

# USERY MT. REGIONAL PARK

## MAY, 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 (5/7 – 10/8)

Monday – Saturday: 8 am – 3 pm

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

Friday – Saturday: 8 am – 4 pm

### ADMIN. OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Saturday: 8 am – 3 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](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:** Robert Mansfield, Ray Martin and Sharon Richards  
**Contact Station Assistant:** Aldo Gonzalez

### Cool Cactus Walk

**Date:** 5/1/2019 **Time:** 9 a.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

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### All About Valley Fever

**Date:** 5/3/2019 **Time:** 12 p.m.

**Description:** What exactly is “Valley Fever”? How do people and pets get it? How dangerous is it? Can it be prevented? How is it treated? 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 helpful facts about this desert disease.

**Core:** Health & Fitness

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### Eat the Desert

**Date:** 5/10/2019 **Time:** 9 a.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

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### All About Owls

**Date:** 5/11/2019 **Time:** 6 p.m.

**Description:** What makes owls so different from other birds? Which owls live in our area? How do they survive and thrive in our desert? 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 nighttime raptors. Watch us feed our snakes after the program at 7pm. Then join our “Animal Flashlight Walk” at 7:30pm at no extra cost! Location: Nature Center.

**Core:** Animals

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### Animal Flashlight Walk

**Date:** 5/11/2019 **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 Owls” program inside our Nature Center at 6pm, and our snake feeding at 7pm at no extra cost!

**Core:** Animals

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**Kid's Storytime Funtime****Date:** 5/15/2019 **Time:** 10:30 a.m.**Description:** Kids (including parents and caregivers) will learn about our desert through a fun story, game, and a short outdoor experience. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after the program at one of the playgrounds in our park. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Suggested for ages 3-6.

Location: Nature Center.

**Core:** Entertainment & Social Skills

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**All About Bison****Date:** 5/17/2019 **Time:** 12 p.m.**Description:** Is a bison and a buffalo the same animal? How close were they to extinction? How dangerous are they? How do they survive and thrive in the wild? 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 some amazing facts about these majestic mammals.

Location: Nature Center

**Core:** Animals

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**Meet "Terry" the Tarantula!****Date:** 5/18/2019 **Time:** 1 p.m.**Description:** Visit our Nature Center and see the largest species of spider found in North America! Ranger B will be at this drop-in style event to share some amazing facts about our furry friend! Visit anytime between 1pm-2:30pm**Core:** Animals

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**Full Moon Hike****Date:** 5/18/2019 **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. Meet at Trailhead Staging.**Core:** Health & Fitness

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**Living with Urban Wildlife****Date:** 5/22/2019 **Time:** 12 p.m.**Description:** How dangerous are the wild animals that live in our communities? How can we live with them and still be safe? How do they survive and thrive around people? 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

some amazing facts about these fascinating creatures. Location: Nature Center.

**Core:** Animals

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**Meet "Al" the Tortoise!****Date:** 5/24/2019 **Time:** 9 a.m.**Description:** Visit our Nature Center and see our desert tortoise in his beautiful outdoor exhibit! Ranger B will be at this drop-in style event to share some amazing facts about this fascinating reptile. Visit anytime between 9am-11am.**Core:** Animals

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**Thirst: Water and Wildlife in the Desert****Date:** 5/29/2019 **Time:** 12 p.m.**Description:** How do animals get water in the desert where there is little or none? How do they survive and thrive in such harsh conditions? Are there animals that don't drink water? Discover the answers to these questions and more in this exciting one-hour presentation! Feel free to bring a lunch with you inside our Nature Center as Jim Taylor (former biology teacher) and his wife, Judy, share amazing facts about animals' adaptations to this arid environment.**Core:** Animals

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**All About Scorpions****Date:** 5/31/2019 **Time:** 6:30 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 7:30pm. Then join our "Scorpion Hunt" at 8pm at no extra cost!**Core:** Animals

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**Scorpion Hunt (First one of the year!!)****Date:** 5/31/2019 **Time:** 8 p.m.**Description:** Did you know that scorpions glow in the dark under a blacklight? Join Ranger B as he leads us on this fun and safe night walk along a trail to find these elusive desert dwellers (using our eyes only). You will sharpen your spotting skills and have a lot of fun at the same time! All ages will enjoy this casual one-hour/one-mile walk. Please wear closed-toe shoes and bring water

and a blacklight (blacklights are for sale while supplies last). No pets, please. Location: Trailhead Staging. As a bonus, join our "All About Scorpions" program inside our Nature Center at 6:30pm and our snake feeding at 7:30pm at no extra cost!

**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.

