

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ironwood Forest National Monument “Meet the Monument” *Celebrating 25 Years*

MARANA, Arizona] — The Friends of Ironwood Forest invite the community to a special anniversary edition of “Meet the Monument.” This year celebrates the 25th anniversary of the proclamation creating the Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM). IFNM was one of the first national monuments established as part of the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) National Conservation Lands system. National Conservation Lands represent the most ecologically significant and exceptionally unique landscapes. IFNM is home to a rich ecological, cultural, and historical landscape.

Date: Saturday, March 22, 2025

Time: 9am-3pm

Location: El Tiro Gliderport, Marana, Arizona

Admission: Free and open to the public. No reservations required.

Parking: Free. Signed lot within the Gliderport.

Facilities: Port-a-potties, hand washing stations, and a food truck.

This milestone event will feature activities designed to deepen the community’s appreciation of Ironwood Forest National Monument. Included at the event will be informational tents hosted by local experts. Attendees will learn about the Monument’s diverse ecosystems, indigenous heritage, and the critical conservation efforts that have shaped its past, present, and future.

Event highlights include:

Guest Speakers (10am-2pm): Hear from a series of engaging speakers, including scientists, historians, community leaders, and BLM representatives. Each will share insights into the importance of IFNM and its role in conservation of the Sonoran Desert.

Interactive Exhibits and Community Connections (9am-3pm): Discover the unique flora, fauna, and human history that make the IFNM a national treasure. Talk with representatives from local organizations and other individuals dedicated to the Monument’s preservation and education.

“The 25th anniversary is a time to reflect on the significance of Ironwood Forest National Monument and to inspire a collective commitment to its future,” said Tom Hannagan, President of Friends of

Ironwood Forest. *“We’re thrilled to bring together people who share a passion for this extraordinary place. We look forward to sharing our enthusiasm and the beauty of IFNM.”*

Ironwood Forest National Monument spans over 189,000 acres and is home to some of the world’s oldest ironwood trees, a wealth of desert wildlife, and invaluable cultural sites, including ancient petroglyphs and remnants of historic settlements. “Meet the Monument” will celebrate these treasures and strengthen the resolve for their continued protection with the community.

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About Friends of Ironwood Forest

Friends of Ironwood Forest works for the permanent protection of the biological, geological, archeological and historical resources for which the Ironwood Forest National Monument was established through education, community outreach and advocacy.

Photos included are from prior years' Meet the Monument events. In years past, the event was held at the group campsite near Ragged Top peak. This year's anniversary celebration will be held at the El Tiro Glider Port in Marana.



A BLM Ranger speaking at a previous Meet the Monument. This year’s event will feature five special speakers.



Example of a presentation table from a previous Meet the Monument.



View of a previous Meet the Monument held near Ragged Top. This year's event will be held at the El Tiro Gliderport.