



#DESERTTORTOISEWEEK

First Week Of October 2022

#DesertTortoiseWeek is all about appreciating this iconic desert animal! Learn about its strategic adaptations and protection measures to promote a successful future for the tortoise. Join federal agency specialists and staff from conservation groups to share knowledge and ideas. Participation in these free events shows your support to help this charismatic reptile.



Juvenile Mojave desert tortoise.
Photo credit: USFWS

Events for #DesertTortoiseWeek

Monday, October 3, 2022 - Desert Tortoise Education in Action

Post fun facts about desert tortoises on your social media account. Desert tortoises are incredible animals. Please do your part in learning what you can do to help the species. #deserttortoiseweek #education

Tuesday, October 4, 2022 - Cover our Tracks in Desert Habitat

Keep our deserts clean for yourself, others, and tortoises! While hiking or exploring the desert, pick up trash. Post photos on social media and reach out to a local conservation group for assistance. #deserttortoiseweek

Wednesday, October 5, 2022 - Desert Habitat Appreciation Day

Hike in beautiful desert habitat, take photos, post on social media, and practice social distancing and other safety precautions while enjoying the outdoors. #deserthiking

Thursday, October 6, 2022 - Tortoise Perspective Challenge

Ever wonder what it is like to see through a tortoise's eyes? Take a photo from the perspective of a desert tortoise and post it on social media. Be sure to keep a safe distance away if you find a desert tortoise. #deserttortoiselife

Friday, October 7, 2022 - Desert Tortoise Movie Night

Friday night is movie night! Watch a desert tortoise film with family and friends. Check out : *The Heat is On: Desert Tortoises and Survival* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kingkupAmTo>) or *The Road To Recovery* (<https://vimeo.com/526980854/9da53c724f>) #movienight #deserttortoiseweek

Events for #DesertTortoiseWeek

Natural History of the Desert Tortoise Lecture

October 1, 2022, 9:00 am to 10:30 am (PDT)

Details: Celebrate Desert Tortoise Week and learn all about the official state reptile of California! Learn about the life history, conservation challenges, research and local population found within the Coachella Valley region. After the lecture, participants will have an opportunity to see the Visitor Center's desert tortoise ambassador at his burrow. **Space is limited. Must RSVP by September 30th.** Hosted by the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center and Co-sponsored by Friends of the Desert Mountains.

Contact: For more information contact the Visitor Center at 760-862-9984.

Location: Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260

Desert Tortoise Celebration Day Community Event at The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

October 1, 2022, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm (PDT)

Community event to support the conservation of the desert tortoise!

Contact: Cassie Strizak at cstrizak@livingdesert.org for more information.

Location: The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens, 47900 Portola Ave., Palm Desert, CA 92260

Tortoise Chat & Feeding

October 2, 2022, 8:30 am to 10:30 am (PDT)

Details: Join our National Monument Park Ranger for early morning feeding of the Visitor Center's desert tortoise ambassador at his burrow. Come prepared to learn many interesting facts and ask questions about this California endangered species. Hosted by the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center and Co-sponsored by Friends of the Desert Mountains.

Contact: For more information contact the Visitor Center at 760-862-9984.

Location: Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260

ROaD's App Field Trip Training for Identifying Tortoise Sign and Raven Monitoring

October 2, 2022, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (PDT)

Join Tortoise Group to learn how to become a citizen scientist and collect data using our ROaD's App while out hiking or exploring the desert! Tortoise Group will go over what to look for in the desert and how to report your observations on the app. Go to tortoisegroup.org to find out more about how to utilize the app.

Contact: Sarah Mortimer at sarahmortimer@tortoisegroup.org for more information.

Location: Jean and Roach Dry Lake Beds, Sloan, NV (meet at the intersection of Knight Ranch Rd. and Las Vegas Blvd. just south of the Seven Magic Mountains)

For more information contact Kent_Kowalski@fws.gov

or

Check out www.fws.gov/office/Carlsbad-fish-and-wildlife

Events for #DesertTortoiseWeek

ROaD's App Data Collection Contest!

October 2- October 7, 2022, Anytime

Utilize the Road Warriors (ROaDs) data collection app for Tortoise Group give aways (hat, water bottle, polo shirt & fanny pack) to the citizen scientist with the most collected observations! Go to tortoisegroup.org to find out more about how to utilize the app.

Contact: Sarah Mortimer at sarahmortimer@tortoisegroup.org for more information.

Location: Anywhere in the natural desert tortoise range

Online Presentation, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

October 3, 2022, 11:00 am (PDT)

Contact: Go to livingdesert.org for more information.

Join this online presentation highlighting the efforts of the desert tortoise head starting program and talk about the project with the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

Tortoise Table at Joshua Tree National Park Cultural Center

October 4, 2022, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm (PDT)

Details: Join a park ranger at the Tortoise Table for fun, games, and tortoise fun facts!

Contact: Park Ranger Dave Larson (david_a_larson@nps.gov) or call 760-367-5522 for questions.

Location: Joshua Tree National Park, Cultural Center, 6533 Freedom Way, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Tortoise Evening Program and Ranger Talk

October 6, 2022, 7:30 pm (PDT)

Details: Join a park ranger for a 45-minute presentation. Discover tortoise fun facts, learn about threats and conservation efforts, and what can be done to save this iconic species from extinction.

Contact: Park Ranger Dave Larson (david_a_larson@nps.gov) or call 760-367-5522 for questions.

Location: Joshua Tree National Park, Indian Cove Campground Amphitheater, Twentynine Palms, CA

Desert Tortoise Meet and Greet and Guided Hike

October 7, 2022, 8:00 am to 10:00 am (PDT)

Details: Join Snow Canyon State Park and the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve as we celebrate the Mojave Desert Tortoise on October 7th. Get a chance to meet the reserve's ambassador tortoises as you learn more about the canyon. After getting acquainted with these enthralling reptiles, stroll through their habitat down an educational path that guides you to a deeper understanding of the tortoises' life and ends with a monument to this species.

Contact: Find more information at <https://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/snow-canyon/>

or at <http://www.redcliffsdesertreserve.com/>

Location: Snow Canyon State Park, Upper Galoot Picnic Area, Snow Canyon Dr., St. George, UT 84770

For more information contact Kent_Kowalski@fws.gov

or

Check out www.fws.gov/office/Carlsbad-fish-and-wildlife

Events for #DesertTortoiseWeek

Check out a Live Desert Tortoise and Learn About Scary Desert Creatures!

October 7, 2022, 10:00 am and 1:00 pm (PDT)

Details: Which desert creatures are the most venomous, strongest, and sneakiest? Find out what a public poll determined to be the most feared desert creatures. Learn about their fascinating abilities and take a short walk to see a live tortoise! You are welcome to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy.

Register at DesertMountains.org or call 760-862-9984 for more information.

Location: Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260

Fall Native Plant Sale, Mojave Desert Land Trust

October 8, 2022, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (PDT)

Details: Our Fall Native Plant & Salvage Sale will be taking place in-person for the first time since 2019! We are excited to welcome the public back into our headquarters at Joshua Tree, California. Come check out your favorite tortoise-friendly native plants!

Contact: Go to mdl.org/native-plant-nursery for more information.

Location: Mojave Desert Land Trust, 60124 Twentynine Palms Highway in Joshua Tree, California.

Native Planting Restoration Project, Nevada Department of Wildlife

October 8, October 15, October 22, and October 29, 2022

Multiple events happening each date from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (PDT)

Details: The Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Nevada Department of Wildlife will be conducting restoration in the form of a Native Planting Event to establish native plants following a wildfire. Create a volunteer account to participate at <https://nevada.volunteers.kalkomey.com/>

To access more information for the event, go to:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XAcTiGMHhx4-I9scY0nCbd0WcqN9QJDe>

Location: Mormon Mountains, NV

Desert Tortoise Educational Programs and Events, Clark County Nevada

Multiple events happening throughout desert tortoise week 2022

Desert Conservation Program, Mojave Max, and Springs Preserve have several desert tortoise-focused education events scheduled throughout the week at Springs Preserve.

To access more information on the events, go to: springspreserve.org

Location: The Springs Preserve, 333 S. Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107

For more information contact Kent_Kowalski@fws.gov

or

Check out www.fws.gov/office/Carlsbad-fish-and-wildlife

Social Media for #DesertTortoiseWeek

Social Media Presence, Joshua Tree National Park

Check out Joshua Tree National Park (www.nps.gov/jotr/index.htm) on their social media accounts and learn more about desert tortoises and what you can do to help protect this awesome species.

Facebook: @JoshuaTreeNPS, Twitter: @JoshuaTreeNPS, Instagram: @joshuatreenps, YouTube: JoshuaTreeNPS

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

Check out The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens (www.livingdesert.org) on their social media accounts to learn more about desert tortoises, their conservation efforts, and additional #DesertTortoiseWeek events.

Desert Tortoise Council

The Desert Tortoise Council was established in 1975 to promote conservation of the desert tortoise in the deserts of the southwestern United States and Mexico. The Council is a non-profit organization comprised of hundreds of professionals and laypersons who share a common concern for desert tortoises in the wild and commitment to advancing the public's understanding of the species.

Visit their website (<https://deserttortoise.org/>) and on social media for more information about their activities, including a set of Training offerings held late October – early November 2022 AND an annual symposium held in February 2023, with the option of in-person or virtual, held in Saint George, Utah.

Friends of the Desert Mountains

Friends of the Desert Mountains will have great social media posts and they will be starring their resident desert tortoise, Bowser! (www.desertmountains.org)

Anza Borrego Desert State Park

California State Parks will be promoting #DesertTortoiseWeek so check out their social media accounts (www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=638)

Desert Balloon Cleanup Projects

Check out what they're doing on social media, help cleanup desert tortoise habitat by picking up balloons in the desert, and post your findings on your favorite social media outlet!

Contact: desertballoonproject@gmail.com for more info or check out Facebook: @desert balloon project.

Also check out #BagTheBalloons to get involved in the Mojave Max bag the balloons challenge!

Wildlands Inc.

Make sure to visit Wildlands website (www.wildlandsinc.com) and on Facebook to see all of the great desert tortoise habitat projects they have going on!

***Celebrate the most iconic desert species:
Mojave desert tortoise!***

Most refuge lands and outdoor spaces have remained open for the public to enjoy. To protect and maintain healthy conditions, tortoises, and all wildlife, visitors are encouraged to :

- Check local conditions and call ahead for current information
- Follow CDC safe practices
- Most importantly, stay home if you feel sick

For more information contact Kent_Kowalski@fws.gov

or

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