

City Talk for Nov. 23, 2022
Parks and Recreation Department
Dawn Norman, parks and recreation manager

Winter activities for residents

The change of seasons is in the air, and the crisp mornings are a sign that winter is right around the corner, which means the return of several annual parks and recreation activities, programs and events. The parks and recreation team continues to work towards developing new ideas, and will be introducing some new winter/spring opportunities for our residents to enjoy. Make sure to mark your calendars so you don't miss out on any of these exciting events and programs.

To kick off the holiday season, the Parks and Recreation Department is coordinating holiday displays city-wide to spread holiday cheer! The annual Uptown decorating will return with additional displays throughout the city, including Posse Grounds Park, Sedona Military Park, Greyback Park, Sedona Botanical Park, and other city locations, including Brewer Road and the Ranger Station Park. The list of locations and route will be available online so families can add these to their tour of holiday lights and decorations. The decor will be on display Thanksgiving through New Year's. Residents and businesses are encouraged to partake in holiday decorating to create a festive and joyful atmosphere throughout our community.

Sedona's annual Tree Lighting will take place on Friday, Dec. 2, 5 - 7 p.m., at Tlaquepaque North. The evening will include the traditional tree lighting ceremony, refreshments, holiday entertainment and the guest of honor, Santa! This event is free to attend and hosted by Tlaquepaque, the Sedona Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau, and the city of Sedona.

Breakfast with Santa is Saturday, Dec. 3, 8 - 10 a.m., at the Hub at Posse Grounds Park. Join us for breakfast and a fun morning filled with carols sung by the Red Rock Appella chorus, Santa's Stable of famous reindeer and of course, a visit with jolly St. Nick as he makes a stop in Sedona, all for free! This is the chance for kids to have one-on-one time with St. Nick before he makes his deliveries on the big day.

Get ready for Winter Play Day! This new family event will feature games, rides and activities and will be held at the Posse Grounds Pavilion on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023, to celebrate winter. More details are to come closer to the event.

If you're looking for ways to keep your children active over the winter months to burn off holiday treats (and sugar), the Parks and Recreation Department is offering two sports opportunities:

1. Youth in grades 1-6 are invited to register for Grasshopper Youth Basketball League. This co-ed, low-pressure league places emphasis on skill development, good sportsmanship, positive encouragement, and learning the rules and fundamentals of basketball. It's not too late to sign up and practices will begin late November with games held every Saturday from Jan. 14 - March 4, 2023 at the West Sedona School Gymnasium.
2. The city is excited to introduce a new program and partnership with Beginners Edge Sports Training (B.E.S.T.). The program offers four different sports clinics, six weeks in length, for various age groups ranging from 16 months up to 10 years old. The clinic teaches how to perform the skills of each sport in a fun, safe, encouraging and structured environment taught

by professionally-trained staff. The inaugural winter season will consist of basketball, soccer, volleyball, and a four-Sport multi-sport clinic and begins Jan. 15, 2023. Registration is open online through Jan. 11, 2023.

For adults looking to find ways to stick to the annual New Year's resolution of staying healthy, we offer a variety of programs and activities that will help you stay on track without getting bored. Programs range from POP (Pickleball Organized Play), tennis, Open Gym, a drop-in program for those looking to play basketball and/or volleyball, and Yappy Hour, a one-hour program to get outdoors with your four-legged family member. Posse Grounds Park offers amenities to enjoy at your own leisure and level including a fitness trail, bocce ball court and disc golf course. Disc sets and bocce balls are available to check out for free at our office at 221 Brewer Rd.

Whichever event, program or activity you decide on, we hope to see you enjoying the recreational opportunities our team strives to provide for our community. Visit our website throughout the year to learn about events and programs at www.sedonaaz.gov/parks. To receive email alerts on the city's parks and recreation programs and events, subscribe to the city's eNotify system, and indicate your interest areas online at www.sedonaaz.gov/enotify.