

# SAN TAN MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

## January 2010 Activities Schedule



### Park Programs

Join us for exciting interpretive ranger-guided hikes and family-oriented programs at San Tan Mountain Regional Park. For a complete list of program opportunities for San Tan Mountain Regional Park and other county parks please visit our website at <http://www.maricopa.gov/parks>.

### Park Location

6533 W. Phillips Road, Queen Creek, AZ 85242

Directions: From central Phoenix, take I-10 east to US 60 east. Exit Ellsworth Road south to Hunt Highway. Travel east on Hunt Highway to Thompson Road south. Turn west on Phillips Road to the San Tan Mountain Regional Park entrance.

### Park Hours

Sunday thru Thursday: 6:00 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday: 6:00 a.m. to 10 p.m.

### Park Fees

\$6 vehicle day-use entry fee (no additional fees for programs, unless otherwise noted)



## Upcoming Activities

### NEW YEAR'S HIKE

Saturday, January 2 @ 10 a.m.

Start your new year off on the right foot... and the left! Did you make a New Year's resolution to get into shape? Hiking in San Tan is a great way to get into shape. Join us on this 2-mile exercise hike and find out how fun it can be to get in shape!

### CACTUS & CRITTERS

Saturday, January 2 @ 2 p.m.

Learn about the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert on this guided exploration hike. The pace of the hike will be relatively mild or slow to help enjoy the surroundings. This hike is perfect for out of town visitors and families.

### STARGAZING FOR EVERYONE

Saturday, January 2 @ 7:30 p.m.

Come watch the sky with us! Look through telescopes (setup for your viewing pleasure) and enjoy a slide presentation under the stars. Learn the names of stars, see the constellations, and listen to stories of the night sky. When visible, view the craters of the moon, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and the rings of Saturn. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for your comfort. Information about the Challenger Learning Center of Arizona will be provided. This is a fun night out! Come alone or bring your entire family or group. We encourage you to bring your binoculars or family telescope and enjoy the views from San Tan Mountains Regional Park.

### EXPLORING DESERT WASHES

Saturday, January 9 @ 9:00 a.m.

Have you ever walked down a wash? What makes them so special and unique? How do washes contribute to the health of the desert itself? Join us for a look at the fascinating world of desert washes as we explore their importance to the desert ecosystem. This walk is 1.5 mile in length. Please bring water and appropriate footwear.

### VENOMOUS CREATURES & CREEPY CRAWLIES

Saturday, January 9 @ 1:00 p.m.

Have you ever seen a live rattlesnake or Gila Monster? Well, here is your chance for an up close encounter of the reptilian and insect kind. Enjoy the beauty of these wonderful and misunderstood animals while learning about fascinating facts and the important roles each creature plays in the desert ecosystem. Afraid of snakes? Don't worry. Our experienced animal expert will help you face your fears with a safe and controlled animal display exhibit. Fun for the entire family.

\*\*\* Dates and times subject to change due to weather or other issues. Be sure to check website for more details or updates. \*\*\*

## Upcoming Activities (cont.)

### 'PAWS FOR A MOMENT' DOG HIKE AT SUNSET

Saturday, January 16 @ 5:00 p.m.

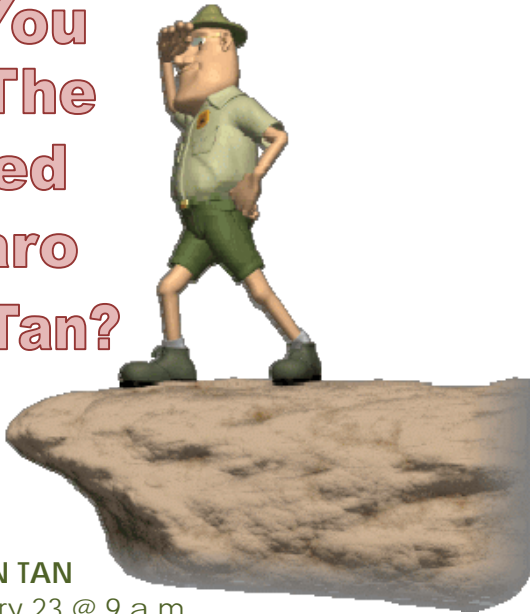
What could be better than enjoying a leisurely hike with man's best friend? Join us as we hike along the Goldmine (approximately 1.5-mile round trip) in the evening hours at Sunset. We will talk about dog safety on trails and other related topics. Please be sure to bring plenty of water for you and your dog. Dogs must be on a leash (no more than 6 feet in length) at all times.

### ANIMAL HIKE AND SEEK NIGHT WALK IN THE DESERT

Thursday, January 21 @ 7 p.m.

We are the 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 fun walk in the desert, then join Ranger B as he takes you on this exciting one-mile walk on the Goldmine Trail. Please bring water and a flashlight. No pets, please. Meet at the San Tan Visitor Center.

Have You  
Seen The  
Crested  
Saguaro  
At San Tan?



### "SCENE IT" @ SAN TAN

Saturday, January 23 @ 9 a.m.

San Tan Mountain Regional Park showcases some of the most beautiful scenery in the area. After this hike, you can tell everyone that you've "Scene it" at San Tan! This month we will seek out our showcase "crested saguaro" on this moderate 5-mile hike. Please come prepared to hike! Wear appropriate hiking boots; bring plenty of water, snacks, and your camera!

### FULL MOON HIKE

Saturday, January 30 @ 7 p.m.

Discover the beauty of the Sonoran Desert at night, as we hike under the light from the stars and moon. Join us for a pristine 2.2-mile stroll along the Stargazer Trail. Listen for the sounds of wildlife and explore the night-life atmosphere. The pace of the hike will be relatively mild or slow to help enjoy the surroundings.

## Safety First

Here are some helpful tips to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable experience at the park:

- Always hike or ride with a buddy or group
- Stay on designated trails
- Keep your dog on a leash at all times
- Be mindful and respectful of others – use proper trail etiquette
- Dress in comfortable hiking/riding attire
- Carry plenty of water with you and drink it regularly – you can still get dehydrated in the cooler weather
- Get a map to help guide you along the way and know where you are going
- Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to be back
- Understand and follow the park rules before setting out on a hike or ride
- Check weather reports prior to heading out
- Carry a first aid kit with you

For more info, please stop by the Park Visitor Center.

## Friends Forever

Become a "Friend" of the park today, by joining the Friends of San Tan Mountain Regional Park! The Friends group provides assistance to the park through a variety of ways such as raising funds, establishing park projects, offering assistance at special events & programs, and so much more. For more information, please visit the Friends website at:

<http://santanfriends.spaces.live.com>



Friends of San Tan  
Mountain Regional  
Park

## Contact Us

Your comments, feedback and questions are very important to us... and we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to stop by the visitor center to speak with staff about any concerns or needs you may have. We can also be reached via:

**Phone:** (480) 655-5554 ext. 202

**Email:** [santanpark@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:santanpark@mail.maricopa.gov)

**Web:** [www.maricopa.gov/parks/santan](http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/santan)

Thank you for your continued support for San Tan Mountain Regional Park. Happy trails to you and yours!