

Aquatic Ecosystems

Grades: K – 8

Group Size: 15 – 30 students

Months offered: October – November, and March – May

Duration: 2.5 hours

Location: Agua Caliente Park and Historic Canoa Ranch

The ponds at Agua Caliente Park and Historic Canoa Ranch are teeming with life. Use nets, skimmers, and buckets to collect water samples and then watch the water come to life under the viewers. Students refine their observations skills and sketch aquatic invertebrates.

Self-Guided Nature Study at Agua Caliente Park

Grades: K – 5

Group Size: 5 – 30 students

Location: Agua Caliente Park

Duration: 1 – 2 hours

Students explore nature and learn about the diversity of wildlife at Agua Caliente Park through self-guided activities and use of tools included in individual nature packs. Binoculars are available for loan along with the Nature Study Packs. Reservations are required.

History Day

Grade: 3

Group Size: 1 – 3 classes per school

Duration: 4 hours

Event Date: February, contact us for dates

Location: Agua Caliente Park

Arizona history comes to life through interactive demonstrations and hands-on activities. Enjoy a day of activities focused on different periods of Arizona's past. This event is geared toward 3rd grade classes studying Arizona History.

Making it Work: Life at Canoa Ranch

Grades: K – 6

Group Size: 15 – 60 students

Months Offered: November – early April

Duration: 2 – 2.5 hours

Location: Historic Canoa Ranch

Discover the rich history of ranching in the Santa Cruz River Valley, from Spanish and Mexican settlers, to the Gadsden Purchase that led to the American period

represented by the Manning family's ownership of Canoa Ranch. Students tour Historic Canoa Ranch, try their hand at 'roping', design a cattle brand, and engage in other interactive activities that showcase life on a working ranch to learn how people utilized the natural resources in creative ways to sustain their way of life.

Prehistoric Peoples of the Southwest

Grades: K – 6

Group Size: 15 – 60 students

Months Offered: November – March

Duration: 2 – 2.5 hours

Location: Historic Canoa Ranch

Explore the ancient cultures that thrived in Southern Arizona long before the arrival of European settlers and discover how they made a living in their Sonoran Desert home. Students taste native desert foods, try their hands at making cordage from natural fiber, and make pottery during this peek into the past.



Field Study Locations

Agua Caliente Park

12325 E. Roger Road, Tucson 85749

Located on the east side of Tucson, Agua Caliente Park features a pond and an exceptionally rich mix of plants, wildlife, and historical features. Some of the programs offered at this park can accommodate up to seventy-five students. Facilities include a classroom, shaded picnic tables, restrooms and water fountains, and paved and hard packed trails.

Brandi Fenton Memorial Park

3482 E. River Road, Tucson 85718

This central Tucson location offers a convenient location and features a beautiful "Butterfly Garden" and is suitable for large and small school groups. Facilities include a classroom, shaded outdoor spaces, picnic tables, restrooms, water fountains, paved and hard-packed trails.

Feliz Paseos Park

1600 N. Camino de Oeste, Tucson 85745

Located in the saguaro studded foothills of the Tucson Mountains. Facilities include shade ramadas with seating benches, paved and hard packed trails, restrooms, and water fountains.

Pima Prickly Park

3500 W. River Road, Tucson 85741

This nine-acre desert park in northwest Tucson highlights native cactus and succulent species. Pima Prickly Park features more than a mile of handicap-accessible walking paths and two ramadas with picnic tables.

Tucson Mountain Park-Desert Discovery Center

7798 W. Gates Pass Road, Tucson 85735

The Desert Discovery Center in Tucson Mountain Park showcases spectacular desert scenery, outstanding geologic features, and wildlife viewing. Programs at this facility can only accommodate small groups of 25 students or less. The center has rocky, narrow nature trails, a small classroom, and limited restroom facilities.

Historic Canoa Ranch

**5375 S. I-19 Frontage Road,
Green Valley 85622**

The Raúl M. Grijalva Canoa Ranch Conservation Park comprises 4,800 acres of the original San Ignacio de la Canoa land grant. Historic Canoa Ranch, the 30-acre ranch headquarters, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. People from all periods of time have contributed to the special history of this place. Facilities include picnic tables, restrooms, and water fountains as well as Ramadas along Canoa Lake.



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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

FIELD STUDY TRIPS AND CLASSROOM PROGRAMS



Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation's K-12 field study trips and classroom programs are linked to Arizona Academic Standards. Reservations are required for all school programs.

Lesson plans and teacher resources are available at www.pima.gov/nrpr

Predators, Prey, Room to Roam

Grades: 4 – 8

Group Size: 15 – 75 students

Duration: 2.5 hours

Location: Agua Caliente Park

Explore predator/prey relationships during a naturalist-guided Nature Walk at Agua Caliente Park. Through interactive activities in a Mammal Lab, examine how mammalian skulls and tracks are used to study elusive animals. Learn how scientists use wildlife cameras to record wildlife activity, catalog diversity, and estimate population size. Discover the importance of wildlife corridors to connect conservations areas. Brainstorm possible locations for additional safe wildlife corridors.

Hadrosaurs to Humans: A Geological Walk through Time

Grades: 3 and up

Group Size: 15 – 30 students

Months Offered: November – February

Duration: 2.5 hours

Location: Tucson Mountain Park-Desert Discovery Center

Students discover evidence of landscapes past and use this evidence to reconstruct the paleo-geologic timeline of our desert home. Following an introduction to basic geological processes, students take a short hike to uncover the Sonoran Desert's 'buried' past. Students look for, collect and unscramble evidence revealing what our region looked like, what plants and animals have lived here, and how landscape and lifeforms influence one another.

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Field Study

Grades: 4 – 6 and 7 – 12

Group Size: 15 – 30 students

Duration: Pre-trip Orientation 1 class period (optional), Field Study Trip 2.5 hours

Location: Agua Caliente Park

Students run a scientific study of a wetland habitat. Data collected include plant and animal diversity and abundance and abiotic factors that may affect such abundance. Data and photographic documentation are made available to classrooms for further analysis. A pre-field trip orientation by our staff at your school is highly recommended.

Pollinator Survey

Grades: K – 3, 4 – 6, and 7 – 12

Group Size: 15 – 60 students

Months offered: August – October and March – early May

Duration: 2.5 – 3 hours

Locations: Agua Caliente Park, Feliz Paseos Park, Tucson Mountain Park-Desert Discovery Center, Pima Prickly Park*, Brandi Fenton Memorial Park, and Historic Canoa Ranch

Learn about plants, pollinators, and pollination. Students use digital cameras to record pollinator populations. The class collects barrel cactus data and counts the seeds within a ripe fruit. This seed count, used as an indicator of pollinator population health, is submitted to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum for use by scientists to help identify and understand local pollinator hotspots. Data collected are compiled with existing data sets and made available to the class for further analysis in the classroom. *A Pollinator Survey and Propagation Project extended program may be scheduled at Pima Prickly Park.

Living River of Words Youth Arts and Science (LROW)

Grade: K – 12

Group Size: 25 – 60 students

Months Offered: October – Mid-January

Duration: 2.5 hour field trip and 3 – 4 class periods

Locations: Agua Caliente Park, Santa Cruz River, Sweetwater Wetlands, Historic Canoa Ranch, and Classroom

Students explore how water moves through the landscape and the connections that plants, animals, and people have to water. After exploring these topics, students have the opportunity to share their impressions with entries of poetry and/or visual art to

Living River of Words: Youth Poetry and Art Contest.

These multi-disciplinary programs are offered to K – 12 schools with an interest in participating in *Living River of Words: Youth Poetry and Art Contest (LROW)*. The LROW Arts and Science Residency include:

- mandatory pre-trip classroom presentation
- field study trip that includes: water quality, aquatic invertebrates, riparian habitats, and poetry, art, or photography activities
- post-trip art or poetry classes

The duration and specific lesson plans for the LROW School Residency are determined at the time of scheduling and tailored to accommodate group size, grade level, and time available.

Ecosystem Discovery

Grades: K – 8

Group Size: 15 – 75 students

Duration: 2 hours

Location: Agua Caliente Park, Brandi Fenton Park, Historic Canoa Ranch, and Pima Prickly Park

Explore the diversity of life in riparian and desert ecosystems through guided, hands-on exploration. Students use binoculars and hand lenses to make observations and work as a class to understand the interrelationships between plants, animals, and the environment.

Bat Research Simulation

Grades: K-3, 4-8 and 9-12

Group Size: 15 – 60 students

Duration: 2 hours

Locations: Agua Caliente Park, Brandi Fenton Memorial Park, and Historic Canoa Ranch

Students learn about the fascinating lives of bats while they practice scientific field research methods during this outdoor bat netting simulation. Students collect model bats, take measurements, identify species, and record data which are compared to actual bat data from research in Southern Arizona.

Experiencing Nature through the Senses

Grades: K – 8

Group Size: 15 – 75 students

Duration: 2 hours

Locations: Agua Caliente Park, Brandi Fenton Memorial Park, Historic Canoa Ranch, and Classroom
With the creative use of animal pelts, skull replicas, tracks, sounds, and botanical preparations, we excite all your senses. Students practice nature journaling as a way to record observations.

Invasive Species in the Sonoran Desert

Grades: 7 – 12

Group Size: 15 – 60 students

Months Offered: November – February

Duration: One class period and 2 hours field work

Location: Classroom and Field (TBD)

Through hands-on activities, students learn to identify buffelgrass and other invasive species to understand the threats they pose to the Sonoran Desert. During a service-learning field experience, students remove buffelgrass from a natural area. The location for the removal project is identified at the time of scheduling.

For Information and Reservations



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