

The Southwest Environmental Center presents:

Back by Noon Outings

Fall, 2017



Photo: Ken Stinnett

Guided Saturday morning natural history outings for the whole family

Geology of the Franklin Mountains--9/23, 7:30 am

Discover the amazing geology of the Franklin Mountains with geologist Ariel Carreon. She will take us on a 2.5 mile hike along the upper sunset trail while providing insight into the flora and geology of the area. There are a few tricky spots but don't worry-we'll take things slowly. \$2 fee per person to enter the park. Please don't forget your sunscreen, water, shoes with good grip and hat if you have one. RATING: Moderate.

Medicinal Flora of Dripping Springs--10/7, 8:30 am

Would you like to learn about how people were healed before the advent of antibiotics and other prescription medication? Follow Deborah Brandt, owner of From the Ground Up, and discover the diverse healing properties of our desert flora. Dripping Springs Natural Area-found at the base of the Organ Mountains-is a relatively well maintained, sometimes hilly trail with beautiful surroundings guaranteed to make you fall deeper in love with southern New Mexico. RATING: Easy to moderate.

Last flowers of Aguirre Springs--10/21, 8:00 am

Stroll along the Pine Tree Trail with botanist Lisa Mandelkern of the Native Plant Society and search for late-blooming wildflowers and identify shrubs and trees along the way. Many of these plants are typical for the Upper Sonoran Zone, which ranges in elevation from 4500 to 6500 feet. This Pinon-Juniper belt is dry, but not as dry as the desert below. At this time of year we can also expect to see many insects and plants at their seed stage. RATING: Moderate.

No Walls in the Wild--10/28, 8:30 am

At 17 feet high and constructed of heavy metal, the existing border wall along parts of the US-Mexican border has to be seen to be believed. SWEC's Executive Director, Kevin Bixby, will lead us on this outing to see the border wall up close in Sunland Park and explain its devastating effects on the most biologically diverse region in the U.S. The border wall is costly, ineffective, and harmful to wildlife. RATING: Easy.

Transport Back in Time at the Prehistoric Trackways--11/4, 8:30 am

Travel back 280 million years to the Early Permian, a time when this area was a tidal flat on the edge of a wide seaway. Learn about the creatures that lived on the coast and left numerous footprints and trackways in the muds and sands. From the mighty sail-backed Dimetrodon, to small insects and arachnids, tracks of all sizes have been preserved. This hike will take visitors up an arroyo to the first major site that these tracks were found and collected, the Discovery Site. Geologist and Paleontologist of BLM, Colin Dunn will discuss both subjects in the area. RATING: Moderate.

Yoga at White Sands --11/11, 8 am

Join yoga instructor, life coach and herpetologist Niki Harings on a visit to the endless sea of white gypsum sand dunes. Learn the basics of meditation (centering practice) and pranayama (breath control) with asana (poses) focused on range of motion, flexibility, strength and balance. The goal is to find those options and transitions that work best for individual anatomy and physical limitations. This class is appropriate for all levels, especially beginners. Make sure to bring water and your yoga mats! \$5 fee per person to enter the park. RATING: Easy

Slot Canyon Adventure--11/18, 8 am

Back by popular demand! Conservation advocate David Soules will lead us through a little known slot canyon on the east side of the Robledo Mountains. Eroded, narrow passageways provide interesting views and a unique hiking experience. Mostly off-trail walking, with a few easily negotiated step-ups inside the canyon. Not for the claustrophobic! RATING: Moderate.

Trek to Aztec Cave--12/2, 9:00 am

A Park Ranger from the Franklin Mountains State will lead us on this short hike to some caves on the west side of the Franklin Mountains, including the enigmatically named Aztec Cave. We'll be rewarded with some impressive views of El Paso. This is a good introduction for the sure-footed. This hike contains lots of loose rocks and sharp inclines. RATING: Strenuous.



For more information and to register

Call (575) 522-5552



Advanced reservations are required and space is limited, so sign up early. Sign up begins 3 weeks before each hike date. Las Cruces meeting times are listed above. El Paso meeting times, if any, will vary depending on the location of the hike.

The Southwest Environmental Center works to protect and restore wildlife and their habitats in the southwestern borderlands.

Learn more at www.wildmesquite.org