

OUT AND ABOUT IN PIMA COUNTY

Online registration: www.pima.gov/nrpr
Program information: Phone 520-724-5375
Email: eeducation@pima.gov

Workshop: Hiking Pima County for Beginners

Are you new to Pima County, new to hiking in the desert, or looking for local trails you haven't explored yet? This indoor workshop will cover the basics hiking safety, introduce you to plants and animals you might see along the trail, and offer ideas for beginner-level hikes in Pima County. Ages 10 and up. **Free. Registration not required.** Wheeler Taft Abbott Sr Branch Library, 7800 N. Schisler Dr. 85743.

Monday, March 2 • 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Guided Birding Tour at the El Rio Preserve

El Rio Preserve is a birding hotspot that is an interesting mix of Sonoran Desert and riparian habitats. It is a magnet for waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, herons, egrets, and much more. All ages welcome. **\$5.00 (Resident) | \$6.50 (Non-Resident).** Online registration required through Marana, www.maranaaz.gov/recreation or 520-382-1950. El Rio Preserve, 10191 N. Coachline Blvd. 85743.

Tuesdays, March 3 and April 7 • 8:00-9:30 a.m.

Sweetwater Preserve Hike for Beginners

Explore one of Pima County's hidden gems: Sweetwater Preserve, an 880-acre, multi-use natural area located in the foothills of the Tucson Mountains. Join us for a guided, 2-3-mile, beginner-level hike on well-maintained trails with low to moderate elevation gain. New to hiking in the desert? When you register, you'll receive a quick guide for how to prepare and what to bring. Ages 10 and up. **\$5 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.** Sweetwater Preserve, 4001 N. Tortolita Rd. 85745.

Thursday, March 5 • 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Gardening for Birds and Butterflies

Want to attract birds and butterflies to your yard? Learn which native and arid-adapted plants, and other elements to include in your landscape to provide attractive wildlife friendly habitat. All ages welcome. **Free. Registration not required.** Valencia Library, 202 W. Valencia Rd. 85706.

Saturday, March 7 • 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Full Moon Wander

Join a Pima County naturalist to walk the loop trail at El Rio Preserve as the full moon rises. Nature reveals another side in the night hours; there is always something to discover! Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. Ages 12 and up. **\$5.00 (Resident) | \$6.50 (Non-Resident).** Online registration required through Marana, www.maranaaz.gov/recreation or 520-382-1950. El Rio Preserve 10190 N. Coachline Blvd. 85743.

Monday, March 9 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 7 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Venomous and Poisonous Animals of Arizona

Learn about the biology and adaptations of some of Arizona's amazing creatures including rattlesnakes, scorpions, spiders, Gila monsters, and toads. All ages welcome. **Free. Registration not required.** Wheeler Taft Abbott Sr Branch Library, 7800 N. Schisler Dr. 85743.

Saturday, March 14 • 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Nature Walk at Maeveen Behan Desert Sanctuary

Enjoy a naturalist-guided walk through Sonoran Desert habitat on mostly-level trails and learn about the diverse plants and wildlife that inhabit the area. All ages welcome. **\$5 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.** Arthur Pack Regional Park, 9101 N. Thornydale Rd. 85742.

Saturday, March 21 • 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Introduction to Ethnobotany

The desert is a veritable marketplace. Learn what desert plants have been traditionally used as food and fiber. Explore the harvesting calendar and practices then sample some desert delicacies. All ages welcome. **Free. Registration not required.** Valencia Library, 202 W. Valencia Rd. 85706.

Saturday, March 21 • 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Santa Cruz River Walk

Take a guided stroll along the flowing Santa Cruz River on the Loop to discover the effects of water on desert habitats. All ages welcome. **\$5.00 (Resident) | \$6.50 (Non-Resident).** Online registration required through Marana, www.maranaaz.gov/recreation or 520-382-1950. Group meets in front of Wheeler Taft Abbott Sr Branch Library, 7800 N. Schisler Dr. 85743.

Sundays, March 22 and April 26 • 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Birding KERF

Take a stroll with birding expert Jeff Babson to spot wetland and desert birds in the urban habitats of Kino Environmental Restoration Project (KERF) at Sam Lena Park. All ages welcome. **\$5 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.** Sam Lena Park/KERF, 3400 S. Country Club Rd. 85713.

Tuesday, March 24 • 8:00-9:30 a.m.

The Secret Lives of Pollinators

Explore the relationship between plants and their pollinators and discover how heavily we rely on pollinators in our everyday lives. Learn why many of our native pollinators are in peril and what you can do to help. All ages welcome. **Free. Registration not required.** Wheeler Taft Abbott Sr. Branch Library, 7800 N. Schisler Dr. 85743.

Saturday, April 11 • 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Birding Cienega Creek

Join Jeff Babson on this guided walk to observe the rich birdlife in the diverse habitats of Cienega Creek Natural Preserve. Spring migration is underway so will be a lot of birds! All ages welcome. **\$5 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.** Gabe Zimmerman Davidson Canyon Trailhead at Cienega Creek Natural Preserve, 16000 E.

Marsh Station Rd. 85641.

Tuesday, April 14 • 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Cactus Hike

Enjoy the showy flowers of our local cacti and learn about their ecology and uses during a 2½-3 mile, easy to moderate level hike, along desert trails at Sweetwater Preserve. Ages 12 and up. **\$5 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.** Pima County Sweetwater Preserve, 4000 N. Tortolita Rd. 85745.

Saturday, April 25 • 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Living River of Words Youth Poetry and Art Exhibit

Local children share their view of the natural world in this exhibition of award winning poetry and mixed media art. All ages welcome. **Free.** Wheeler Taft Abbott Sr. Library, 7800 N. Schisler Dr. 85743.

April 18 – May 29

NRPR Active Net Registration:

- 1) Go to www.pima.gov/nrpr
- 2) Click on **Register Now**
- 3) First Time Users: click on **Create an Account**. You only need to complete the fields with an *.
- Already have an account: Click on **Sign In**.
- 4) Click **Home**.
- 5) Search for activities and click **Add to Cart**.
- 6) Adjust number of participants in your cart.
- 7) Complete transaction and make online payment.

The online Active Net system charges a convenience fee of \$2.50 per transaction, plus 3% of the cost of the transaction.

You can avoid the convenience fees by taking these steps:

1. Create an Active Net account online.
2. Register and pay:
 - a. Walk-in NRPR Office, 3500 W. River Rd. 85741, M-F 8:00a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 - b. Call-in to 520-724-5000, M-F 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Note: Call-in transactions may take 2-3 business days to complete.

Purchase the \$50 annual membership pass to receive a \$5 discount for all Tours and Outdoor Activities. Since all of the outdoor activities tours and events have enrollment limits, activity and tour registration is required for members and non-members.



Richard Elias, Chairman, District 5 • Ally Miller, District 1 • Ramón Valadez, District 2
Sharon Bronson, District 3 • Steve Christy, District 4

PIMA COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Chuck Huckelberry

NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS AND RECREATION
Chris Cawein, Director

3500 West River Road • Tucson, AZ 85741 • 520-724-5000 • www.pima.gov/nrpr

PARK PROGRAMS

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES TOURS • EVENTS

March • April 2020



Photo: Pam Ryan



Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation has an online registration system. The system will allow you to register for leisure classes, tours, bird walks, nature hikes and other outdoor activities, and to reserve ramadas and park facilities.
Registration: www.pima.gov/nrpr
Program information: eeducation@pima.gov or 520-724-5375

AGUA CALIENTE PARK

12325 E. Roger Road, Tucson, AZ 85749
Online registration: www.pima.gov/nrpr
Program information: Phone 520-724-5375
Email: eeducation@pima.gov

Birding Agua Caliente Park

Take a guided walk at the newly restored pond at Agua Caliente Park to observe its abundant bird life. In addition to resident species, March and April are key migration months, bringing untold possibilities. Loaner binoculars available. All ages welcome. *\$5 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.*
Every Thursday in March and April • 8:00-9:30 a.m.

Sparrow Workshop

Sparrows are the classic LBJs ('little brown jobs') that drive some birders to despair. This workshop aims to remove the confusion and improve your sparrow-identification skills by focusing on size, structure, behavior, and habitat. Ages 12 and up. *\$15 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.*
Friday, March 6 • 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Stargazing Agua Caliente Park

Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association volunteers provide an introduction to the night sky and set up telescopes for celestial viewing. Feel free to bring your lawn chair. All ages welcome. *Free. Registration not required.* Weather permitting.
Saturday, March 14 • 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Agua Caliente Park Ranch House Gallery

Hours: November – April: Wednesday – Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
May – October: Tuesday – Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
March 21 – April 22: Watercolor Oasis: With the goal to inspire others to explore the raw beauty of nature, artist Teresa Jackson captures the charm and color of the desert experience through stylized realism.
April 25 – May 27: Wahl to Wall "Desert Journey": Donna Wahl's art exhibit features serene desert landscapes and dynamic sunsets, which are brought to life with acrylic or oil paint on canvas. Animal lovers will enjoy the quail, javalina, and other animals featured on her tile art as well.

BRANDI FENTON MEMORIAL PARK

Visitor Center 3482 E. River Road, Tucson, AZ 85718
Online registration: www.pima.gov/nrpr
Program information: Phone 520-724-5375
Email: eeducation@pima.gov

Nuts about Nature Preschool Hour at Brandi Fenton Park

Join us for child-friendly fun as we learn about nature through stories, crafts, and games. Explore a new nature topic each month. *Children ages 3-5 free with each Adult \$5 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.*
Wednesdays, March 18 and April 8 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

HISTORIC CANOA RANCH

5375 S. I-19 Frontage Road, Green Valley 85622
Online registration: www.pima.gov/canoaranch
Program information: Phone 520-724-5375
Email: CanoaRanch@pima.gov
Open Access to Canoa Lake and Anza Trail, 6:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
7-days a week
Canoa Ranch Headquarters Open Wednesdays – Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Birding Canoa Ranch

Join birding enthusiast Brian Nicholas to see a wide variety of sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl on the pond at Historic Canoa Ranch. All ages welcome. *\$5 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.*
Every Saturday in March and April • 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Tour of Historic Canoa Ranch

Join a walking tour of the Canoa Ranch headquarters. Visit the historic buildings and corrals and enjoy the special exhibits of the people of Canoa. All ages welcome. *\$5 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.*
Every Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday in March (except March 7 and 21) and April • 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Canoa Country Market

Vendors, artists, crafts, local produce, food and music. *For more information: canoacountrymarket@gmail.com or 520-909-3218*
Every Thursday in March and April • 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Heritage Fair

Exhibits, vendors, food trucks, music and more. All ages welcome. *Free.* For more information: canoaranch@pima.gov or 520-724-5220.
Saturday, March 7 • 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Anza Tour at Historic Canoa Ranch

Learn about Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza and the group of Spanish colonial settlers who, in 1775, made their first stop at Canoa Ranch as they began an epic 1200-mile journey from Sonora, New Spain to colonize the port of what is now San Francisco. All ages welcome. *\$5 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.*
Wednesdays, March 11 and April 8 • 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Hawk Migration Week at Canoa Ranch

Stop by the lake at Historic Canoa Ranch to join bird enthusiast Brian Nicholas as we watch for migrating raptors including Common Black Hawks, whose migration in Arizona reaches its peak in mid-March.

Canoa Ranch offers superb panoramic views making it a perfect location for spotting migrating hawks. All ages welcome. *Registration not required. Donations accepted.*
Daily Thursday, March 12-Monday, March 16 • 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Gardens of Canoa

Enjoy a guided tour of the gardens of Historic Canoa Ranch with Raydine Taber from the Green Valley Gardeners. All ages welcome. *\$5 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.*
Wednesdays, March 18 and April 15 • 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Stargazing at Historic Canoa Ranch

Sonora Astronomical Society volunteers set up telescopes for celestial viewing and provide an introduction to the night sky. Come before dark for a presentation by Whipple Observatory. Bring your flashlight and lawn chair. All ages welcome. *Registration not required. \$5 suggested donation.* Weather permitting.
**Friday, March 20 • Presentation 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Stargazing 7:00-9:00 p.m.**
**Friday, April 24 • Presentation 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Stargazing 7:30-9:30 p.m.**

Antique & Vintage Fair at Historic Canoa Ranch

Antiques and collectibles, food trucks, music. All ages welcome. *Free.* For more information: canoaranch@pima.gov or 520-724-5220.
Saturday, March 21 • 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Wondering About the Wild Things

Naturalist Jeff Babson gives a short talk followed by a Q and A session on any nature subject that crosses your mind. Please bring a lawn chair. All ages welcome. *\$5 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.*
Southern Arizona's Spring Wildflowers: Friday, March 27 • 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Rattlesnakes – Amazing Serpents: Friday, April 10 • 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Anza Trail Hike

Explore a 2 to 3-mile section of the Anza Trail during an easy level interpretive hike and discover the cultural and natural history of the Santa Cruz River Valley. Following the hike there will be an optional tour of the historic Canoa Ranch headquarters. Ages 12 and up. *\$5 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.*
Friday, April 3 • 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Songs and Calls: The Language of Birds

Birds are famous for the wide variety of vocalizations that they utter. This workshop explores the songs and calls of birds, their purposes, differences between songs and calls, and approaches to recognizing them. Ages 12 and up. *\$15 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.*
Wednesday, April 15 • 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

TUCSON MOUNTAIN PARK

Online registration: www.pima.gov/nrpr
Program information: Phone 520-724-5375
Email: eeducation@pima.gov

Hike Brown Mountain Trail

Enjoy the scenic and rugged beauty of the Tucson Mountains on this 2-mile guided hike with a Pima County naturalist. Ages 12 and up. *\$5 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.* Brown Mountain Trailhead 8451 W. McCain Loop Road 85735.
Tuesday, March 3 • 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Cascabel Trail Nature Walk

During a 1½ mile, naturalist guided hike on level trails we may not see cascabels (Spanish for rattlesnakes) but will see stands of majestic saguaros, impressive fishhook barrel cacti, and a diversity of other Sonoran Desert vegetation. Ages 12 and up. *\$5 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.* 3858 W. Irvington Road 85714.
Saturday, March 14 • 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Arrastre Wash Nature Walk

Enjoy a naturalist guided tour of a desert wash in the Tucson Mountains and learn about the natural history and geology of the area. Ages 12 and up. *\$5 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.* Kinney Road, directions to meeting location with registration.
Tuesday, March 17 • 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Hike Enchanted Hills

Join a naturalist guided hike along Pima County's Enchanted Hills Trail System. During a 2-3 mile, easy to moderate level hike, we explore the natural history and adaptations of Sonoran Desert plants and wildlife. Ages 12 and up. *\$5 fee. Online registration required, www.pima.gov/nrpr.* 36th Street Trailhead, 3280 W. 36th Street 85714.
Friday, March 20 • 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Sonoran Desert Weedwackers

Join the Sonoran Desert Weedwackers to eradicate buffelgrass and fountain grass in Tucson Mountain Park. Work requires hiking and digging buffelgrass on steep slopes. Meeting locations change frequently. Email eeducation@pima.gov for meeting location. Ages 18 and up. Tucson Mountain Park 85743.
Saturdays, March 21 and April 18 • 7:00-11:00 a.m.

Stargazing Tucson Mountain Park

Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association volunteers provide an introduction to the night sky and set up telescopes for celestial viewing. Feel free to bring your lawn chair. All ages welcome. *Free. Registration not required.* Weather permitting. Ironwood Picnic Area, 1500 S. Kinney Road at Hal Gras Road 85735.
Saturday, March 28 • 7:00-9:00 p.m.