



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NATIONAL CONSERVATION NONPROFIT HONORS MEMORY OF YOUNG NATURALIST WITH BIOBLITZ EVENT

*Matthew Rothstein Annual Bioblitz Provides Opportunity for Community Members to Survey Sabino Canyon's Biodiversity*

TUCSON, ARIZONA, July 18, 2023 - To bring together those who enjoy the outdoors and remember a nature enthusiast lost too soon, the second Matthew Rothstein Annual Bioblitz will be held at Sabino Canyon Recreational Area on August 12. The event will be hosted by the Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy (ARC), a national nonprofit to conserve imperiled wildlife. Participants will survey the area's biodiversity with scientists and other naturalists to identify and document as many species as possible to promote learning, citizen science, and conservation in commemoration of the life of Matthew Rothstein.

**Event:** Matthew Rothstein Annual Bioblitz

**Date:** August 12, 2023

**Time:** 8:00 am

**Location:** Sabino Canyon Recreational Area (5700 N Sabino Canyon Rd, Tucson, AZ), covered ramada next to the parking lot

**Cost:** Free event, although Sabino Canyon charges an \$8 parking fee

**Participants should bring:** Water, food, sunblock, a hat, binoculars (optional)

**Hiking difficulty:** Hikes ranging from easy to strenuous are available

**Registration required:** [tinyurl.com/ARCbioblitz](https://tinyurl.com/ARCbioblitz)

The first 50 people to register and attend the 8:00 am event kickoff will receive a free t-shirt.

The Matthew Rothstein Annual Bioblitz is an opportunity for people to join other members of the community to learn more about the animals and plants in their local ecosystem, exchange knowledge, and contribute to a scientific survey. As ARC Southwestern Program Coordinator Becca Cozad explained, "We want to engage members of the public in learning more about what species share space with us — especially those that are frequently overlooked, like reptiles and amphibians." More than 1,400 species inhabit the Sabino Canyon Recreational Area, and participants have a great chance of seeing something new to them during the event.

The Bioblitz honors the memory of a lover of wildlife and cherished member of our naturalist community who passed away. Matthew Rothstein (3/10/00 – 12/23/20) was lost tragically young. "This event was designed to connect participants with the natural world, which brought Matthew such great joy, in order to remember him in a way that he would have loved," said ARC Executive Director JJ Apodaca.

The event is held annually in or near one of the organization's PARCAs, or Priority Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Areas, across the US. ARC has identified 317 PARCAs nationwide, selected because they contain either high biodiversity or large numbers of threatened and endangered species – or in many cases, both. The organization's biologists are carrying out strategic, targeted habitat restoration and species recovery efforts for imperiled amphibians and reptiles in these PARCAs.

Conservation of the species that Matthew adored is an important objective of the annual event. "Connecting with nature doesn't just benefit our mental and physical health," said Cozad. "It also benefits the environment. After all, people only conserve what they love, and it's difficult to love something without exposure and forging a connection."

#### **About Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy (ARC)**

Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy, or ARC, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit focused on identifying and conserving the highest priority places for amphibians and reptiles in the United States. We protect endangered amphibians and reptiles through a strategic, scientific, and passionate approach. We believe the conservation of amphibians, reptiles, and the habitats they depend on is vitally important. To learn more, visit [ARCProtects.org](http://ARCProtects.org).

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