

PIMA COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS AND RECREATION

VOLUNTEER NEWS

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THE GREAT STAFF SHUFFLE

We had a busy summer in the Environmental Education office. As you may have heard Meg Quinn and Sandy Reith retired. It was discreet and without fanfare, and in reality was only a semi-retirement for both of them. We are pleased to report that Meg and Sandy have returned to the fold in a part-time capacity. Meg will continue to lead thematic hikes and workshops. In September, Meg is leading a grasses workshop in Tucson Mountain Park, a full moon hike at Sweetwater Preserve and a few other interesting events. You will see Sandy at Agua Caliente Park, leading hikes in Cienega Creek Natural Preserve and presenting programs at other locations. We are pleased that Meg and Sandy have a bit more time for leisurely pursuits, but are grateful that they will continue to share their talents with NRPR and the community.

Congratulations to Julie Strom as she moves into her new role as full time Program Coordinator. Julie will continue to develop the Nuts about Nature Preschool series. She will take on a larger role in NRPR Public Programs coordination and promotion, and will continue to coordinate the Living with Urban Wildlife outreach. Julie also plays a pivotal role on the team in the development and delivery of school programs.

NEW ONLINE REGISTRATION

The long awaited online registration system for NRPR has been launched! Visit www.pima.gov/nrpr to view and register for outdoor programs, tours, lectures, workshops, and classes. This system is easy to use and saves time for all of you and for staff. You will also see that we are implementing a nominal fee for many of the environmental education and interpretive programs. We need your help to get the word out on these changes. Next time you are at one of the parks or activities please pick up some Public Programs brochures to hand out to friends and park visitors.



Photo: Doris Evans

A NEW BENEFIT OF VOLUNTEERING

We value all of our NRPR Volunteers. There are many services that we would not be able to provide were it not for the time and expertise that you share. You are considered an active NRPR volunteer if you provide the equivalent of eight service hours per month. Many of you exceed this minimum, which is wonderful. There are a few tangible benefits that we provide in gratitude for your service.

- Regularly scheduled volunteer field trips and guest speakers.
- Meetings and gatherings for volunteers to share with each other.
- The Volunteer Newsletter to share information, accomplishments, and provide updates.
- We are now offering an additional benefit for volunteers to attend public programs free of charge.

There are a couple of ways to take advantage of this benefit. As always, you can offer to help out at the event. Starting in September, we will hold open a couple of spaces in the outdoor programs and lectures for NRPR volunteers to attend the program without paying the fee or going through the registration system. First, look at the activities online www.pima.gov/nrpr. If you see something that is of interest, please contact the Environmental Education Office eeducation@pima.gov to have your name added to the roster. This does not apply to the leisure classes (pottery, jewelry making, art classes, aquatics) as those are offered by contracted instructors. If we get swamped with requests for a particular program that will be a signal to us that we need to offer an additional session for volunteers. If you want to be assured of a space in an activity you can always go through the online registration process and pay the nominal fee. Please feel free to bring any questions or concerns to my attention: Phone: 520-615-7855 ext. 0, Email: Wendy.Burroughs@pima.gov.

SUMMER PROGRAMS AT PIMA COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTERS

We had a wonderful and busy time working this summer with six community centers: Catalina, Drexel Heights, Ellie Towne Flowing Wells, Littletown, Picture Rocks, and Robles Ranch. This year we developed a summer program with the overall theme of Climate Change and Global Warming. From June 8 – July 24, each week we provided different presentations and field trips. Here is a glance at some of the programs we offered: What is Climate Change?, Phenology: Plants and Animal Life Cycles, Reduce, Reuse-Recycle, Life of a Black Bear, Monsoon and Migrations, Field Trip to Agua Caliente Park, Adaptations and Biome Changes – Field Trip to Mt. Lemmon. Thank you to my colleagues and team members Axhel Munoz, Steve Russell, and Sandy Reith for all your effort and hard work. *Yajaira Gray*



Students from Littletown at Agua Caliente Park



Students working on the Phenology Trail at Picture Rocks



Students and staff from Drexel Heights enjoying a break at Windy Point



NATURE NIGHTS UPDATE

Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation has partnered with the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and the Arizona Game and Fish Department to present several Nature Nights: Bats in Flight programs this summer. These programs offer the public an opportunity to stop by interpretive stations focused on the biology and benefits of bats, chat with experts, and experience the thrill of watching (and listening to) thousands of Mexican free-tailed bats, along with a smattering of other species, emerge from their daytime roost to forage. If you are interested in joining us, our next Nature Nights: Bats in Flight program will take place on September 11 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Pima County Rillito Park, 4200 N. Campbell Avenue. We will also be hosting a Bats in Flight event at the Pantano Bridge, 7600 E. Broadway Boulevard, on September 26 starting at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

SAVE THE DATE! 9/25/2015

Please reserve the date of Friday, September 25 for a volunteer meeting or field trip. Details will be sent in a separate email message soon!

**Interested in Volunteering? Email us at eeducation@pima.gov
Call us at Environmental Education Office 520-615-7855**

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PIMA COUNTY

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