

ARIZONA-SONORA
**DESERT
MUSEUM**



MEDIA RELEASE

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Editors/Reporters – Images available upon request

Cool Summer Nights at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

Open Summer Saturday Evenings June through August

Tucson, AZ (May 24, 2012) -- Beat the heat and experience the magic of the Sonoran Desert at night beginning Saturday, June 2 at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Each Saturday night, June through August, is an entirely different experience with themed activities and programs, some especially for families and children. The museum extends its hours until 10 PM with special programming typically beginning at 6 PM. Special discounted admission rates apply after 4 PM.

As the sun sets the desert's nocturnal creatures come alive so a nighttime visit is entirely different from a daytime visit. The popular Summer Saturday Evening program showcases what happens in the desert after dark and how plants and animals adapt. Many animals are more active at night – especially beavers, mountain lions, and small cat predators.

Experience the Sonoran Desert celestial wonders complete with a cacophony of nighttime sounds, fluorescent minerals, night pollinators, and more.

(more)

For those seeking a unique culinary experience, the Museum's upscale Ocotillo Café will be open for dinner during Summer Saturday Evenings. Accented with original artwork, this intimate dining room is the perfect backdrop to a menu that brings the sometimes subtle and sometimes bold flavors of the Sonoran region into the spotlight. Reservations are recommended by calling 520-883-5705. Also open for dinner is the Ironwood Terraces Restaurant, the largest dining venue at the Desert Museum which offers a more casual atmosphere. Diners may enjoy dining inside or outside on one of the many covered patios that overlook the natural desert landscape and nighttime vistas.

For more information about each week's Summer Saturday Evening special programs please visit: www.desertmuseum.org.

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is one of the nation's leading outdoor, living museums, home to more than 230 animal species and 1,200 varieties of desert plants in addition to a world-class mineral collection. Celebrating 60 years and its diamond anniversary in 2012, the museum has educated millions of visitors with live animal presentations, its desert botanical gardens and raptor free flight program. Its mission is to inspire people to live in harmony with the natural world by fostering love, appreciation, and understanding of the bi-national Sonoran Desert Region. The museum is located at 2021 N. Kinney Road in Tucson Mountain Park adjacent to Saguaro National Park (West). It is open daily year round with operating hours varying by season. Call (520) 883-2702 or visit www.desertmuseum.org for more information.