

Welcome to Tohono Chul Park and the Sonoran Desert!

Tohono Chul - translated as “desert corner” in the language of the Tohono O’odham - was founded in 1985 to protect a piece of the desert in the midst of a rapidly developing urban area, and serve as a model for visitors of all ages to learn to be participant stewards of this fragile environment.

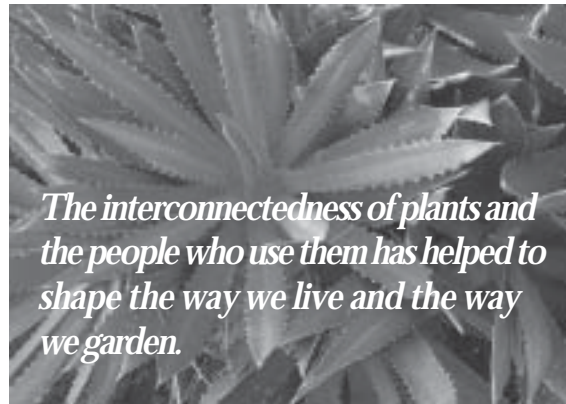
The Sonoran Desert is a highly diverse region with a variety of plants and animals having remarkable survival skills and adapting to an often inhospitable climate. In addition, in the Sonoran borderlands a confluence of cultures, both historic and contemporary, contributes to our distinctive regional character.

With its nature trails, demonstration gardens, exhibits and open spaces, the Park invites exploration and discovery.



Our goal and purpose is to inspire our visitors with the desire to learn how to live with our desert home. Our mission is

to enrich people's lives by providing them the opportunity to find peace and inspiration in a place of beauty, to experience the wonders of the Sonoran Desert, and to gain knowledge of the natural and cultural heritage of this region.



The interconnectedness of plants and the people who use them has helped to shape the way we live and the way we garden.

E thnobotany studies the relationships between cultures and their plants, providing us with a window to the everyday lives of other peoples and a better understanding of different cultural values, religious practices, and connections to the natural world.

Plants have been utilized by the Tohono O’odham, and the Hohokam before them, in many ways – as food, medicine, and materials as well as a source of cultural identity. These plants may be wild, cultivated (purposefully grown), domesticated (adapted to be more useful), or introduced (brought to the New World by Spanish or other European settlers).

Many are familiar with the sweet, red fruits of the saguaro or prickly pear, but have you tasted the carob-like flavor of a ripe mesquite pod, put a zing in your mouth by biting into the “mother of chiles” (chiltepin), or held the “drugstore of the desert” (creosote) in your hands and inhaled its distinctive aroma? Join us at Tohono Chul Park and experience a taste of the desert!

A Taste of the Desert

. . . will start in the classroom with a slide presentation on the plants used today and in the past by the peoples of the Southwest. Next, enjoy a guided tour of this 49-acre desert



preserve, applying what you have learned in a search for examples of wild and cultivated plants. After a visit to the Park’s Ethnobotanical Garden, we may even practice

some hands-on plant preparation. Finally, a meal of local plants will be served – don’t worry, the ingredients may be traditional, but the presentation will definitely border on nouvelle. Be sure to bring your appetite for culinary adventure!



Length: 3 hours
Cost per person: \$30
Attendees:
10 min./30 max.

To schedule “A Taste of the Desert” event for your group, contact Jo Falls, Director of Public Programs at Tohono Chul Park:

520-742-6455 ext. 228

or

jofalls@tohonochulpark.org

SAMPLE MENU

Starters:

Tepary Bean Paté
with Mesquite Crackers
Black Bean & Corn Soups
Nopalito Salad
with Cholla Buds

Breads:

Blue Corn & Pepper
Cumin
Pinole/Squash

Entreés:

Buffalo Chili Posole
Tepary Bean/Green Chili
Posole (vegetarian)

Desserts:

Mesquite Baklava
Chocolate/Dulce de leche
Mesquite Brownies
Prickly Pear Sorbet with
Chile Chocolate Chip Cookies

Tohono Chul Park
7366 N Paseo del Norte
Tucson, AZ 85704
www.tohonochulpark.org



savor

"A Taste
of the
Desert"

at



TOHONO CHUL
PARK

and

discover its
nature!

