

Media Release



Respond to the Census & Beware of Fraud

Apache Junction, July 31, 2020 - Unless you have been hiding under a rock you probably realize that it's CENSUS TIME. Even if you have been hiding under a rock, the federal government wants to know which rock and who's been hiding under there with you. There are lots of good reasons to be counted in the 2020 census; reasons which will directly affect your quality of life here in Apache Junction.

First and perhaps the most important reason to respond to the census is that it is the law. It's actually addressed under Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. That's right, every ten years everyone living in the United States and its five territories are required to be counted.

Secondly, there is the issue of apportionment. There are 435 members of the US House of Representatives. The result of the 2020 census will determine how those 435 seats are divided up among the 50 states. It's has been suggested that Colorado, Florida, and Texas will each be picking up another seat as result of this census which means that another state(s) will lose a few seats. If you want Arizona and maybe more importantly YOU to have proper representation in Congress it's important that we all respond to the census.

Finally, there are literally hundreds of billions of dollars in in federal funding that will be directed at communities all across the country. The way in which that money is distributed is directly affected by the statistics gathered from the census. The fact of the matter is that most of us already pay federal income tax so may as well benefit from the dollars that we contribute. Road conditions, school funding, public safety, and wildfire resources are just a few of the things that are affected by the census. You can take a detailed look at how Census Bureau data is used in distributing federal funds by visiting <https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2020-01/Uses-of-Census-Bureau-Data-in-Federal-Funds-Distribution.pdf>.

There are only 12 questions asked on the census so, responding this year couldn't get any easier. You can respond by phone, by mail and new for 2020, you can respond online at <https://2020census.gov/en.html>

Getting an accurate count of who is residing in the U.S. and our territories is extremely important. In fact, it is so important that if you don't respond the U.S. Census Bureau will send you letters and postcards reminding you of your civic obligation. If you fail to respond, you can expect to be visited by a local census worker between August 11th and October 31st.

As you can imagine it takes an army of people to collect and compile all the data. With so many people running around collecting census information there are likely going to be some bad actors that want to use the census year to their advantage.

If a census worker does come to your home, make sure that he/she has a valid photo ID, with a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date visible on the badge. If you have any doubt whatsoever about the legitimacy of the census worker you can call (844) 330-2020

Also beware of potential fraud and scams surrounding the 2020 Census. According to the U.S. Census Bureau you should never be asked for anything related to the following:

- Your social Security Number
- Money or Donations
- Anything on behalf of a political party
- Your bank account or credit card numbers

For more information on the 2020 Census <https://2020census.gov/en.html> . Make sure you and your entire families are counted in the 2020 Census. An accurate count ensures that we receive accurate representation and access to our fair share of community funding.

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