

# Nature and Environmental Classes



## VETERANS OASIS PARK

2008 Valley Forward Environmental Excellence Winner - First Place Crescordia Award for Park Site Development and Landscape  
 2008 American Crown Community for Outstanding Leadership in Local Government for Interdepartmental Collaboration



### STAR PARTY

**FREE!**

Members of the East Valley Astronomy Club will bring their telescopes to Veterans Oasis Park to allow visitors to explore Arizona's amazing night sky! Visitors may see the waxing crescent moon, Mars, Jupiter, double stars, nebulae, and star clusters. Inside the EEC from 5:30-6:30 p.m., astronomer Claude Haynes will give a presentation about exoplanets, planets that exist beyond our own solar system. Claude will also discuss Pluto's controversial promotion to become the first in a new class of planetary objects. Telescope viewing takes place outside at the east end of the parking lot from 6:30-9 p.m. The ramada directly north of the parking lot will have astronomy-themed activity tables, information booths, and refreshments. General admission is free, but select activities may require a fee. Pre-registration is NOT required. Cloudy skies will result in a cancellation of the telescope viewing, and outdoor activities may be moved indoors. In the case of questionable weather, call the EEC at 480-782-2890 for information. The indoor presentation will take place regardless of the weather. This program is perfect for scouting, school, and homeschool groups. If you plan to bring a group of 10 or more, please contact the EEC to help us prepare. Instructor: East Valley Astronomy Club Volunteers & EEC Staff

Location: Environmental Education Center

<b>Resident fee: \$0</b>	<b>Non-resident fee: \$0</b>		
950EE.260 F	1/22	5:30-9 p.m.	All ages

### MOONWALK

See a presentation about the moon, explore Veterans Oasis Park on a night hike, and observe the moon through a telescope! Bad weather may cause this program to be altered or cancelled. Call the EEC at 480-782-2890 for the latest information. Children under 6 are admitted free and need not register. This program is perfect for scouting and homeschool groups!

Instructor: Environmental Education Center Staff

Location: Environmental Education Center

<b>Resident fee: \$8</b>	<b>Non-resident fee: \$10</b>		
954EE.240 W	2/24	6-7:45 p.m.	6 yrs+

### URBAN FISHING CLINIC – FOR SCOUTS ONLY!

**FREE!**

Sport fishing instructors from the AZ Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) will provide a limited supply of bait and loaner rods. Participants who register at the AZGFD booth during the event may fish without a license during clinic hours. This program is free, but pre-registration is required. Go to [www.chandleraz.gov/veterans-oasis](http://www.chandleraz.gov/veterans-oasis) for details. Bad weather may cause the program to be altered or cancelled. Please call ahead if you are unsure. This fishing clinic is for scouting groups only. Scouts and scout leaders must call 480-782-2890 to pre-register.

Instructor: AZ Game and Fish Department

Location: Environmental Education Center

<b>Resident fee: \$0</b>	<b>Non-resident fee: \$0</b>		
955EE.270 Sa	TBD	8 a.m.-noon	All ages

## Environmental Education Center at Veterans Oasis Park



### CONTACTS & CLASS LOCATIONS

#### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

4050 E. Chandler Heights Rd. (on the northeast corner of Chandler Heights and Lindsay roads)

480-782-2890 • [EEC@chandleraz.gov](mailto:EEC@chandleraz.gov)

[www.chandleraz.gov/veterans-oasis](http://www.chandleraz.gov/veterans-oasis)

Sandra Muñoz-Weingarten, Naturalist, 480-782-2887

Matt Dawson, Assistant Naturalist, 480-782-2886

*All class fees are paid during the registration process. All instructor and supply fees must be paid to your instructor at the first class.*

**\*\*Pre-registration is required for all programs unless specified otherwise.\*\***

### MONTHLY FAMILY BIRDWALK

**FREE!**

Volunteers from the Desert Rivers Audubon Society will lead guided birdwalks through Veterans Oasis Park. Participants will observe the many species of wild birds that populate central Arizona's desert and wetland habitats. Liberty Wildlife will also be on hand with captive, rehabilitated birds that you can view up close. Birdwalks depart from the EEC about every 30 minutes until about 11 a.m. Walks typically last at least one hour. Free loaner binoculars will be provided. Please come prepared for the outdoors. All participants under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is NOT required. This program is perfect for scouting and homeschool groups!

Instructor: Desert Rivers Audubon Society

Location: Environmental Education Center

<b>Resident fee: \$0</b>	<b>Non-resident fee: \$0</b>		
956EE.270 Sa	12/5	8 a.m.-noon	All ages
957EE.270 Sa	1/2	8 a.m.-noon	All ages
958EE.270 Sa	2/6	8 a.m.-noon	All ages

### WALK WITH A NATURALIST

**FREE!**

The urban wildlife habitats at Veterans Oasis Park are becoming a haven for a variety of wildlife, especially birds and insects. Join an experienced naturalist for a guided walk that explores the plants and animals of the park's desert and wetland habitats. Bring binoculars, water, good walking shoes, and a hat. The walks are not fast-paced, and the terrain is easy. This program is free and pre-registration is not required. All participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. There is a suggested \$5 donation, and optional guidebooks will be available for sale.

Instructor: Laurie Nessel, from the Maricopa Audubon Society

Location: Environmental Education Center

<b>Resident fee: \$0</b>	<b>Non-resident fee: \$0</b>		
959EE.270 Sa	12/19	8:30-11:30 a.m.	All ages
900EE.270 Sa	2/20	8:30-11:30 a.m.	All ages

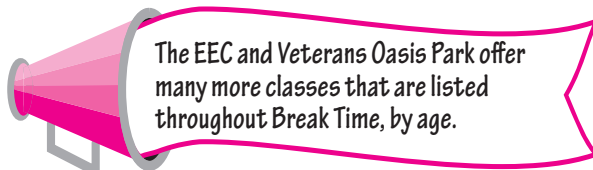
### HOW TO CREATE A MONARCH BUTTERFLY OASIS

Monarch butterflies pass through Arizona on their amazing annual migration. Learn how you can turn your yard into a "Monarch oasis" that will attract these beautiful travelers! In class, participants will begin to grow Monarch-attracting plants that they can take home to add to their yards. Information will also be provided about the Southwest Monarch Study and Monarch tagging project. Children under 6 are admitted for free and need not register. All participants under 18 must be accompanied by a paid adult. Instructor: Gail Morris & Southwest Monarch Study Volunteers

Instructor fee: \$0 Supply fee: \$5

Location: Environmental Education Center

<b>Resident fee: \$3</b>	<b>Non-resident fee: \$4</b>		
960EE.270 Sa	1/30	10-11:30 a.m.	6 yrs+

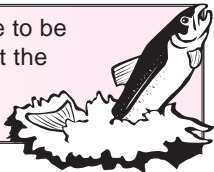


The EEC and Veterans Oasis Park offer many more classes that are listed throughout Break Time, by age.

# Nature and Environmental Classes

The lake at Veterans Oasis Park will continue to be stocked with fish every two weeks throughout the winter season.

For details check [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov)



## NATURE WALK

Join park staff for a guided nature walk that will take you through the hilltop viewing areas, wetland habitats, and the shores of the urban fishing lake at Veterans Oasis Park. Each walk will feature different routes, themes, and activities. Children under 6 are admitted for free and need not register. All participants under 18 years old must be accompanied by a paid adult.

Instructor: Environmental Education Center Staff

Location: Environmental Education Center

<b>Resident fee: \$6</b>	<b>Non-resident fee: \$8</b>		
961EE.270 Sa	12/12	10-10:45 a.m.	6 yrs+
962EE.270 Sa	1/16	10-10:45 a.m.	6 yrs+

## TUESDAY TELESCOPE NIGHTS

On one Tuesday each month, the EEC will set-up two powerful telescopes to allow visitors to view the night sky. Objects viewed will depend on the date and on sky conditions. Bad weather may cause this program to be altered or cancelled. Call the EEC at 480-782-2890 for the latest information. Children under 6 are admitted free and do not need to register as long as they are accompanied by a paid participant. All participants 18 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult. This program is perfect for scouting and homeschool groups!

Instructor: Environmental Education Center Staff

Location: Environmental Education Center

<b>Resident fee: \$5</b>	<b>Non-resident fee: \$7</b>		
977EE.230 Tu	12/22	6:30-7:45 p.m.	6 yrs+
978EE.230 Tu	1/26	6:30-7:45 p.m.	6 yrs+
979EE.230 Tu	2/16	6:30-7:45 p.m.	6 yrs+

## PUPPET SHOWS – HOTEL SAGUARO & ZONER AND THE DRIP

These exciting puppet shows by the Great Arizona Puppet Theater focus on Arizona's amazing environment. Hotel Saguario tells the story of some of the desert's most important creatures and how they depend on the mighty saguaro cactus. Zoner and the Drip is a hilarious lesson in water conservation. Payment and pre-registration are required for all adults and for children 5 years old and above. Children under 5 are admitted for free and need not register, as long as they are accompanied by a paid adult. Parents must stay with children; no drop-offs allowed. Don't forget to sign up for the "Nature's Song" music program offered immediately before both shows! See separate listing.

Instructor: The Great Arizona Puppet Theater

Location: Environmental Education Center

<b>Resident fee: \$6</b>	<b>Non-resident fee: \$8</b>		
051EE.220 M	12/21	Noon-1 p.m.	5 yrs+
Zoner And The Drip			
073EE.270 Sa	1/30	10-11 a.m.	5 yrs+

## —WINTER SEASON—

Open House at the Environmental Education Center



Each season, the Environmental Education Center (EEC) will offer an Open House night to provide the public with a FREE sampling of activities from our regularly-scheduled classes, programs, parties, and special events. EEC staff and instructors will be on hand to provide fun and educational activities designed to show you what the EEC is all about! Pre-registration is not required.

966EE.230	Tu	1/12	5-7:30 p.m.	All ages
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Outdoor Amphitheater Programs at the Environmental Education Center

On one night of each month this winter (December, January, February), the EEC will present outdoor amphitheater programs for people of all ages. These programs will change each month and may feature storytellers, musicians, visual artists, and other performers. Registration is not required; just stop by and join the fun! Please see [www.chandleraz.gov/veterans-oasis](http://www.chandleraz.gov/veterans-oasis) for details

## Living Tree Donation Program

Through the City's Living Tree Program you can help beautify our city parks while at the same time celebrating life by planting a tree! You can plant a tree in tribute of a wedding, birth of a child, anniversary, or to honor the memory of a loved one. Just donate money towards the purchase of a special tree, or donate a live tree to the City of Chandler Parks Division. We will then arrange for the park site and planting of the tree, as well as the tree maintenance. All living tree donations are tax-deductible.

For more information call, 480-782-2753.



## MAKE IT A DAY!

### THE AMAZING RACE—COMPETITION FOR COUPLES

Grab your guy or gal for a friendly "Amazing Race" style competition between couples! The race will whisk you through Veterans Oasis Park and the Environmental Education Center. A prize will be awarded to the team that completes the race first, so come ready to play! You don't have to be a couple to compete; any team can participate, as long as you have exactly two people! The fee listed is per person. The Kid's Nature Fest is scheduled for the same time and location so that your children can have a fun time out while you compete! See separate listing for more details.

Instructor: Environmental Education Center Staff

Location: Environmental Education Center

<b>Resident fee: \$12</b>	<b>Non-resident fee: \$15</b>		
363EE.270 Sa	1/9	9:30-11 a.m.	16 yrs+

### KID'S NATURE FEST

Kids will be treated to a movie, craft, and games, all with a nature theme. This program is scheduled for the same time and location as The Amazing Race—Competition for Couples program so that your children can have a fun time while you compete! All kids are invited whether their parents participate in The Amazing Race or not. See separate listing for more details.

Instructor: Miss Artypants

Location: Environmental Education Center

<b>Resident fee: \$8</b>	<b>Non-resident fee: \$10</b>		
164EE.270 Sa	1/9	9:30-11 a.m.	3 yrs+

\*See Veterans Oasis Park Ramada Rentals on Page 90\*



### THE PHOENIX ZOO @ THE EEC! – DESERT CONNECTIONS

The Phoenix Zoo will bring its exciting "Zoo To You" program to Chandler's EEC! Live animals from the Phoenix Zoo will be on display and zoo staff will deliver a presentation to engage audiences about the wonders of our desert and the animals with whom we share it. This program is aligned to state learning standards. Payment and pre-registration are required for all adults and for children 4 years old and above. This show is designed for children 4 years old and above, but children under 4 can attend for free and need not register, as long as they are accompanied by a paid adult. Adults must stay with children.

Instructor: Phoenix Zoo Staff

Location: Environmental Education Center

<b>Resident fee: \$6</b>	<b>Non-resident fee: \$8</b>		
974EE.220 M	12/21	10-11 a.m.	4 yrs+

# Nature and Environmental Classes

## GUEST SPEAKER SERIES AT THE EEC

**FREE!**

Once each season, the Environmental Education Center (EEC) will host a guest speaker to discuss issues related to nature, the environment, and the outdoors. See [www.chandleraz.gov/veterans-oasis](http://www.chandleraz.gov/veterans-oasis) or call 480-782-2890 for details about this season's program.

Instructor: Environmental Education Center Staff  
Location: Environmental Education Center

**Resident fee: \$0**      **Non-resident fee: \$0**  
952EE.230    TBD      TBD      TBD      All ages

## AN EVENING AT "CAMP EEC"

Celebrate the New Year with an evening of camping-themed activities at the EEC and Veterans Oasis Park. Meet some nocturnal animals, help set up "camp", take a night hike, and cook some yummy s'mores! Perfect for families!

Instructor: Environmental Education Center Staff  
Location: Environmental Education Center

**Resident fee: \$9**      **Non-resident fee: \$12**  
933EE.250    Th      1/14      6-7:45 p.m.      All ages

## REPTILES OF ARIZONA

Join the Arizona Herpetological Association for an intriguing presentation about the fascinating reptiles that call Arizona home! The presentation will feature live animal demonstrations of snakes, chuckwallas, and other native reptiles. Children under 6 are admitted for free and need not register as long as they are accompanied by a paid adult.

Instructor: Kat Parks, Arizona Herpetological Association  
Location: Environmental Education Center

**Resident fee: \$6**      **Non-resident fee: \$8**  
976EE.270    Sa      2/13      Noon-1 p.m.      6 yrs+

## SUN SCIENCE – CELEBRATE THE SOLSTICE!

Get ready for the Winter Solstice (the first day of winter) on December 21 by learning about the sun, its connection with Earth, and the benefits and dangers of the sun's powerful rays. Children under 6 are admitted free and do not need to register as long as they are accompanied by a paid adult.

Instructor: Environmental Education Center Staff  
Location: Environmental Education Center

**Resident fee: \$8**      **Non-resident fee: \$10**  
977EE.270    Sa      12/19      9-10:30 a.m.      All ages

## NIGHT OWLS

Grab a flashlight, lace-up your hiking shoes, and join us for a fun nighttime nature hike! Participants will venture on a walk through the desert at night and play games, use nocturnal senses, and discover that the night is not as scary as it seems!

Instructor: Environmental Education Center Staff  
Location: Environmental Education Center

**Resident fee: \$6**      **Non-resident fee: \$8**  
908EE.250    Th      1/7      6:30-7:30 p.m.      All ages  
909EE.250    Th      2/11      6:30-7:30 p.m.      All ages

## SCOUTING BADGE BLITZ!

with the EEC and the Chandler Museum

Spend a Saturday at the Scouting Badge Blitz and earn three different badges! In February, Junior Girl Scouts can earn their Earth Connections, Finding Your Way, and Ceramics and Clay badges. In January, Webelos Scouts can earn the Forester, Naturalist, and Artist badges. Open to all scouts and scouting groups. Whole troops are welcome. Pack a lunch and bring ample drinking water. Be prepared to work indoors and outdoors. Minimum of 10, maximum of 45 participants in all. Adult chaperones must remain with group and are admitted free of charge. Please follow Safety-Wise ratios for chaperones. Pre-registration is required. Cost is per scout and covers all supplies, including badges. To register, call 480-782-2886.

Instructor: EEC and Museum Staff

Location: Environmental Education Center

**Resident fee: \$30**      **Non-resident fee: \$38**

*Webelos Boy Scouts*

971EE.270    Sa      1/23      8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.      7-13 yrs

*Junior Girl Scouts*

972EE.270    Sa      2/27      8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.      7-13 yrs

## VALENTINE'S DAY BREAKFAST WITH THE SNAKES

On Saturday, February 13, the EEC invites you to enjoy a light Valentine's breakfast with your sweetheart while sharing an experience with nature. Participants will learn about Arizona's snakes and have a chance to watch live snakes enjoying a breakfast of their own! Each group or couple can also have their photograph taken with a snake! The first session is for adults only. The second session is for all ages; children under 3 are admitted for free and do not need to register, as long as they are accompanied by a paid adult.

Instructor: Environmental Education Center Staff  
Location: Environmental Education Center

**Resident fee: \$14**      **Non-resident fee: \$18**  
979EE.270    Sa      2/13      8:30-9:30 a.m.      18 yrs+  
901EE.270    Sa      2/13      10-11 a.m.      3 yrs+

## CAMPSITE COOKING

Learn how to use different types of camp stoves, such as white gas, alcohol, propane/butane, and solar ovens. We'll provide ideas for yummy and simple camp dishes, such as one-pot recipes and no-cook meals. Methods of water purification will also be covered. Participants will make and taste their own granola bars and solar noodle cookies!

Instructor: Environmental Education Center Staff

Location: Environmental Education Center

**Resident fee: \$8**      **Non-resident fee: \$10**  
989EE.270    Sa      12/5      11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.      All ages  
911EE.270    Sa      1/16      9-10:30 a.m.      All ages

Featuring a unique selection of waste-free lunch items, books, plush animal puppets, and gifts for nature lovers of all ages

Located at Veterans Oasis Park on the northeast corner of Chandler Heights and Lindsay roads

## Owl's Nest Nature Store

Hours of Operation

Monday and Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Shop  
Chandler

Environmental Education Center  
480-782-2890



## PARTY WITH NATURE

Environmental Education Center (EEC)  
at Veterans Oasis Park

Is your child interested in nature and the environment? Is there a birthday or other special occasion coming up?

The Environmental Education Center invites your children to party like an animal, enjoy an outdoor treasure hunt or participate in other activities offered at our Nature Parties held at Veterans Oasis Park! Please contact us for details on party themes, available times and costs.

EEC@chandleraz.gov • 480-782-2890  
[www.chandleraz.gov/veterans-oasis](http://www.chandleraz.gov/veterans-oasis)

