

## Calling All Campers: 10 Best Campgrounds In & Around Scottsdale

BY [DUMBOR BIRANEN](#) –  
TheTravel.com

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From family-friendly sites to more rustic options, Scottsdale is home to some of the best campgrounds in Arizona.

### RV Travel Trailers at a Campsite in Scottsdale, Arizona

Scottsdale is home to some of the most scenic campgrounds in the Salt River Valley. This Arizonan town cranks up its allure by offering scenic views of mesmerizing mountain ranges and beautiful sunsets. Over time, it has become a top destination for anyone looking to pitch a tent in the heart of the striking Sonoran Desert.

On the outside of this stunning city, surrounding desert landscapes are yet another testament to the beautiful American Southwest. With an abundance of outdoor recreational activities for solo campers and families alike, [Scottsdale offers an endless supply of exhilarating experiences](#).

From [kid-friendly camping sites](#) to more rugged and secluded options for those seeking privacy, here are the ten best campgrounds in and around Scottsdale.

#### 1. **McDowell Mountain Regional Park**

Situated in the lower Verde River basin, McDowell Mountain Regional Park is a pristine wilderness wonderland that spans 21,099 acres, making it

one of the largest campgrounds in Scottsdale. With over 70 different sites for tent or RV camping, this must-visit jewel caters to every camper's style and budget. While basking in the warm glow of the Arizona sun, visitors can enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding mountains and encounter exotic wildlife species for a memorable camping experience.

Fee: \$15 - \$40 per night  
Average Site Size: 45' RV  
Wildlife Sightings: Deer, birds, javelinas, and coyotes  
Amenities: Drinking water, showers, electrical hookups, flush toilets, BBQ fire rings, and a dump station  
Are Dogs Allowed In McDowell Mountain Regional Park?  
McDowell Mountain Regional Park boasts over 70 campsites, all of which are dog-friendly. So, campers can bring their pups along when hitting these trails!

#### 2. **Cave Creek Regional Park Campground**

A short drive from Phoenix, this 2,922-acre campground boasts panoramic views of North America's iconic Sonoran Desert. The desert's stunning flora and fauna create a delightful contrast against its rugged mountain backdrop—a pleasant sight that effortlessly attracts tourists year in, and year out. This tranquil, picturesque setting offers endless opportunities for biking, camping, and stargazing under the clear desert skies. With 55 spacious campsites, all equipped with essential amenities, Cave Creek Regional Park Campground provides a memorable camping experience

for tent campers and RV campers alike.

Fee: \$15 - \$40 per night  
Average Site Size: 40' RV  
Wildlife Sightings: Desert bighorn sheep, fawns, javelinas, bobcats, and coyotes  
Amenities: Drinking water, showers, electrical hookups, flush toilets, picnic tables, BBQ fire rings, and a dump station  
This campground is located in the desert, so temperatures can get scorching hot during the day and chilly at night.

#### 3. **Lost Dutchman State Camp**

Named after the mythical [Lost Dutchman's Gold Mine](#), this 320-acre campground boasts stunning views of the Superstition Mountains in Central Arizona. With over 130 campsites for tent campers and those who want to experience the luxury of a [well-planned car camping trip](#), this camp caters to adventure-seekers who want to explore the Sonoran Desert up close. Fire pits, picnic tables, and barbecue grills are only a few of the essential amenities travelers enjoy when they reserve a campsite at the Lost Dutchman State Park.

Fee: \$25 - \$35 per night  
Average Site Size: 40' RV  
Wildlife Sightings: Coyotes and javelinas  
Amenities: Fire pits, picnic tables, barbecue grills, showers, restroom buildings, and a dump station.

What Is The Best Hike In Lost Dutchman State Park?  
When it comes to hiking, Flatiron Via Siphon Draw Trail is the clear winner, as evidenced by its glowing reviews and near-perfect rating.

4. **Coon Bluff Recreation Site**  
From the depths of the Tonto National Forest, this lush campground offers breathtaking views of the popular Salt River, making it an ideal spot for swimming, kayaking, and fishing. A stand of sturdy mesquite trees provides much-needed shade, protecting campers from the scorching Arizona sun as they explore this spacious campsite and all of its amenities. Indeed, visitors are not exaggerating when they describe the beautiful Coon Bluff Recreation Site as an ideal spot for [affordable and fun outdoor activities](#).

Fee: [Tonto Daily Pass](#)  
Open: October 1st - March 31st  
Wildlife Sightings: Coyotes, deer, and javelinas.  
Amenities: Picnic area, recreation trails, vault toilets.

Can You Camp Along The Salt River?  
Camping along the Lower Salt River is only permitted in designated camping areas in Coon Bluff between October 1st and March 31st. A Tonto Daily Pass or Tonto Discovery Pass is required for seasonal overnight camping.

5. **Twin Palms RV Park**  
[Twin Palms RV Park](#) is ideal for campers who crave the comfort of modern amenities while exploring the great outdoors. Its vibrant blend of natural beauty and urban convenience makes it increasingly popular among campers. This small quaint park is only a short drive away from Scottsdale's major attractions, including shopping centers, museums, and golf courses. Campers who enjoy long walks and cycling will love the gated

canal bike trail located just out the back gate of this 15-space park.

Fee: \$52.50 per night  
Amenities: Showers, restrooms, laundry room, cable TVs, private mailboxes, Wi-Fi, and a private security system.  
Campers are welcome to bring a maximum of two pets to this idyllic desert oasis.

#### 6. **Lake Pleasant Regional Park**

Situated just a 35-mile drive from downtown Phoenix, Lake Pleasant Regional Park is a must-visit destination for outdoor enthusiasts seeking a stunning natural playground. This sprawling northwest valley park spans over 10,000 acres of desert landscape, including the sparkling waters of Lake Pleasant, which ranks as the largest lake in and around Scottsdale. With exceptional watersports such as boating, fishing, and fishing, campers can revel in the natural beauty of over 160 well-maintained campsites, including waterfront sites and those with electric hookups.

Fee: \$15 - \$40 per night  
Wildlife Sighting: Wild burros, javelinas, coyotes, bald eagles, and Arizona bobcats.  
To gain entry, campers must arrive at the park between 1 pm and 8 pm. Outside this period, they will not be granted access.

#### 7. **Usery Mountain Regional Park**

Located just east of Phoenix, this 3,648-acre park offers a picturesque campground with 40 unique sites catering to both seasoned and first-time campers. The park's tent

camping sites are an ideal option for nature enthusiasts who are looking for a rustic camping experience in the heart of the [iconic Sonoran Desert](#). Aside from captivating views of the Goldfield Mountains, the Usery Mountain Regional Park also offers access to 29 miles of breathtaking mountain trails and a five-star archery range that hosts over 30 annual archery tournaments.

Fee : \$15 - \$40 per night  
Average Site Size : 45' RV  
Amenities : Drinking water, electrical hookups, barbecue grills, fire rings, hot water showers, flush toilets, picnic tables, and a dump station.

#### 8. **White Tank Mountain Regional Park**

Spanning 29,271 acres of desert and mountain landscape, the gorgeous White Tank Mountain Regional Park secures the spot as one of the largest parks in west-central Maricopa County. This park is home to the iconic saguaro cactus, creating the perfect prop for visitors who want to click the perfect photos. Although natural shades are scarce, the park's ramadas allow visitors to take shelter and [enjoy hassle-free picnics](#). The park's popular Waterfall Trail, generally considered an easy route, offers a half-paved section for easy accessibility, making it ideal for people with mobility issues.

Fee: \$15 - \$40 per night  
Average Site Size: 45' RV  
Wildlife Sightings: Coyotes and javelinas.  
Amenities: Water, electrical hookups, a fire ring, a picnic table, and a nearby dump station.

### 9. Desert's Edge RV Park

A top-rated destination among travel aficionados in the Scottsdale area, [Desert's Edge RV Park](#) is only a stone's throw away from some of the most iconic hiking and biking trails in the region, providing easy access to all parts of the Valley of the Sun. But it's not just the natural beauty that sets Desert's Edge apart from the rest. This family-friendly park is a haven for pet lovers. With dog-grooming stations, dog parks, and a spacious dog run, Desert's Edge welcomes all campers to enjoy breathtaking desert landscaping views with kids and happy pups frolicking in the sun.

Fee: \$60 per night

Amenities: Heated swimming pool, dog parks, a recreation hall, picnic tables, and BBQ grills.

### 10. Cholla Recreation Site

Cholla Recreation Site is a camper's paradise, with picturesque sites situated on the shores of Theodore Roosevelt Lake, the largest lake in central Arizona. Its status as one of the largest solar-powered campgrounds in the United States further fuels its popularity. When it comes to outdoor activities, Cholla Campground has plenty to offer. From swimming in Theodore Roosevelt Lake to going on a mountain biking trail in the Tonto National Forest, there are different levels of adventure for every traveler.

Fee: \$25 per night

Wildlife Sightings: Black bears, mountain lions, and bald eagles.  
Amenities: Portable water hydrant, showers, toilets,

showers, grills, ramadas, and picnic tables.

## Discover the 11 Absolute Best Camping Near Phoenix

Written by [Kirstin Harrington](#)

Published: March 31, 2023

We've compiled a list of the top camping locations close to Phoenix in case you feel like spending the night in the great outdoors. Visit locations close to the Superstition Mountains, Sedona's red rocks, the Mogollon Rim, and much more.

Anywhere you want to go, there will undoubtedly be a campground close by. Six campgrounds for regional parks are [located](#) in Maricopa County. Furthermore, [Arizona](#) has more than 12 million acres of public land under the control of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, including six national forests, 31 state parks, and other recreational opportunities.

So get the tents ready and gather all of your favorite camping goodies. Here are the locations of the top campgrounds in Phoenix, Arizona, including some a short drive from the city!

### 1. Cave Creek Regional Park

The stunning 3,000-acre [Cave Creek Regional Park](#) is situated in the northern [Sonoran Desert](#) of Greater Phoenix. Campers should check out this park if they seek a fantastic place to establish themselves north of Phoenix.

With just 44 developed sites, the campground at Cave Creek Regional Park is rather small. Although the sites are far apart and provide lots of privacy, the area is full of gorgeous desert scenic views and hiking trails, which makes it an excellent option for camping in the Phoenix area.

The sites have flat surfaces, paved parking areas, and electrical and water hookups. Even [horse](#) stalls are available at certain campsites. There are flush toilets and shower rooms at comfort sites. A campsite at the Cave Creek Regional Park campground costs \$32 per night.

The campground can be found 40 minutes north of Phoenix's city center. This park is a terrific alternative for those who enjoy spending time outside trekking and taking in the desert

### 2. Utery Mountain Regional Park Campground

[Utery Mountain Regional Park](#) is the perfect camping destination if you're looking for one close to Phoenix, Arizona. This park is ideal for everybody looking to escape the sights and sounds of city life because it has 73 distinct campsites and gorgeous mountain scenery.

The sites have flush toilets and showers. They can fit up to a 45-foot R.V. If you want a more luxurious outdoor experience, Utery Mountain Regional Park is a great choice because it has dump stations, water, and electrical hookups.

Utery Mountain Regional Park charges \$32 for every night of camping. The park is a

wonderful choice for those looking to escape the city because it is only 40 minutes from downtown Phoenix.

### **3. McDowell Mountain Regional Park**

If you want something a little more exciting than your typical campsite, [McDowell Mountain Regional Park](#) is a terrific area to camp. The Four Peaks Wilderness and the famous Tom's Thumb Trail, one of Phoenix's perfect hiking trails, are both located on the park's over 20,000 acres.

The park offers a race track in conjunction with the single-track courses. We would consider the McDowell Mountain Regional Park Campground the ideal location to start exploring for a camper engaged in backpacking, horseback riding, and bike riding.

The park includes 76 campsites that can hold R.V.s up to 45 feet in length and 50 miles of multi-use paths. Every site has a picnic table, a fire ring for grilling, water and electrical hookups, and public restrooms. This place will cost you about \$32 per night.

### **4. Lake Pleasant Regional Park**

The outdoor area is wonderful in [Lake Pleasant Regional Park](#). It is ideal for an afternoon or overnight stay due to its lovely views and accessible location. To keep you occupied, there are many things to do, such as hiking, picnicking, sailing, fishing, diving, and other water sports.

The park also provides a range of programs, including history walks, sunset and full moon hikes, and more. The park has

148 RV and tent camping spots, and each one comes with electricity, water, a dump station, a picnic table, a grill, and other amenities. It is, therefore, the ideal place to spend the night.

There are nearby public restrooms and showers as well. The cost per night ranges from \$22 to \$32. The trip from Phoenix's downtown takes roughly 50 minutes. Lake Pleasant Regional Park is the ideal location, whether you're looking for a [spot to camp](#) or just hang out for the day.

### **5. Estrella Mountain Regional Park**

The [Estrella Mountain Regional Park](#) is your best option if you're looking for a great camping location close to Phoenix, Arizona. A 65-acre grassy picnic area and some of the greatest hiking, cycling, and horse-riding paths in the region can be found in this sizable park.

The R.V. camping options are restricted to seven sites, but they provide all the facilities you want for a pleasant stay, such as water and electrical hookups, picnic tables, and BBQ grills.

The flush toilets are also nearby. Camping costs only \$32 per night to get started. The Estrella Mountain Regional Park is situated in the Southwest Valley, roughly 35 minutes from central Phoenix.

### **6. Lost Dutchman State Park**

Among Arizona's most well-liked camping locations is [Lost Dutchman State Park](#). The Lost Dutchman's Gold Mine, a well-known Western legend, inspired the park's name. In addition, the Superstition Mountains, one of Greater Phoenix's most well-

liked locations for pictures and walks, are located in the 320-acre park.

The Lost Dutchman State Park has 138 campsites in total, each of which has a picnic table and a fire pit. Go over to one of the surrounding lakes if you want to cool down while staying at this park. Camping at Lost Dutchman State Park is the best option if you intend to trek to the Flat Iron Summit via Siphon Draw.

You can expect to pay \$35 each night you camp with a \$5 reservation fee. Each additional vehicle is an extra \$15 per night. Your first vehicle is free.

### **7. S.B. Cove Shoreline at Bartlett Lake**

Want a camping trip that feels more like being on the beach? You should visit [S.B. Cove Shoreline](#). This campground, which is close to Carefree and Scottsdale and is situated on the banks of Bartlett Lake, is ideal for people seeking a party-friendly setting.

Be ready to have fun because this campground has no reserved sites or quiet times. What do visitors like most? To get one of the finest locations, all someone requires is a Tonto National Forest Day Pass. It just takes 75 minutes to get there from Phoenix for fees of \$8 per car daily.

### **8. White Tank Mountain Regional Park**

If you want some quiet time, [White Tank Mountain Regional Park](#) is a nice spot to go. You may go horseback riding, motorcycling, or mountaineering in the White Tank Mountains. There are

some fantastic petroglyph sites as well.

The park offers 40 separate campsites with water, power hookups, and a dump station for campers. Petroglyph sites and fantastic hiking and bike trails, such as the Waterfall Trail, may be found in the mountains.

The distance between the city and White Tank Mountain Regional Park is only about 40 miles. This spot is a fantastic area to camp, hike, and cycle for those looking for a little getaway near Phoenix!

### 9. Coon Bluff Campground

[Coon Bluff Campground](#) is the best campground to choose if you want to camp nearby Phoenix. The Salt River is conveniently accessible from this campground, which is 17 miles from Mesa.

The location has five campsites, each with a barbecue, a fire pit, and picnic tables. Phoenix's downtown is 40 minutes away from Coon Bluff Campsite. It is accessible from October 1st through May 1st and costs just \$8 a day for each car.

So gather your camping supplies and come to Coon Bluff Campground for a fun-filled weekend!

### 10. Burnt Corral Campground in Apache Lake

A fantastic location for stunning vistas and water activities is [Burnt Corral Camping](#). The Apache Trail National Forest Scenic Byway offers beautiful panoramas of the lake below, and there are several options for sailing and fishing.

In addition to a courtesy dock for boats, the campsites are well-appointed with picnic tables, restrooms, and a water hydrant. The costs, which are about \$20 per night, are pretty reasonable. This campground is an excellent choice for a fast break because it is only approximately two hours from downtown Phoenix.

### 11. Mogollon Campground

If you want to camp somewhere with stunning views, check out [Mogollon Campground](#). The Mogollon Rim, which provides breathtaking panoramas of the valley and the biggest Ponderosa pine forest in the world, borders the campground.

You may go kayaking or fishing a few miles from the campground at Woods Canyon Lake. Mogollon Campground charges \$18 per night for camping. From May through October, the campground is accessible, so make sure to schedule your trip properly! Two hours separate downtown Phoenix from that location.

## Maricopa County warns about debris in Lake Pleasant

Sticks, branches and other debris have covered parts of [Lake Pleasant](#) and boaters need to be aware.

By [Michael Raimondi](#)

Published: Mar. 30, 2023 at 8:16 PM MST

PEORIA, AZ (3TV/CBS 5) — Big branches, sticks and muck are filling the water in Lake Pleasant. Maricopa County Parks and Recreation say all the recent rain and snowmelt have sent debris down the Agua Fria

River right into the water. "Over the next couple of weeks, we anticipate the amount of debris entering the lake from the Agua Fria River will continue to increase as the snow melts. Lake staff are marking impacted areas as quickly as possible; however, park visitors must also be diligent as they are recreating at the lake," Maricopa County Parks and Recreation director R.J. Cardin said.

Maricopa County Sheriff's deputy Bryce Allmon patrols Lake Pleasant. He says he has never seen so much debris in the water floating around. "You'll get debris every once in a while with stuff coming down the river, but not to this degree," Deputy Allmon said. "For people coming out it's definitely something they need to be aware of."

There are two ways to get in and out of Paulden and both roads are flooded.

Allmon says things you see on the surface are usually larger than they appear. You may see an inch or two of debris, but it sinks lower beneath the surface. The debris can be dangerous for people on the water. Hitting a branch or sticks can damage engines and toss people around on the boat, and potentially overboard. "Things like that can hit your prop. It's not a good idea to run it over."

So far, MCSO says there have been no incidents involving debris. Allmon says the lake gets busier once Easter arrives. [The county parks and recreation department expects more debris](#) to flow into the lake over the next week or two.

## Snowmelt and flooding impacting Maricopa County's Regional Park system

By [Jill Ryan](#), KJZZ

Updated: Thursday, March 30, 2023 - 3:12pm

Arizona is seeing floods across the state as major rainfall coupled with snowmelt prompted controlled dam releases.

But all that water is bringing debris to **Maricopa County's Regional Park system**.

Large and broken branches, along with muddy water, are entering in mostly the northern part of Lake Pleasant from the Agua Fria River.

Dawna Taylor with the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department says people who are recreating on the water should take precautions and wear life jackets.

"Most of the stuff that is coming down is natural so we're going to let Mother Nature take its course. It's either going to sink to the bottom of the lake or it'll float to the shoreline. However, if there are some logs, really large logs out there, we will go out and have our team pull them to the shoreline. And if it's not an organic material we'll bring in that as well," Taylor said.

Taylor says the debris is expected to continue as long as the snow is melting.

## Arizona waterfalls will be thundering this

## spring. Here's where to see 8 of the best

Roger Naylor

Special for The Arizona Republic  
March 29, 2023



March has been a rough month for waterfall lovers in Arizona.

First, the Navajo Nation announced that chocolate-colored [Grand Falls would be closed indefinitely](#) to visitors due to the mounds of trash left behind and off-road damage caused by careless tourists. Then over St. Patrick's Day weekend, [visitors to iconic Havasupai Falls in Grand Canyon had to be rescued](#) after a late winter flood, with many carried out by helicopter. The flooding came just weeks after the [Havasupai Tribe had reopened access to the canyon](#) known for its majestic blue-green waterfalls for the first time since March 2020.

Fortunately, Arizona boasts a surprising array of beautiful torrents, big and small. With heavy winter rains and abundant snowmelt, waterfalls will be flowing in the coming weeks. Here are some of the best in Arizona. Just remember to treat these special places with respect. Carry no glass containers and pack out all your trash. And doublecheck that roads to your destination are in fact open if there's been inclement weather.

## Tucson: Tanque Verde Falls

A creek cuts a narrow canyon through the Rincon Mountains and that makes for one of the most popular adventures in Tucson — an outing to two impressive waterfalls. The smaller is about 25 feet tall, while the other makes an 80-foot plunge into big pools.



Start with a steep half-mile descent into the canyon bottom. From there, pick a route through the streambed for another mile, rock hopping and scrambling over boulders. It's a perilous trail and more than 30 people have died from drowning or falls. So this is not one to take lightly.

Even if you don't make it all the way to the main waterfall, you'll enjoy a series of smaller cascades, streams and pools along the way.

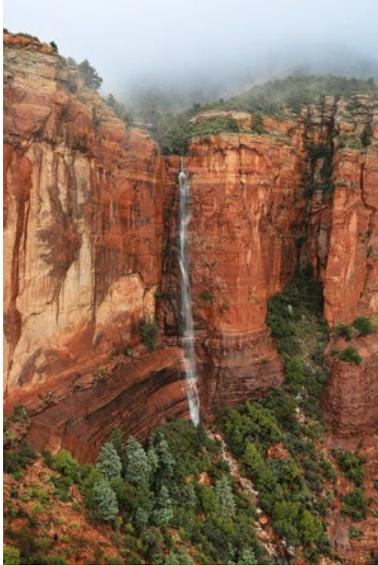
Details: Drive east on Tanque Verde Road until it becomes Redington Road. Soon after the pavement ends, look for the signed parking area on the left. Free. 520-749-8700, [www.fs.usda.gov/coronado](http://www.fs.usda.gov/coronado).

Best Tucson hikes: [Where to see waterfalls, mountains and a rare crested saguaro cactus](#)

## Sedona: Angel Falls

The tall red mesas and buttes of Sedona seem designed with waterfalls in mind. Angel Falls is

a 300-foot seasonal cascade that plunges from the high ramparts of Wilson Mountain.



Set out on the Brins Mesa Trail from Jordan Road. Level for the first mile, the trail climbs steeply to the mesa rim. Once at the top, an unmarked trail bears right to a red rock overlook, and then continues on through the chaparral for another half-mile or so for a view of the falls.

Details: From uptown Sedona, drive west on Jordan Road. Follow it about a mile to the trailhead. A [Red Rock Pass \(\\$5 per day\)](#) is required.

**Sierra Vista: Carr Canyon Waterfall**

Following heavy rains, a frothy 200-foot waterfall pours down the exposed rock cliffs of Carr Reef in the Huachuca Mountains. You'll want a high-clearance vehicle and a careful driver.

The towering cascade is best viewed from narrow, winding Carr Canyon Road. After 1.4 miles the pavement ends as the

road enters Coronado National Forest and begins a steep climb hugging the mountainside.

Narrowing to one lane amid a series of sharp switchbacks, the road has pullouts to keep traffic flowing. A pullout at about 4.5 miles provides an overlook of the falls. But stay well back from the wet boulders. Over the years, several people have fallen to their deaths here.

Carr Canyon Road continues for another 3 miles, passing two campgrounds and the ghost town of Reef before ending amid the ponderosa pines.

Details: From Sierra Vista, travel south on State Route 92 for 6 miles to Carr Canyon Road. Turn west and drive 7.5 miles up the mountain. Most of the road is unpaved and rocky. A high-clearance vehicle is required. Free. <https://www.fs.usda.gov>.

**Tucson: Seven Falls**

Located in popular Sabino Canyon Recreation Area, Seven Falls isn't exactly a secret but anytime you can find a multitiered waterfall in the desert, make the journey.



Follow Bear Canyon Trail that winds along a stream for much of the hike, frequently splashing across it. Where the trail forks, take the left branch to the base of the cliff. The waterfall drops in a series of terraced cascades, creating pools at every level.

Details: Sabino Canyon Recreation Area, 5700 N. Sabino Canyon Road, Tucson. \$8 per vehicle. 520-749-8700, <https://www.fs.usda.gov>.

**Williams: Sycamore Falls**

Tucked away in the ponderosa pine forest south of Williams, Sycamore Falls is worth a visit even when water isn't flowing.



You can access the falls via the Sycamore Rim Trail. Mostly level, the trail makes a languid 11-mile loop through sunlit meadows and fragrant woodlands that break apart long enough to offer enticing panoramas into high-walled Sycamore Canyon.

Five trailheads provide starting points, including one that's just a short stroll from the falls, a cleft hewed from steep cliffs. Water pours over in a 70-foot drop after snowmelt or monsoon storms. When dry, it's a popular rock climbing spot.

Details: From Williams, travel east on Interstate 40 to Exit 178 and turn south on Garland Prairie Road. Drive 9 miles and turn right on Thomas Loop Road. Follow it to Forest Road 109, turn left and go 3.3 miles to Sycamore Falls Trailhead (a half-mile past Pomeroy Tanks trailhead). Free. 928-635-8200, [www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab](http://www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab).

**Waddell: Waterfall Trail**

With fortunate timing, you can enjoy a friendly neighborhood cascade lurking at the far western edge of the Valley of the Sun.



The Waterfall Trail in **White Tank Mountain Regional Park** leads to an ethereal falls, splashing down canyon walls in wet years or after a rain. The milelong trail leads through open desert toward looming hills. It's paved and barrier-free for 0.4 mile, including a stop at Petroglyph Plaza, where symbols are etched into prominent boulders.

The trail steepens a bit as it parallels a dry wash. You'll get a nice hit of coolness approaching the cliffs at the head of the canyon and spot pools of water below. Squeeze through a few cluttered boulders for a peek at the shy falls, or at least the water streaks that mark its path when it exists.

Details: 20304 W. White Tank Mountain Road, Waddell. \$7 per vehicle. 602-506-2930, ext. 5, <https://www.maricopacounty.parks.net>.

**Fort Apache Indian Reservation near Globe: Cibecue Falls**

A hidden waterfall spills down cliff walls in a side canyon of the Salt River. Everything about getting there is an adventure.



It starts with a drive down a narrow bouncy dirt road to reach the trailhead. From there it's a 2-mile canyoneering-style trek up a trail that starts along the banks of Cibecue Creek but is quickly submerged as it crisscrosses the stream. Expect to get wet. As you get closer to the falls, the canyon narrows. The dramatic 80-foot waterfall spills in a straight drop into a wide pool.

Cibecue Falls is on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, home of the White Mountain Apaches, and a tribal permit is required. The cost is \$30 per person and permits must be purchased in advance. Get more information at <https://wmatoutdoor.org>.

Details: From Globe, drive north on U.S. 60 for about 40 miles until it enters the Salt River Canyon. Just after it crosses the river, turn left onto a dirt road. Bear right when the road forks

and drive 4 miles to the trailhead. \$30 per person. 928-338-4385, [www.wmatoutdoor.org](http://www.wmatoutdoor.org).

**Prescott: Wolf Creek Falls**

Snowmelt in the Bradshaw Mountains should keep Prescott's tallest waterfall flowing this spring.

As Wolf Creek rushes to join the Hassayampa River, it pours down granite cliffs in a 90-foot drop. The Wolf Creek Loop Trail #384 is a 5.5-mile wooded trek that crosses forest roads amid the tangle of trails in the Groom Creek area. Be sure to carry a map or trail app to keep you on the right track to the falls.

Details: From Prescott, travel south on Mount Vernon Avenue, which becomes Senator Highway, for 6 miles to Groom Creek. Continue past Groom Creek to just beyond where the pavement ends. Turn right on the dirt County Road 101 to Wolf Creek Campground. The Wolf Creek Loop Trail crosses CR 101 within 0.4 mile. There is parking on Forest Road 707, on the north side of the main dirt road. Free. 928-443-8000, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/prescott>.

**Meet Roger Naylor**

Arizona Republic contributor and author Roger Naylor is traveling the state to discuss his new book "[Awesome Arizona: 200 Amazing Facts about the Grand Canyon State](#)." Here are two events where you can see his slide presentation and learn cool facts about Arizona.

Saturday, April 8, in Cottonwood: Noon at Cottonwood Library, 100 Sixth St. Free. 928-634-7559.

Tuesday, April 11, in Phoenix: 6 p.m. at Changing Hands Bookstore, 300 W. Camelback Road. Free. 602-274-0067.

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By [Michael Raimondi](#)

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So far, MCSO says there have been no incidents involving debris. Allmon says the lake gets busier once Easter arrives. [The county parks and recreation department expects more debris](#) to flow into the lake over the next week or two.

## Top places to camp in the US & Canada

[Ophelia Oliveira](#), Yelp  
March 27, 2023

How does a night of smores with stars twinkling overhead sound? Heavenly? Read on! With prime camping season on the horizon, we’ve compiled this list of amazing campgrounds in the US and Canada for your outdoor adventure planning pleasure. Whether you tent camp, have an RV, or are looking for a ready made camping experience—there’s a little something for everyone on this list. A word to the wise, though, a lot of these spots fill up months in advance, so be sure to make reservations for this year and beyond—nature awaits.

### Top places to camp in the US

Methodology: This is an all-time list of the Top Campgrounds in the United States according to Yelp. We identified businesses in the campgrounds category on Yelp, then ranked those spots using a number of factors, including the total volume and ratings of reviews. We included only 3 businesses per state for geographic diversity. This list looked at businesses in the United States. Campgrounds are often subject to seasonal operation and current weather conditions. Before your visit, we recommend directly checking a campground’s latest hours of operation and availability.

1. [Grand Teton National Park](#) (Moose, WY)
2. [Valley of Fire State Park](#) (Overton, NV)
3. [Grand Canyon National Park](#) (Grand Canyon, AZ)
4. [Haleakala National Park](#) (Makawao, HI)
5. [Cloudland Canyon State Park](#) (Fawn, GA)
6. [Mendocino Grove](#) (Mendocino, CA)
7. [McArthur Burney Falls State Park](#) (Burney, CA)
8. [Capitol Reef National Park](#) (Fruita, UT)
9. [SkyPark Camp + RV Resort](#) (Skyforest, CA)
10. [Malouf’s Mountain Sunset Campground](#) (Beacon, NY)
11. [Low Key Hideaway](#) (Cedar Key, FL)
12. [Pisgah National Forest](#) (Pisgah Forest, NC)
13. [Big Pine Campground](#) (Custer, SD)
14. [White Tank Mountain Regional Park](#) (Waddell, AZ)

15. [Tombstone RV Park and Campground](#) (Tombstone, AZ)
16. [Fort Clinch State Park](#) (Fernandina Beach, FL)
17. [Turkey Run State Park](#) (Marshall, IN)
18. [Rock Island State Park](#) (Rock Island, TN)
19. [Palo Duro Canyon State Park](#) (Canyon, TX)
20. [7th Ranch RV Camp](#) (Garryowen, MT)



Photo of White Tank Mountain Regional Park by [Amber D](#)

## Dark Sky Festival Saturday

Mar 23, 2023  
The Fountain Hills Times



The Fountain Hills Dark Sky Festival, scheduled for Saturday, March 25, is a signature event and celebration of the town's

certification as a Dark Sky Community, a recognition achieved by only 17 communities worldwide.

Held at the Community Center and Centennial Circle beginning at 4 p.m., featured events include keynote speakers, night sky exhibits, a student art contest and activities for the whole family.

### Speaker Lineup

The Fountain Hills Dark Sky Association has invited Paul Bogard to speak at this year's event. Bogard is a writer, professor and author of "The End of Night," a tribute to darkness and the night. Bogard will speak at 5 p.m. in the Community Center.

Joe Bill, co-founder and president of the International Dark Sky Discovery Center, will answer, "How are NASA, the Smithsonian and Fountain Hills Connected?" Bill is scheduled to speak at 6 p.m. in the Community Center.

At 6:30 p.m., Dr. Rhonda Stroud, a materials physicist and planetary scientist at Arizona State University, will speak with a presentation on "Asteroid Goo, Moon Water, and Stardust: A Laboratory Tour of the Solar System."

The Fountain Hills Library will be open for the festival, where attendees can discover inspiring books about the night sky, learn about the library's telescope lending program and find out how to use the library's Citizen Science sky quality survey kit. At 4:30 p.m. in the library, Bogard will host a Story Time when he reads his children's

book, "What If Night?" followed by a fun activity for the kids.

The River of Time Museum & Exploration Center will invite visitors to stop in and check out the Dr. Charles Juels telescope, which Juels used to discover hundreds of asteroids from his backyard in Fountain Hills. The Fountain Hills High School is sponsoring the Virtual Reality Experience, with students leading the entire setup, operation and teardown for the event.

Using VR headsets, visitors can take a 3D tour of the Solar System and see the cosmos as they've never seen it before.

The international meteorite company, Aerolite Meteorites, will join in on the fun this year with an exhibit filled with meteorites from around the world. They will have meteorites for purchase in case attendees want to bring something home.

### Live Animals

Get up close to live nocturnal animals and cool desert critters at one of five booths. This year, attendees will be joined by Wild at Heart, Southwest Wildlife, McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, the Center for Native and Urban Wildlife, and **McDowell Mountain Regional Park**. Learn about how light pollution impacts their ability to hunt, sleep, mate, navigate and more.

### Star Party

After dark, telescopes will be set up for night sky viewing as the culmination of the entire Dark Sky Festival. Take a peek through one of a dozen telescopes to get an up-close

view of planets, star clusters, the moon, nebulae and more.

Dr. Jeffrey Hall, director of Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, will offer two laser-guided tours of the night sky. He'll help identify a variety of beautiful celestial objects and constellations with the naked eye.

Vicky Derksen, president of the Fountain Hills Dark Sky Association and host of the Night Sky Tourist podcast, will give one laser-guided star tour that will focus on cultural astronomy and ancient star stories.

Dinner and a view  
A beer and wine garden, along with food trucks, will provide refreshments including a few options for sweet treats with Fountain Hills Water & Ice and the Swette Ice Cream Truck.

Alcohol will be available all evening in the beer and wine garden, which will include local establishments, Bone Haus Brewing and Grapeables Wine Bar.

Musicians Scott Hallock and Suzi Kiraly will take attendees through a playlist of songs from different genres and eras, digging up some great night sky-themed tunes along the way.

The Fountain Hills Dark Sky Association's mission is to inspire residents to take pride in the Town's rare distinction as an International Dark Sky Community and to protect and preserve the night sky for the benefit of all living things.

This event is free to the general public. Parking is also free. For more information, visit [fhdarksky.com](http://fhdarksky.com).

## Inflatable, on-water obstacle course reopens at Scorpion Bay

Paqua Park at Scorpion Bay Marina reopens March 25. Posted Tuesday, March 21, 2023 11:55 am  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA



Paqua Park at Scorpion Bay Marina reopens March 25 for the 2023 season.

The 5,000 square-foot inflatable, on-water obstacle course at **Lake Pleasant** in Peoria, provides hours of fun for ages seven and up.

Paqua Park sessions are 45 minutes and will be available on the weekends to individuals at least 7 years old and 45" tall. Life jackets are required for all participants and are provided with booking.

Scorpion Bay Marina is located within the Lake Pleasant Regional Park which requires a \$7 per car admission to enter the park. Aqua socks or water

shoes with a soft rubber sole are permitted on the course; however, river shoes, tevas, crocs, sneakers or any other hard bottomed shoes are NOT permitted.

Paqua Park is also now hiring individuals 15 and older as lifeguards for the spring and summer season. Training will be provided to those selected. Please email interest to [info@paquapark.com](mailto:info@paquapark.com).

## The Best Small Towns To Retire In Arizona

World Atlas  
March 21, 2023

The wonderful state of [Arizona](#), which has a diverse topography, is home to a number of natural wonders like deserts, mountains, and small towns that are perfect for retirees looking for a memorable retirement experience. These quaint communities provide seniors the chance to spend their golden years in peace due to their scenic beauty, outdoor activities, and laid-back lifestyle. Arizona is a great place to retire, so if you're thinking about it, you've made the right choice. In this post, we'll list the top seven tiny towns there that have distinctive geographic features that make them stand out from the crowd.

Each town has its own beauty, whether it is the magnificent lakes and rivers, soaring peaks, or state parks. We will also offer strong arguments for why each community is a great place to retire. So relax, enjoy a cup of coffee, and get lost in this fascinating article as we explore

the seven greatest little towns in Arizona for retirees.

**Prescott**

Prescott, situated in the northern part of Arizona, is an alluring town that captivates visitors with its scenic beauty and historic charm. This mesmerizing town is home to various exceptional features, but none can rival the breathtaking Watson Lake, one of its most noteworthy natural wonders. Watson Lake's enchanting aura emanates from its exquisite granite boulders that encircle the serene lake. The town's bewitching beauty is further amplified by the awe-inspiring Granite Dells, which surround Watson Lake. Kayaking, fishing, and hiking are among the many recreational activities that this picturesque lake offers. Additionally, the Prescott National Forest enveloping the town provides ample opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts to revel in miles of biking and hiking trails.

Prescott's allure extends beyond its natural beauty. It is an ideal place to retire due to its affordable cost of living, excellent healthcare facilities, and vibrant cultural scene. Its residents relish in a rich cultural tapestry that enlivens the town with a distinct charm. The town's quaint downtown brims with history and character, offering visitors an immersive glimpse into Prescott's past. Prescott is a town that exudes beauty, charm, and history. It is an idyllic place to retire, to indulge in the beauty of nature, and to experience the richness of a vibrant cultural scene.

**Sedona**, a small town located in Red Rock Country, is well known for its stunning red rock formations, lovely canyons, and thriving arts scene. For every way. The Oak Creek Canyon, a magnificent canyon with breathtaking waterfalls and sparkling, clear pools, is another jewel in Sedona. Sedona's distinctive geological formations and breathtaking views provide a veritable feast for the senses. Visitors from all over the world are drawn to the town by its breathtaking natural beauty and bizarre and awe-inspiring scenery.

Moreover, Sedona's vibrant arts scene hosts a wide variety of cultural events and festivals that highlight the city's extensive artistic history. For those looking for a tranquil and fulfilling retirement, this village is a gem. The town is a top retirement destination because of its stunning natural surroundings, exceptional healthcare options, and active arts community.

Sedona is an oasis of peace, cultural diversity, and natural beauty that offers unrivaled retirement opportunities. The town's striking red rock formations, crystal-clear pools, and thriving arts sector are proof of its distinctive and enduring beauty. Sedona is a genuine natural masterpiece that calls to everyone looking for tranquility, beauty, and adventure.

**Bisbee**

Bisbee, an idyllic town situated in southeastern Arizona, boasts a fascinating past characterized by its historic downtown, eccentric arts scene, and mining

industry. Among its many geographical wonders, the Lavender Pit, a colossal open-pit copper mine, stands out as a major tourist attraction. Meanwhile, the surrounding Mule Mountains offer vast expanses of hiking and biking trails that are perfect for nature enthusiasts. What sets Bisbee apart from other towns is its affordability, vibrant arts community, and rich mining heritage. Given its unique features and charming ambiance, Bisbee is an ideal place for retirement.

This tranquil town is a treasure trove of history and natural beauty that any discerning retiree would find alluring. Bisbee's low cost of living, coupled with its robust arts scene and rich mining heritage, make it an excellent place for those seeking a fulfilling retirement experience. Whether you're interested in exploring the Lavender Pit or immersing yourself in the arts community, Bisbee has something for everyone. Its scenic location and rich history make it a true gem of the southwest that is not to be missed.

**Payson**

Nestled in the heart of Arizona lies the small town of Payson, renowned for its breathtaking scenery, outdoor pursuits, and laid-back lifestyle. The town boasts an array of outstanding features, with the Mogollon Rim standing out as a particularly remarkable geographical marvel. It is an awe-inspiring landmark that has captivated the hearts of many visitors. This enormous cliff spans the town, providing unrivaled panoramic views of the surrounding

landscape and serving as a popular hotspot for adventurous hikers and campers.

Furthermore, the Tonto National Forest surrounds the town, offering an endless expanse of hiking and biking trails for explorers to traverse. This particular town is located within the center of the state of Arizona. It's not just any ordinary place. With its unique features, Payson is a standout destination for those who appreciate the beauty of nature and value an active lifestyle. Payson's affordable cost of living, magnificent natural environment, and outstanding healthcare facilities make it an ideal retirement destination.

#### **Tubac**

Nestled in the arid, sun-baked terrain of southern Arizona is the modest town of Tubac. Renowned for its sophisticated art galleries, chic boutiques, and striking adobe edifices, this charming hamlet is a place of remarkable diversity. Indeed, one of the town's most remarkable geographical attributes is the serpentine Santa Cruz River, which meanders languidly through the community's heart. The river provides a tranquil and idyllic backdrop for a plethora of outdoor activities, including hiking, kayaking, and bird watching. The location of Tubac is also fortuitous, as it is in close proximity to the Tumacácori National Historical Park. This site offers a tantalizing glimpse into the rich, complex history of the state of Arizona. Due to its low cost of living, flourishing arts community, and breathtaking natural surroundings, Tubac is an exceptional choice for those

seeking an ideal retirement destination.

#### **Jerome**

The gorgeous landscapes, art galleries, and historic downtown area of the town of Jerome which locates in the center of Arizona are well-known. Mingus Mountain is one of its imposing physical features. It towers above the town and offers tourists endless miles of picturesque hiking and biking trails. Also, the town is conveniently close to the Verde River, a well-liked spot for outdoor enthusiasts partaking in pursuits like fishing, kayaking, and hiking.

**Jerome** is a great place to retire because of its affordable cost of living, vibrant arts community, and breathtaking natural beauty. The town has established itself as a hub for culture and scenic beauty by skillfully fusing the elements of history, art, and nature. This unusual combination has resulted in the development of a vibrant neighborhood that unquestionably improves the lives of its residents. A trip to this delightful town will definitely make a lasting impact thanks to Jerome's appealing and captivating traits. Its continued attractiveness as a captivating destination is evidence of its uniqueness and ensures that anyone who visits, lives, or retires will have an outstanding experience.

#### **Cave Creek**

The lovely and attractive town of Cave Creek is located in the northeastern region of Arizona and is renowned for its distinctive Western-style architecture, vibrant art

galleries, and an abundance of exhilarating outdoor activities. The surrounding Tonto National Forest, which provides a variety of chances for nature lovers to participate in large hiking and bike routes, fishing, and camping, is a special and distinctive natural feature of this community.

The **Cave Creek Regional Park**, which is near to the town, provides tourists with a stunning and inspiring view of the surroundings. Retirement travelers love Cave Creek's tranquil atmosphere, low cost of living, and breathtaking natural surroundings. It is the ultimate example of how a small town can offer its residents a high quality of life while providing a much-needed break from the busy metropolitan life. The ideal fusion of modernism and nature can be found in Cave Creek, which provides visitors with an experience like no other.

Arizona is a state that offers a plethora of small towns for retirees to enjoy a serene lifestyle, bask in the beauty of nature, and immerse themselves in a vibrant cultural milieu. Among the top seven small towns to retire in Arizona, Prescott, Sedona, Bisbee, Payson, Tubac, Jerome, and Cave Creek, each possesses unique geographical features that set them apart. With striking mountain ranges, sprawling state parks, and idyllic rivers and lakes, each town offers retirees an array of outdoor activities and breathtaking scenery to relish. Whether one desires to be part of a lively art community or prefer a more laid-back lifestyle, Arizona's small towns cater to

all preferences. So why not retire in one of these splendid towns and experience everything that Arizona has to offer?

## Chat with ranger March 23 at Usery Mountain Regional Park in Mesa

Posted Monday, March 20,  
2023 11:11 am  
RICHARD H. DYER, Mesa  
Independent



An informal drop-in session to chat with Ranger Steve about the geological, cultural and biological history of the Sonoran Desert will be held 2-4 p.m. Thursday, March 23, at the Nature Center at **Usery Mountain Regional Park**, 3939 N. Usery Pass Road in Mesa.

An interactive display will be available for visitors to get “hands on” with a variety of unique items found at Maricopa County parks such as cacti, rocks and Native American artifacts, according to a release.

Vehicle entry at the park costs \$7. Usery Mountain Regional Park is open 5 a.m.-9 p.m. May 1-Oct. 31 and 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Nov. 1-April 30. Go to [maricopacountyparks.net/park-locator/usery-mountain-regional-park](http://maricopacountyparks.net/park-locator/usery-mountain-regional-park).

The 3,648-acre park became part of Maricopa County’s regional park system in 1961. It is at the western end of the Goldfield Mountains, adjacent to Tonto National Forest. The park contains a large variety of plants and animals that call the lower Sonoran Desert home. Along the most popular feature of the park – the Wind Cave Trail – water seeps from the roof of the alcove to support hanging gardens of Rock Daisy. The Wind Cave is formed at the boundary between the volcanic tuff and granite on Pass Mountain. Breathtaking views from this 2,840-foot elevation are offered to all visitors.

## Amos wins multidisciplinary Cactus Cup

Amos wins two races, overall title; Holcomb wins short track and enduro

By [Cody Olivas Herald Sports Editor](#)

Saturday, Mar 18, 2023 11:45 AM Updated Saturday, Mar. 18, 2023 11:46 AM



Riley Amos winner of the 2021 Iron Horse Bicycle Classic men’s pro road race May 2021 in Silverton.

Cyclists from Durango headed to Arizona to race in the Cactus Cup recently at **the McDowell Mountain Regional Park**. The cup featured a short-track cross-country race, a cross-country Olympic race and an enduro all combined together to determine an overall champion.

After the three days of racing, Durangoan Riley Amos scored two golds and silver to get to stand on top of the men’s pro podium with a combined total time of 2 hours, 54 minutes and 0 seconds. Amos won the pro men’s short-track race in 20:55, the cross-country race in 2:22:50 and took second, by 10 seconds, in the enduro in 10:15.

Another Durango cyclist, Cobe Freeburn, gave Amos the most competition and finished on the podium in second. Freeburn was steady throughout the event, placing sixth in the short track (+:21), second in cross country (+1:08) and 13th in the enduro (+:52).

Ruth Holcomb, meanwhile, led the Durango women’s contingent with a fourth-place overall finish in the women’s pro field. Holcomb won two of the event’s races and finished sixth in the other to place for a combined time of 3:22:50.

Holcomb started the Cup by winning the short track race in 20:15.

In the pro cross-country race, Holcomb finished in sixth place in 2:51:26, crossing 4:11 after the winner, Katerina Nash. Holcomb then came back and won the pro enduro with at time of 11:09 to secure fourth overall.

A handful of other Durango cyclists also scored top-15 finishes in the women's pro division. Bailey Cioppa finished sixth overall (3:24:44) after finishing fifth, fifth and seventh in the individual races. Ellen Campbell finished 10th overall in 3:29:49, Lauren Aggeler placed 12th (3:31:30), Michaela Thompson finished 14th (3:34:25) and Madelyn Roberson placed 15th (3:44:09)

Alexis Skarda of Grand Junction won the overall pro women's title in 3:19:18, placing third, second and third in the individual races.

Several other Durangoans also competed in the pro men's field. Carson Beard placed seventh or better in all three disciplines to finish seventh overall (2:57:05). Howard Gotts placed third in the short track, three seconds after Amos, on his way to 10th overall (2:58:02). Dane Gret finished 13th (3:00:44), Todd Wells placed 16th (3:06:01), Ivan Sippy placed 17th (3:06:44), Keiran Eagen placed 34th (3:24:22) and Garret Payer finished 35th (3:25:45).

## Two men found dead after inflatable kayak capsizes at Lake Pleasant

Watch the latest ABC15 Arizona in Phoenix headlines any time.

By: [Hector Gonzales](#)

Posted at 12:59 PM, Mar 07, 2023 and last updated 4:42 AM, Mar 08, 2023



Two men have died after drowning at Lake Pleasant on Sunday.

Around 7:45 p.m., the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office received 911 calls from witnesses who reported hearing distressed swimmers in the water near the Roadrunner Campsite.

The callers could not see the swimmers but heard yelling and calls for help, officials said.

MCSO and crews with Peoria Fire Department responded to the call and found an inflatable capsized kayak with nobody in it.

Crews began searching the waters and shoreline and found two different shoes floating in the water. Deputies utilized air, water, and land resources but did not find the men.

The next day crews continued an extensive search of the water.

On Monday night, the body of one of the men was located 55 feet underwater. He was identified by MCSO as 28-year-old Christopher Govoni.

A short time later, the body of the second kayaker was located 100 feet from Govoni. He was identified by MCSO as 24-year-old Rogelio Ortiz.

Officials say neither kayaker was wearing a life vest.

Detectives inspected the 10-foot inflatable kayak and found no damage. It's unknown what caused the two men to go underwater. Investigators believe they tried swimming to shore after they capsized and were about 600 feet away from the shore when they drowned.

An investigation remains underway.

## 2 men drown after kayak capsizes at Lake Pleasant

[Kye Graves](#)

Arizona Republic

March 9, 2023



Detectives at **Lake Pleasant** were investigating after two men drowned Sunday night when their inflatable kayak capsized.

At about 7:45 p.m. on Sunday, crews with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and Peoria Fire Department responded to the area of the Roadrunner Campsite at Lake Pleasant after witnesses reported hearing distressed swimmers in the water.

Upon arrival, emergency crews found a capsized inflatable kayak but no occupants. After expanding the search area and deploying air, water and land resources, deputies only found

two different shoes floating in the water.

According to a news release, the search was suspended until Monday morning as the lake patrol tried to gather more information.

When the search resumed, detectives interviewed additional witnesses and learned that there were potentially two people that may have drowned.

Based on the witness statement as well as physical evidence, deputies then narrowed the search area and another extensive search was performed utilizing a robotic vehicle.



Monday night, the body of 28-year-old Christopher Govoni was found about 55 feet underwater. Shortly after, the body of 24-year-old Rogelio Ortiz was found nearly 100 feet away from Govoni, also 55 feet underwater. Sheriff's Office officials said that neither Govoni nor Ortiz was wearing a life vest, and no life vests were found in any of the search areas.

Upon inspecting the kayak, detectives found no damage and are unsure why it capsized. Detectives believe both men tried to swim ashore after they capsized and were around 600

feet from the shore when they went under, according to the statement.

The investigation remained open and ongoing.

Maricopa County Parks and Recreations advise swimmers and lakegoers follow these [safety tips](#):

- Always swim with a partner. Swimming alone can be unsafe.
- Never leave young children unattended near water, and do not ask another child to supervise your children near water.
- Avoid distractions when supervising children near water.
- If a child goes missing, always check the water first.
- Non-swimmers and inexperienced swimmers should always wear a life jacket or personal flotation device.
- Protect your skin. While you're busy cooling off and having fun in the water, your skin is also soaking in the sun. Apply and reapply sunscreen frequently.
- Wear a hat and sunglasses to keep the sun off of your face and out of your eyes.
- Drink plenty of water regularly, even if you're not thirsty, to avoid dehydration. Just because you're floating in a cove of water does not mean your skin is absorbing enough to maintain your body's water levels. Avoid drinks with caffeine and alcohol in them.

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## 2 men apparently drown after inflatable

## kayak capsizes in Lake Pleasant

Mar 7, 2023, 3:00 PM  
BY [KTAR.COM](#)

PHOENIX — Two men apparently drowned over the weekend after falling out of an inflatable kayak at Lake Pleasant, authorities said Tuesday.

Detectives believe Christopher Govoni, 28, and Rogelio Ortiz, 24, tried swimming to land Sunday night after their 10-foot kayak capsized about 600 feet from shore, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office said in a press release.

Neither man was wearing a life vest, MCSO said.

Witnesses called 911 around 7:45 p.m. after hearing calls for help coming from the water near the Roadrunner Campground. The campground is located at the southern end of **Lake Pleasant** in Peoria, about 45 miles northwest of downtown Phoenix.

Sheriff's deputies and Peoria Fire Department responders found the capsized kayak, which wasn't damaged, as well as two shoes floating in the water during their initial search of the area.

The search resumed Monday morning and included the use of an ROV (remote operated vehicle).

That night, Govoni's body was located 55 feet underwater near Roadrunner Island. Searchers then found Ortiz at the same depth about 100 feet away.

The investigation is ongoing.

## Few People Know About The Hidden Treasure Supposedly Buried In Arizona's Sierra Estrella Mountains

Posted in [Arizona History](#), [State Pride](#) March 08, 2023 by [Katie Lawrence](#)

You've probably heard the legend of the [Lost Dutchman Gold Mine](#) in the Superstition Mountains, but there's another story about [buried treasure in Arizona](#) that far fewer people are aware of. This is the tale of Don Joaquin, who allegedly buried as much as 3,000 pounds of gold in the Sierra Estrella Mountains. Learn the facts, then decide for yourself whether or not you believe it.

Please note that mining (and even metal detecting) is strictly prohibited in Arizona's recreational and wilderness areas. This story is meant for entertainment purposes only.

Legend has it that sometime in the mid-1800s, a fellow by the name of Don Joaquin led an underground (literally and figuratively) mining operation in the Sierra Estrella Mountains that proved to be quite lucrative.



By the time it was all said and done, Joaquin and his crew had extracted roughly 3,000 pounds of gold - and nobody knew about it except for them.

Around 1847, however, Joaquin received word that the U.S. Army was planning to take over all of the mines in the area. He knew right away that he had to take drastic action or risk losing his riches forever.



Joaquin supposedly buried the gold in a mine shaft, which he then covered in bat guano to prevent anyone from looking inside.



He made a map to mark the spot, then promptly murdered the crew member who helped him hide the treasure so he would be the only one who knew where it was located. Upon returning to camp, Joaquin was immediately questioned by his remaining crew members about where

their fellow man had gone. He concocted a lie, but they saw right through it, murdering him and keeping the map for themselves.

Over the years, many people have ventured into the mountains in search of Don Joaquin's lost gold - but nobody has been lucky enough to find it.



It's quite possible the entire story was made up by author John D. Mitchell, who wrote about the alleged hidden treasure in a novel. Another theory states that Joaquin's men used the map to locate the treasure and fled to Mexico with it.

The trail on which the mine is supposedly located does contain a shaft (that's now totally filled in, by the way, so don't get your hopes up!) - but that isn't at all uncommon for the area.



There's also an old rock house that can be seen in pictures from as early as the 1930s, as well as a stump that the Spanish used to signify that gold is somewhere nearby.

Watch this YouTube video by [Random Tangents](#) to hear

the story in more detail:

Have you heard the story of Don Joaquin's lost gold? Tell us your thoughts in the comments! Don't forget to check out our previous article for a nearby town that just might be the [quirkiest town in Arizona](#). Address: **Estrella Mountain Regional Park**, 14805 W Vineyard Ave, Goodyear, AZ 85338, USA

## Swenson, Villafane dominate in the desert at Belgian Waffle Ride Arizona

By [Jackie Tyson](#)

published March 06, 2023  
Cycling News

Inaugural multi-surface 'hell of the north desert' begins seven-event schedule for BWR  
[Sofia Gomez Villafane](#) and [Keegan Swenson](#) won the 122-mile 'waffle distance' of the inaugural Belgian Waffle Ride Arizona on March 5, 2023. The field for the women came down to three riders at the front of the race until Villafane hit the gas with 40 miles to go to earn a solo win ahead of Anna Yamauchi and Alexis Skarda. Swenson, who won BWR Utah in 2020, countered a blistering attack by Christopher Blevins in the final two miles to secure his victory.

"It was a good one. It was a pretty epic last 10 miles," Swenson said about the one-on-one battle with Blevins. "We pretty much attacked those last climbs, in the neighborhood, I brought him back, it was a lot of

cat and mouse. An awesome day."

For Villafane, who was second overall at the 2022 Life Time Grand Prix, she crossed the finish line in Cave Creek in 6:55:55, and just seconds before a huge gust of wind knocked down the overhead, inflatable finish arch.

"Holy smokes, it was a crazy day. I had some mechanicals [early], had to get my bike working again. I really wanted to attack, and I went for it with 40 miles to go," Villafane, the Unbound 200 women's champion, said at the finish line.

BWR Arizona, the 'hell of the north desert', is the first of seven events this season and opens the series for the 2023 Quadrupel Crown of Gravel, offering an overall prize purse of \$25,000 shared among the top five Waffle men and women. The Quadrupel Crown will be contested in a points-based omnium format with San Diego in April and Kansas in October being mandatory. Riders competing for the Quadrupel honours and prize purse will be scored based on the total points of their top four (Quad) races.

The opening event covered 122 miles of terrain from the Tonto Forest mountains and washes to single-track in the foothills of the McDowell Mountains, pushing riders' limits with 8,400 feet of elevation gain on a fully-marked course with traffic control and stocked aid stations. Fifty percent of the course was pavement which was used to transition among nine sectors of "unroad" - a mix

of single track, truck trails, gravel, rocks and sand.

Villafane takes solo win  
Once the sun began to radiate in full across the Sonoran desert in the early-morning hours, the women's field quickly spread out on the first paved climb. On the turn from Bartlett Dam Road to the next longer climb, Villafane and Skarda were setting the pace for the elite women as part of a small bunch of 12-15 riders, and once the duo hit the dirt, they had a solid lead of a full minute over third-placed Yamauchi. Once the riders were 34 miles into the ride, the same three leaders held their positions, with Cecily Decker riding in fourth, 11 minutes back, and Whitney Allison in fifth, headed to **McDowell Mountain Regional Park**.

Yamagucci rode alongside Villafane as the duo headed into the second aid station, and with a slowdown and a sharp turn onto dirt in that area, they rejoined Whitley headed to the second half of the race. Behind them, Allison closed the gap to Decker.

A long 16-mile section of dirt roads passed through McDowell Mountain Regional Park and marked the halfway point of the race, the lead trio marking each together at mile 68. Villafane attacked from the front group on the pavement and had a solid solo lead of just over seven minutes as she turned on the final dirt section of the course at mile 105.

Villafane never had to look back to see if anyone was close, winning solo at the line.

Yamauchi trailed in second place while Skarda rode alone for third. Allison finished fourth, saying at the conclusion she had been sick all week and was surprised she completed the event. Decker completed the top five.

Swenson counters late attack by Blevins

The men's BWR Quadrupel Crown series champion Stetina set the pace for the men as the favourites formed a lead pack of a dozen riders, cresting the first climb of the day 16 miles into the race and hitting the first rough surface of road in the desert.

On a long singletrack section at mile 24, Christopher Blevins led a group of four riders that included Swenson, Howard Grotts and Torbjørn 'Toby' Røed at the front of the race, with Lance Haidet and Alex Hohn trails over a minute back in fifth and sixth. Alex Howes was part of another group of chasers that included Ian Lopez de San Roman, well off the pace, and Stetina a long way behind already and chasing the top 10.

By the second aid station, just short of the halfway point, the quartet continued on to the singletrack terrain of McDowell Mountain Regional Park. Through the narrow, sandy, twisting path they were caught by Haidet, Russell Finsterwald and Cody Cupp to make it a seven-rider lead group. Cupp was the first to drop off the pace and a solo charge by Stetina paid off as he joined the leaders by the 100-mile mark as the seventh rider.

Coming off the last sector of dirt, Swenson and Blevins blew open the front pack and blasted to the front of the men's elite field, Røed chasing in third place with a gap of 50 seconds. Røed, the 2022 USA Cycling men's varsity collegiate road race champion, held on for third place. Stetina and Grotts rounded out the top five.

"Full gas from the gun like a proper bike race, heaps of sketchy trail and still plenty of fast gravel/pavement to make it tactical," said Swenson said on his Instagram feed, noting how it all came down to a "cat and mouse" battle with Blevins.

"We attacked each other relentlessly the last few miles. In the end I got the better of him in the sand wash just before the finish but man that was an epic battle!"

## Arizona 'Superbloom' on the horizon, says travel write

by [Teresa McQuerrey](#), Payson Roundup staff reporter  
Mar 3, 2023

Travel writer Roger Naylor, a frequent guest speaker for the Northern Gila County Historical Society, is predicting an Arizona "Superbloom."

A few years back, much was made of the Superbloom of spring flowers in California. This year, with the moisture the state has enjoyed in recent months, Naylor is predicting Arizona will have its own desert Superbloom.

"Happy March! No season dances in as softly as spring.

This is always my favorite time of year anyway, but I am especially thrilled about the possibility of an explosion of wildflowers across the Arizona desert. I believe we are poised for a Superbloom year, or something very close to it," Naylor said.

Everything has gone right so far, he says, starting with a triggering rain in the fall. There were no extended dry spells through the winter and temperatures have stayed on the cool side. All that points to an exceptional bonanza of flowers.

"For petal peepers like me, this is the Big Show. During our next wave of warm temperatures, blooms will start popping up all over the place. Do not miss this one!"

Naylor's extended story about the Superbloom was written for the Arizona Republic. It included the places he recommends for the best Superbloom viewing and when.

Trails in **Estrella Mountain Regional Park** have been filled with blooms for weeks. Picacho Peak looks gorgeous already. Lost Dutchman State Park is deliciously green. "My guess for peak color there is mid-to-late March," Naylor said.

Whatever you do, make time to venture out and enjoy this rare and special event. A desert filled with a sea of flowers is worth cherishing.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park – Visitors will find a nice medley of brittlebush, Mexican goldpoppies, globemallows,

rock daisies and fiddlenecks, among others.

What to look for: Some of the best sightings can be found along the Rainbow Valley Trail sprinkled with poppies, scorpionweed and brittlebush. On the Gadsden Trail, the blue/purple lupines are already blooming and noted for being “extra heavy and extraordinary in color and expanse.” Poppies of varying hues sway on both sides of Flycatcher Trail. Stop at the Nature Center for the exhibits and to get the latest info.

When to go: Abundant blooms should continue into March. Details: 14805 W. Vineyard Ave., Goodyear. \$7 per vehicle. 602-506-2930, ext. 6; <https://www.maricopacounty.parks.net>.

Picacho Peak State Park – Poppy plants are out in force on the lower slopes of the mountains, although few flowers are visible yet. Joining the poppies will be lupines and a healthy mix of perennials, including some rare globemallows with lilac-hued flowers.

What to look for: This is a good park to visit, even for folks with limited mobility. Visitors will enjoy plenty of color from the park roadway and adjacent picnic tables. For a closer look, good showings of color can be found on the easy Nature Trail, Children’s Cave Trail and the moderate Calloway Trail.

When to go: Colorful blooms should continue into March. Details: 15520 Picacho Peak Road, Picacho. \$7 per vehicle.

520-466-3183, <https://azstateparks.com/picacho>.

Lost Dutchman State Park – Park rangers are cautiously optimistic, predicting an above average year while hoping for a stellar one.

What to look for: In some recent years, the poppies at Lost Dutchman have been drastically reduced by late season freezes. So that is always a possibility. Yet even if that does happen, hardier perennials like brittlebush, globemallow and chuparosa should still flourish. If poppies show up to the party, it makes for an unforgettable sight with the steep ramparts of the Superstition Mountains rising directly from a sea of shimmering yellow and orange. For some of the best flower viewing, start up the Siphon Draw Trail, and then circle back on Jacob’s Crosscut and Treasure Loop.

When to go: Through mid-March. Details: 6109 N. Apache Trail, Apache Junction. \$7 per vehicle. 480-982-4485, <https://azstateparks.com/lost-dutchman>.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument – If not a Superbloom, something very close to it; conditions seem pretty close to ideal at this remote park in southwestern Arizona. While poppies will bloom at Organ Pipe, they are not as predominant as at some other locations. Here visitors will enjoy a mixed bouquet of lupines, chuparosa, ocotillos, fairy dusters, brittlebush, globemallows and more.

What to look for: In the monument, take the 21-mile Ajo Mountain Drive (a well maintained dirt road), looping into rugged country for a colorful mix of flowers. Or hike the Palo Verde and Victoria Mine trails for a closer look. If the season develops like they expect, rangers may schedule some guided wildflower hikes. Check the website or call the visitor center for details.

When to go: March is the prime time. Heading south on State Route 85 from Gila Bend, travelers are treated to big pools of Mexican goldpoppies in good years.

Details: About 150 miles southwest of Phoenix off SR 85. \$25 per vehicle, good for seven days. 520-387-6849, [www.nps.gov/orpi](http://www.nps.gov/orpi).

Bartlett Lake – Good to excellent. After a couple of disappointing years, there are high hopes for a colorful season at Bartlett Lake.

What to look for: The road to the reservoir quickly leaves suburbs behind and winds past rolling hills to the sparkling reservoir cradled by mountains. Poppies and lupines grow in profusion on the banks above the water. Be sure to keep an eye peeled for white poppies; this is a good spot for them. Some of the best flower sightings are along the road to Rattlesnake Cove. The Palo Verde Trail parallels the shoreline, pinning hikers between flowers and the lake, a wonderful place to be on a warm March day. When to go: March. Peak color should be in the middle of the

month, but much will be determined by temperature.

Details: Bartlett Lake is about 57 miles northwest of Phoenix. An \$8 Tonto Day Pass is required. Buy one before you go; purchasing options are listed on the website. 480-595-3300, [www.fs.usda.gov/tonto](http://www.fs.usda.gov/tonto). Catalina State Park – Good to excellent. All winter the rains have pounded this scenic park on the north side of Tucson. It even led to flooding of the big Cañada del Oro wash in January. All that moisture has greened up the saguaro-clad foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains and the lush garden is thick with flowering plants.

What to look for: The Sutherland Trail offers the best assortment of flowers with fields of poppies, cream cups, lupines, penstemon and desert chicory. Best color can be found near the junction with Canyon Loop and continuing for about 2 miles on the Sutherland across the desert.

For those looking for a quick outing, a good wildflower spot is on the Nature Trail. The path climbs a low hill that's often carpeted with an array of blooms. Guided hikes and bird walks are offered several days a week.

When to go: Mid-March through early April.  
Details: 11570 N. Oracle Road, Tucson. \$7 per vehicle. 520-628-5798, <https://azstateparks.com/catalina>.

Peridot Mesa – Moderate to good. This rocky mesa on the San Carlos Apache Reservation

east of metro Phoenix is known for some of Arizona's best poppy displays, stretching across a broad hill and sweeping down the slopes.

What to look for: Sharp-eyed visitors will spot lupines, desert chicory and blue dicks mingled among the blaze of orange. But the hillsides blanketed in poppies are the absolute showstopper. With the cooler temperatures this winter, peak bloom isn't expected until later. The mesa is down a dirt road a short distance off U.S. 70 east of Globe. The road can normally be managed in a passenger car.

When to go: Late March into early April. If temperatures heat up, the season could develop sooner.

Details: A \$10 tribal day-use permit is required and you can get specific directions then. Pick up a permit at the Circle K in Globe (2011 U.S. 70), or the San Carlos Recreation & Wildlife Office in Peridot. 928-475-2343, [www.discovergilacounty.com/peridot-mesa](http://www.discovergilacounty.com/peridot-mesa).

## March springs myriad of events around town

City Sun Times  
Published on Mar 1, 2023  
Kelly Mixer, Managing Editor

Spring has sprung with a myriad of big events around town and the March issue of CITYSunTimes features many of these gems to explore with family and friends this month.

Examine fine art, sample fine wines, microbrews and spirits, snack on festival food and listen to live music, all while enjoying the sunshine and meeting fellow

art lovers at the Thunderbird Artists' inaugural Cave Creek Sculpture and Wine Festival March 10-12 at Cave Creek's iconic Stagecoach Village.

Then put on your green and join the Town of Fountain Hills as they shamrock the hills with the annual Irish Fountain Fest March 11. This free, family-friendly event features food, fun and live music, as well as the famous 560-foot fountain being transformed into a bright emerald green geyser to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

We also highlight Cave Creek Rodeo Days March 18-26 – which kicks off with a parade, Cave Creek Museum events and Tierra Madre Horse and Human Sanctuary in Cave Creek expanding its program for young people with autism after seeing a notable positive effect in participants.

Did you know that a Cave Creek historic building has been transformed into one of the North Valley's largest art galleries? The Finer Arts Gallery recently expanded to the full 4,000-square-foot space of the town's historic Treehouse building and is celebrating the move with a special "Art Affaire" reception March 17.

Then, a collaboration effort between the Town of Cave Creek, Maricopa County and the Desert Foothills Land Trust leads to a landmark land conservation deal as nearly 30 acres of critical, natural desert land near the trailhead of the **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area** will now be preserved for future generations to come.

We also highlight the new Black Lion Café, an ideal spot for a quick morning cup of coffee, relaxing lunch break or late-afternoon pick-me-up, that just opened in Scottsdale inside the Holland Community Center. With the Holland Center's many events and close proximity to Carefree and Cave Creek, it's sure to be a success.

As always, it's our goal to provide all you need to know about the community news, businesses and events for everyone around town and beyond.

## Arizona Foothills 911 to launch whistle initiative

By Summer Aguirre, Foothills Focus Staff Writer  
Mar 1, 2023 Updated Mar 6, 2023

Sunny Parker started her safety whistle initiative with one hope: to bring people home to their families unharmed.

After hearing about the deaths of hikers Dr. Evan Dishion and Kathleen Patterson in fall 2022, Parker created the Arizona Whistle Initiative through her nonprofit, Arizona Foothills 911, to provide hikers and other individuals with safety whistles for emergencies.

The initiative will launch at an event honoring Patterson and Dishion from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation**.

Attendees can obtain whistles, Spur Cross maps and information, ready-set-go bags from Arizona Emergency

Information Network (AzEIN), participate in raffles and learn about liquid IVs.

"I think it's really important to keep people safe on the trail," Parker said. "After speaking to the families of both Dr. Evan Dishion and Kathleen Patterson, we're pretty convinced that had they had a whistle, maybe they'd be here today."

The initiative will provide 120-decibel safety whistles that one can grasp with their teeth. They can be used by not only hikers, but by anyone in an emergency.

The whistles will be free, but individuals will have to sign a waiver due to how loud they are. For now, those interested in obtaining a whistle will only be able to do so at the initiative's events or by contacting Parker.

Parker emphasized how crucial it is to know how to safely use the whistles and how to perform the distress signal.

After placing the whistle between their teeth and covering their ears, the user will execute the distress signal: three long blasts, followed by three short blasts and another three long blasts. This translates to "SOS" in Morse code.

"A good survival whistle is designed to send out these blasts that can be heard over a mile away," Parker said. "You're giving yourself the best chance you can to survive."

To help ensure that people understand that the whistles are for hiking purposes and are not toys, an instructional video is in

the works to demonstrate their proper usage.

"As this goes on and the bigger we get, the more we're probably going to need volunteers to go to different places to hand these out and to help explain to people what they are, why you want to use them, why you don't want to put them in a child's hands," Parker said.

She explained that the most valuable resource that the nonprofit can provide its communities is education, because it is "the one thing that you can give away for free."

Because many Valley residents are transplants, it is especially important to educate newcomers about the desert environment's harsh nature.

As a result, the organization is working on an array of educational videos discussing outdoor safety to supplement its existing services.

The videos will touch upon the need for adequate water and electrolytes, emergency blankets and other necessary hiking supplies, and recognizing one's individual physical limits.

"I think (the initiative) is twofold — it's a great thing for us as people to welcome new people into the neighborhood, and give them a chance to meet us and us to meet them," she said. "But also to help them be safe, as well, and help them become great stewards of our community."

For those who would like to support Arizona Foothills 911's whistle initiative, they can

donate funding for the purchase of whistles.

“The most important thing is making sure that we get these survival whistles in the hands of people who need them,” Parker said.

“At the end of the day, (the goal) is just to truly make it so that if you’re totally lost, you have the confidence to get you through whatever it is and at least have a chance, a little bit better of a chance, to get back home to your loved ones.”

Parker established Arizona Foothills 911 and its Facebook page in 2020, and it has since grown to around a thousand active volunteers.

The team serves in North Valley communities like Cave Creek, Carefree, Anthem, New River, Desert Hills, Rio Verde, North Scottsdale and Black Canyon City.

Appropriately, their mission statement is, “Neighbors helping neighbors, because it is the right thing to do.”

In addition to the whistle initiative, the nonprofit has several branches through which it serves its local communities and those statewide, including assistance for those whose homes have burned down; clothing for those in need; transportation for animals during disasters; and care for burned animals, thanks to veterinarians who volunteer their time.

“We just want to do whatever we can to help our community during any disaster relief

situation, including floods, fires, crossfires, anything we can,” Parker said.

“Whatever we can do to help our community is what we want to do. We want to make sure that we are a resource for the local people here.”

#### **Arizona Foothills 911**

Arizona Foothills 911’s Arizona Whistle Initiative kickoff will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at Spur Cross Ranch Conservation, 44000 N. Spur Cross Road.

For more information about the whistle initiative and Arizona Foothills 911, visit the nonprofit’s Facebook page or contact Sunny Parker at 480-204-4443. Donations are accepted through PayPal.

### **Phoenix nonprofit hosts 25th annual Hike for the Homeless**

Allison Brown  
Published on Mar 1, 2023  
City Sun Times  
Courtesy of St. Joseph the Worker

Take a hike and change a life at St. Joseph the Worker’s 25th annual Hike for the Homeless fundraiser at **McDowell Mountain Regional Park**, where funds raised support the nonprofit’s mission to help individuals experiencing poverty, homelessness or who are in crisis, to find quality employment and regain stability in their lives.

The Saturday, March 4 hike is a significant fundraiser for St. Joseph the Worker (SJW), and the goal this year is to raise

\$85,000. In 2022, the Hike for the Homeless helped hundreds of people experiencing homelessness and economic hardship get a second chance through employment.

“This is an extra special year and event for us as we’re celebrating the 35th anniversary of St. Joseph the Worker and the 25th anniversary of the hike,” said Jarrett Ransom, interim CEO.

“We invite people at all levels to join us on March 4. What better way to spend a Saturday morning in Arizona with your family, friends – furry ones, too – than out on the hiking trail while helping those struggling with unemployment or financial hardship get a new start?”

In its FY 2022, SJW provided its services to more than 7,300 individuals and connected 5,399 individuals with employment. The organization serves clients from more than 50 zip codes across the Valley through its five locations and more than 90 nonprofit, government and private partners.

SJW has helped transform the lives of more than 35,000 individuals since its establishment in 1988 and continues to dispense the resources needed to remove employment barriers and create success. Through its free employment services and its free Workforce Villages transitional housing solution, anyone and everyone who is stable, ready and wanting to work will be employed, regardless of the economic climate or their individual

situation. To learn more about SJW, visit [sjwjobs.org](http://sjwjobs.org).

The hike will be from 7:30 to 11 a.m. at the Pemberton Trailhead at McDowell Mountain Regional Park, located at 16300 McDowell Mountain Park Dr. in Fountain Hills. Registered hikers will have the option between a 1.5-mile or 4.5-mile hike, and will receive a free t-shirt and be treated to a free breakfast burrito from San Tan Brewing Company.

For more information or to register for the Hike for the Homeless, visit [sjwjobs.org/2023hike](http://sjwjobs.org/2023hike). Sponsorships are also available, and inquiries can be directed to Deb Bacorn at [dbacorn@sjwjobs.org](mailto:dbacorn@sjwjobs.org).