Recreation Departments have united to bring you this program. You can "test drive" potential canine hiking partners to see how they behave on leash and get along with other dogs, while learning about trail etiquette and safety. Owned, friendly, leashed dogs that are at least six months old and current on their vaccinations are welcome to join this one-mile trek on our scenic, groomed, Merkle Trail. Please bring water, closed-toe shoes, and an open heart for a possible new best friend, or two. This program will be held on the first Saturday of each month from October through March. Meet at Area 6.

**Core:** Animals

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### All About Desert Survival

**Date:** 2/6/2019      **Time:** 12 p.m.

**Description:** What would you do if you got lost or your car broke down? Would you know how to survive if you were stranded in the desert? What are the most important things to do to stay alive? Discover the answers to these questions and more in this informative one-hour presentation! Feel free to bring your lunch with you inside our

Nature Center as Ranger B shares life-saving tips on how to survive in the desert.  
**Core:** Outdoor Skills

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### All About Wolves

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

**Description:** Are there wolves in Arizona? If so, where? How dangerous are they? 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 carnivorous canines. As a bonus, 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:** 2/8/2019      **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 Wolves" program inside our Nature Center at 6pm, and our snake feeding at 7pm at no extra cost!

**Core:** Animals

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### Amazing Desert Plants

**Date:** 2/9/2019      **Time:** 2 p.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. Meet at the Nature Center.  
**Core:** Plants

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**Spectacular Saguaros**

**Date:** 2/10/2019 **Time:** 2 p.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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**Toddler Cruise**

**Date:** 2/13/2019 **Time:** 10:30 a.m.  
**Description:** This 1-mile hike is designed for parents and caregivers with small children, ages 3 – 6. Along with Ranger B, kids will howl like coyotes, do the “bobcat crawl” and learn how to drink water in a fun way! We’ll explore the desert along the scenic Merkle Trail. The hard-smooth surface of this trail will accommodate wheelchairs and strollers. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Meet at Area 6.  
**Core:** Entertainment & Social Skills

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**Sensational Symbiotic Relationships**

**Date:** 2/13/2019 **Time:** 12 p.m.  
**Description:** A symbiotic relationship occurs when two different species live together and at least one species benefits. What desert species are involved in these fascinating relationships? You will be amazed as you learn how symbiotic relationships allow desert plants and animals to survive and thrive. Bring your lunch inside our Nature Center as Jim Taylor (former biology teacher) and his wife, Judy, deepen our understanding of how our desert works. Location: Nature Center.  
**Core:** Animals

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**Three Mile Thursday**

**Date:** 2/14/2019 **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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**Birding Meetup**

**Date:** 2/14/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.  
**Description:** Interested in meeting other birders and heading out together in search of birds? Come to Usery Park for a birding adventure with like-minded people. Please

bring binoculars, water, and closed-toe shoes. Meet at the Nature Center.  
**Core:** Animals

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**Movie Night in the Park: “The Living Desert”**

**Date:** 2/15/2019 **Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Description:** Come see the best film ever made about our desert animals! All ages will love this exciting movie on the big screen inside our Nature Center. You will see desert animals do things you never thought possible – like scorpions dancing! This real-life Disney movie is both educational and highly entertaining. Laughter is guaranteed! As a bonus, watch us feed our snakes after the movie. Feel free to bring snacks and drinks with you (no glass bottles), otherwise, snacks and drinks are available for sale.  
**Core:** Animals

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**Find the Ranger on the Wind Cave Trail**

**Date:** 2/16/2019 **Time:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Description:** Hike the Wind Cave Trail and find our park ranger! This fun hike is challenging and gives great views of the Valley along the way. Ranger B will be somewhere along this 1.5-mile trail to answer any questions you have about the park, desert animals, and desert plants. Anytime between 9:30am-11:30am.  
**Core:** Health & Fitness

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**Full Moon Hike & Campfire**

**Date:** 2/18/2019 **Time:** 7 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. Afterwards, we’ll enjoy the toasty flames of a campfire and a free marshmallow roast. Please bring a flashlight, water, and closed-toe shoes. No pets, please. Meet at Trailhead Staging.  
**Core:** Health & Fitness

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**Homeschool: Cool Cactus Hike**

**Date:** 2/22/2019 **Time:** 2 p.m.  
**Description:** What are the names of the cactuses that grow in our desert? How do they survive here? Discover amazing things about these spiny survivors when you join Ranger B for this hike along the 1-mile Merkle Trail. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Meet at Area 6.  
**Core:** Plants

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**Wild for Wildflowers! Walk**

**Date:** 2/23/2019 **Time:** 2 p.m.  
**Description:** Wild for wildflowers? This spring should reward us with an explosion of colorful wildflowers! Join us for this casual stroll along our scenic 1-mile Merkle Trail in search of these desert delights. You

will learn about our local wildflowers and be awed by the beauty of our desert! Meet at Area 6.  
**Core:** Plants

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**Views from the Vista Trail**

**Date:** 2/24/2019 **Time:** 2 p.m.  
**Description:** Learn about our Sonoran Desert and get a great view of the valley while hiking the Vista Trail! This scenic trail is perfect for hikers who are looking for a mildly challenging experience. Our park ranger will point out some of the common plants and animals encountered in the park. Total distance will be about one mile, but be prepared to gain some elevation. Meet at Area 6.  
**Core:** Health & Fitness

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**Wild for Wildflowers! Walk**

**Date:** 2/27/2019 **Time:** 2 p.m.  
**Description:** Wild for wildflowers? This spring should reward us with an explosion of colorful wildflowers! Join us for this casual stroll along our scenic 1-mile Merkle Trail in search of these desert delights. You will learn about our local wildflowers and be awed by the beauty of our desert! Meet at Area 6.  
**Core:** Plants

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**Birding Meetup**

**Date:** 2/28/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.  
**Description:** Interested in meeting other birders and heading out together in search of birds? Come to Usery Park for a birding adventure with like-minded people. Please bring binoculars, water, and closed-toe shoes. Meet at the Nature Center.  
**Core:** Animals

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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: