

Contact:
Kat Rumbley
krumbley@desertmuseum.org
520-268-4448

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Stingrays in the Sonoran Desert?

Desert Museum Opens Brand New Stingray Touch Exhibit

Tucson, AZ (August 2, 2016) — What do you think of when you visualize the desert? Cacti? Breathtaking sunsets? Elusive Gila monsters? At the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (ASDM), you can experience those things, as well as the touch of a stingray. Although the Sonoran Desert may be known for its dry climate, the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez) and the stingrays that flow through it are critically important and the primary reason the Sonoran Desert has been named the “lushest desert on earth.”

Visitors are able to create their own moments with these captivating creatures at ASDM’s new *Stingray Touch* experience. The exhibit will open on Friday, August 5, at 8:30 a.m. The three-foot deep pool features over a dozen juvenile stingrays that are regularly debarbed, a process compared with trimming a fingernail. This provides a comfortable environment for guests to interact with the school of rays.

Prices:

\$3 to view, additional \$3 to feed (Non-members)

\$2 to view, additional \$2 to feed (Members)

Hours:

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. until September 30.

Please note the exhibit will stay open until 9:00 p.m. on Cool Summer Nights

9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (October through February)

Feeding Times:

9:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m.

Cool Summer Nights feeding times: 9:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

The stingrays will be fed sustainable seafood, in partnership with Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch. Food may be purchased at the Stingray Touch exhibit up to 30 minutes before the scheduled feeding time. Food quantity is limited for the health of our stingrays, so the Museum encourages guests to arrive early! Special thanks to the Phoenix Zoo for donating this school of stingrays to ASDM. For more information on *Stingray Touch*, please visit www.desertmuseum.org/stingrays.

###

Focused on the preservation of the Sonoran Desert, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum will turn your idea of a museum inside out. Set on a 98-acre botanical garden, a two mile walking trail features 230 animal species, an art gallery, an aquarium, educational activities, one of the world’s most comprehensive regional mineral collections, and more. Ongoing conservation and research programs enhance everything we do. The Desert Museum is open every day from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Plan your visit at www.desertmuseum.org.

###