

USERY MT. REGIONAL PARK JANUARY, 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, unless otherwise noted)

📍 DIRECTIONS:

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

Three Mile Thursday

Date: 1/3/2019 **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: 1/3/2019 **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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Sonoran Stroll

Date: 1/4/2019 **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: 1/5/2019 **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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Movie Night in the Park: "Spy in the Wild"

Date: 1/5/2019 **Time:** 7 p.m.

Description: All ages will love this exciting movie on the big screen inside our Nature Center! Life-like robotic animals with built-in eye cameras will give us a close-up peek into the social lives of wild animals. This presentation 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 are available for sale.

Core: Animals

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Hiking the Superstitions

Date: 1/9/2019 **Time:** 12 p.m.

Description: The Superstition Wilderness Area has some of the best hiking in the West! Find out where to go and what to see in the "Supes" during this informative one-hour presentation. Feel free to bring your lunch inside our Nature Center as Ranger B shares some

useful tips about hiking in this legendary wilderness area.

Core: Health & Fitness

All About Scorpions

Date: 1/12/2019 **Time:** 6 p.m.

Description: How dangerous are scorpions? How can we protect ourselves from them? How do they survive and thrive in our desert? Discover the answer to these questions and more in this exciting one-hour presentation! Join us inside our Nature Center as Ranger B shares amazing facts about these desert dwellers. As a bonus, watch us feed our snakes after the program at 7pm. Then join our "Animal Flashlight Walk" at 7:30pm at no extra cost!

Core: Animals

Animal Flashlight Walk

Date: 1/12/2019 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.

Description: We're the nocturnal animals of the desert and we like to hide. Help Ranger B find us if you can! If you would like to learn about us and enjoy a night walk in the desert, then join Ranger B as he takes you on this exciting 1-mile/1-hour walk along the Merkle Trail. This trail accommodates wheelchairs and strollers. Please bring water, a flashlight, and closed-toe shoes. No pets, please. Meet at Area 6. As a bonus, join our "All About Scorpions" program inside our Nature Center at 6pm, and our snake feeding at 7pm at no extra cost!

Core: Animals

Find the Ranger on the Wind Cave Trail

Date: 1/13/2019 **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

Birding Meetup

Date: 1/17/2019 **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

Lunar Eclipse Full Moon Hike

Date: 1/20/2019 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.

Description: There's a lunar eclipse happening tonight! Join us for this 2-mile desert hike as we witness part of this eclipse. Afterwards, we'll enjoy the toasty flames of a campfire and a free

marshmallow roast. Bring your sense of adventure for this interpretive hike with our park ranger. Please bring a flashlight, water, and closed-toe shoes. No pets, please. Meet at Trailhead Staging.

Core: Health & Fitness

All About Hummingbirds

Date: 1/24/2019 **Time:** 12 p.m.

Description: What makes hummingbirds so special and unique? Which hummingbird species are found in this area? How do they survive and thrive in the wild? 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, deepen our understanding and appreciation for our feathered friends.

Core: Animals

Homeschool: "Amazing Desert Animals"

Date: 1/25/2019 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: What are the wild animals that live in our desert? How do they survive and thrive here? What should you do when you encounter one? Discover amazing things about our desert animals when you join Ranger B for this fun one-mile hike along the Merkle Trail. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Meet at Area 6.

Core: Animals

The Geology of Arizona

Date: 1/25/2019 **Time:** 7 p.m.

Description: Ever wonder about the fascinating mountains and rock formations seen throughout Arizona? Join retired geology professor, A. J. Lombard, as he shares a wealth of information about the unique geology of Arizona in this PowerPoint presentation. Bring your curiosities and questions to Usery Park and discover lots of amazing things about our state's incredible geology! Location: Nature Center.

Core: Geology

Cool Cactus Walk

Date: 1/26/2019 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: What are the names of the cacti that grow in our desert? How do they survive (and thrive!) in such a harsh environment? Discover amazing facts about these incredible plants when you join our Park Ranger for this scenic stroll along the quarter-mile Desert Hawk Trail. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Meet at the Nature Center.

Core: Plants

Eat the Desert

Date: 1/27/2019 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: How have people survived off the desert for thousands of years? Which desert plants are edible and when are they edible? Discover the answers to these questions and more in this exciting quarter-mile stroll along the Desert Hawk Trail. Join our Park Ranger as he shares some useful information about our edible desert plants. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Meet at the Nature Center.

Core: Plants

Little Desert Explorers

Date: 1/30/2019 **Time:** 10:30 a.m.

Description: This 1-mile hike is designed for parents and caregivers with children ages 3 – 6 years. Using their senses, kids will discover lots of cool things about the plants and animals that call our desert "home." Along with Ranger B, we will explore the desert along the scenic Merkle Trail. This trail accommodates wheelchairs and strollers. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Meet at Area 6.

Core: Entertainment & Social Skills

Birding Meetup

Date: 1/31/2019 **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

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.