

Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival

Saturday-Sunday, March 10-11, 2012 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The event and activities are free – Parking is \$3 per vehicle

Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival is an annual **two-day** outdoor event that focuses on the rich diversity of wildlife, habitat, history and culture of the Gila River drainage. This is an opportunity to celebrate the rich heritage, ecology, history and wildlife of the Gila, Salt and Agua Fria Rivers! It is a great opportunity for the whole family to enjoy a beautiful spring day in Arizona and learn something about the place we call home. Some of the activities are:

Canoe Excursions

Join us “Down by the River” to learn about safe canoeing from Arizona Game and Fish boating safety instructors and experience the joy of paddling your own canoe around the small lake at the Festival Area. Enjoy the serenity of being on the water, get close to birds and animals, watch the fish below you and generally enjoy the great weather and natural surroundings!

Early Birding Tours

Join volunteers from the Sonoran Audubon Chapter for a dawn tour (7:30 a.m.) of the festival vicinity along the Salt and Gila Rivers. This is your chance to see the birds and other wildlife of the area at their best, prior to the arrival of the festival crowd. Participation is by pre-registration only and is limited to 15 participants each day. Pre-register by email to McBobAZ@aol.com or phone to 602-237-3951. Please state which day (Saturday or Sunday) you plan to attend this activity. Bring your binoculars, field guides and comfortable hiking shoes.

Regular Birding Tours

These tours start at 9 a.m. when the festival opens and go all day long. They start from the Bird Walk Booth.

Hikes

Guided and self-guided hikes will be offered during the festival. Staff from Estrella Mountain Regional Park will lead hikes several times daily into the trail system, identifying plants and animals (or their “sign”) as you walk. Or, you can walk on your own through the trail system during the beautiful spring weather expected for the day. Find the “Hiking” station in your daily program and check for the next available guided tour.

Fishing Clinic

Enjoy two opportunities to “wet a line” at the Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival, and learn about fishing from Arizona Game and Fish Department Fisheries staff. For the little ones there is a tank in the center of the festival grounds that offers plenty of fast action and a never-fail chance to catch that first fish of a lifetime! For older children and adults, jump on our hay wagon transporter and ride down to the river to our fishing dock where instructors will set you up and get you fishing as a first experience or a repeat of a familiar one! No license required for this event!

- **To reach the Estrella Mountain Regional Park:**
- From central Phoenix, take I-10 west to Estrella Parkway exit
- Travel south to Vineyard Ave.
- Turn east on Vineyard Avenue to the Estrella Mountain Regional Park entrance on the south side.

See the website at <http://www.tresriosnaturefestival.com/activities.htm> for more information and a detailed map.