



MEDIA RELEASE

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Native Customs and Culture Come Alive at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

Tucson, AZ (October 3, 2013) – On December 7-8, the Desert Museum in partnering with Tohono O’odham Community Action (TOCA) for a weekend celebration of Native culture at the *Celebration of Basketry and Native Food Festival*. Join hundreds of Native basket weavers and traditional food producers in a dynamic celebration of tribal food and fiber traditions.

The event will include numerous weaving demonstrations. Attendees can meet the artisans and learn how basketry connects native communities. Visitors can explore the Basketry Marketplace where weavers from across the U.S. join forces for the world’s largest basketry market. It’s a great way to find unique holiday gifts for friends and family members.

Visitors also will be able to watch and sample traditional and innovative preparation of Native foods by top chefs and traditional Native cooks. Presentations will include four open fire cooking demonstrations throughout the Museum grounds.

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Renowned chefs participating in the event include James Beard Award winner Lois Ellen Frank (Kiowa), Executive Chef of Sunrise Park Hotels Nephi Craig (Apache), Emmy award winning chef Loretta Barrett Oden (Potawatomi), and Walter Whitewater (Diné) of Red Mesa Cuisine. The stellar chefs will showcase their culinary skills with preparations and tastings of contemporary dishes using traditional ingredients.

Attendees will also be able to experience the rich cultural customs of Native communities through song and dance presentation. The festivities will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The event is free with Museum admission.

The festivities will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday and is FREE with museum admission. Museums hours this weekend are 8:30 a.m. till 5:00 p.m.

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is one of the nation's leading outdoor, living museums, featuring more than 230 animals and 1,200 varieties of desert plants. Its purpose is to inspire people to live in harmony with the natural world by fostering love, appreciation, and understanding of the bi-national, Sonoran Desert region. The museum is located at 2021 N. Kinney Road, in Tucson Mountain Park adjacent to Saguaro National Park (West). It is open daily year round with operating hours varying by season. Call (520) 883-2702 or visit www.desertmuseum.org for more information.

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