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## Saguaro National Park News Release

*For Immediate Release*

June 21, 2007

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### July Programs Offered at Saguaro National Park

Saguaro National Park is offering a series of programs this summer that will explore the wonderful natural and cultural history of the park. Join naturalists for an evening walk in the park or join a local expert for a presentation in the visitor center. Programs will be offered at both districts. There is no charge for interpretive programs, but park entrance fees apply.

#### Special Programs offered at the Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West) include:

**June 30 3:00 p.m. "Skunks of Saguaro"**

Did you know we have four different species of skunks in southeastern Arizona? Learn about who they are, where they live, their interactions with us, and their ability to travel long distances across the desert! Come and get introduced to these fascinating and odiferous creatures.

**July 6 6:00 p.m. Twilight Hike**

The hike is considered easy, on relatively flat terrain. The first half of the hike is up a sandy wash. After sunset the group will return on a trail in the fading daylight. The hike is about 2 miles in length and takes about two hours. As space is limited, advance reservations are required and can be made by calling the visitor center at 733-5158.

**July 7 6:00 a.m. Bird Walk**

Join birding guide John Higgins on an early morning walk to see some of the twenty five species of birds that are year-round residents of Saguaro National Park. Meet at the Red Hills Visitor Center. The group will caravan to several nearby locations. The walking is considered easy, on flat but dirt and rocky trails. Persons of all ages, with or without bird watching experience, are welcome. Participants are encouraged to bring water, sun protection, binoculars and bird guides if you have them. The walk usually lasts 2 hours. For more information call 733-5158.

**July 20 6:00 p.m. Twilight Hike**

The hike is considered easy, on relatively flat terrain. The first half of the hike is up a sandy wash. After sunset the group will return on a trail in the fading daylight. The hike is about 2 miles in length and takes about two hours. As space is limited, advance reservations are required and can be made by calling the visitor center at 733-5158.

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#### EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

**Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East) include:**

**July 5            7:00 p.m.        “A Quest for Cristates”**

No one really knows why some saguaros form crest-shaped tops, but they are objects of curiosity for countless visitors to the Sonoran Desert. Join “Cristate Crusaders” Bob Cardell and Pat Hammes in the visitor center auditorium for a virtual journey in search of these rare and unusual cristate saguaros. Reservations are recommended, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

**July 6            7:00 p.m.        Night Walk**

This easy, two-hour walk provides opportunities to experience the desert at night. Bring water and a flashlight, and wear comfortable walking shoes. As space is limited, advance reservations are required and can be made by calling the visitor center at 733-5153.

**July 20            7:00 p.m.        Night Walk**

This easy, two-hour walk provides opportunities to experience the desert at night. Bring water and a flashlight, and wear comfortable walking shoes. As space is limited, advance reservations are required and can be made by calling the visitor center at 733-5153.

**July 24            7:00 p.m.        “Invasive Plants and Fire in the Sonoran Desert”**

Many non-native plants are found in the Sonoran Desert. A few have the potential to have major impacts on the desert’s plants, animals and human inhabitants. Join the park’s Fire Ecologist, Perry Grissom, in the visitor center auditorium as he discusses some of the troublesome weeds found here and how to identify them. Reservations are recommended, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

**Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers**

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)  
2700 North Kinney Road  
Tucson, AZ 85743

(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)  
3693 South Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85730

(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park and the Western National Parks Association, visit these websites:

[www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu).  
[www.friendsofsaguaro.org](http://www.friendsofsaguaro.org)  
[www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org)