

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MSC SUMMER HIKES

The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy of Scottsdale will offer five early out- early back summer hikes on Saturdays beginning June 7. All will begin at 6:30 a.m. and finish at 9:30 a.m. or earlier, before the days get too hot. All are free.

The hikes will be led by experienced MSC guides who are expert in desert subjects. Hikers should wear sturdy, covered shoes or boots and bring ample water. Hats, sunscreen and snacks are suggested.

The schedule:

June 7—Gateway Loop. A 5.2-mile hike with a 700-foot elevation gain in the newly opened Gateway Area of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Mostly gradual grades but with a few steep spots. About 3 hours. Meet at the lot at 104th St. south of McDowell Mountain Ranch Rd.

June 14—Ringtail Loop. A 2.5-mile trip past fine examples of Sonoran Desert plants. Mild inclines only. About 1 ½ hours. Meet at the Lost Dog Trailhead lot on 124th St. north of Via Linda.

June 21—Talesin Overlook via the Quartz Trail. About a 5-mile round trip with a 500-foot elevation gain to a saddle overlooking Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural complex. Climbing is on gradual grades. About 2 ½ hours. Meet at the lot at 104th St. just south of McDowell Mountain Ranch Rd.

June 28—Cactus Trail. A 3.2-mile loop passes through a saguaro forest. Mostly mild inclines but a few steep places. About 2 ½ hours. Meet at the end of Alma School Rd. north of Dynamite Blvd.

July 5—Balanced Rock. A 4-mile hike to a striking rock formation in the state trust land. Mild inclines only. About 2 ½ hours. Meet at the end of Alma School Rd. north of Dynamite Blvd.

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CONDENSED VERSION

June 7—Gateway Loop. 5.2 miles with a 700-foot elevation gain. Meet at the lot at 104th St. south of McDowell Mountain Ranch Rd.

June 14—Ringtail Loop. 2.5 miles. Meet at Lost Dog Trailhead lot at 124th St. north of Via Linda.

June 21—Talesin Overlook via Quartz Trail. 5 miles with a 500-foot elevation gain. Meet at the lot at 104th St. south of McDowell Mountain Ranch Rd.

June 28—Cactus Trail. 3.2 miles. Meet at the end of Alma School Rd. north of Dynamite Blvd.

July 5—Balanced Rock. 4 miles, Meet at the end of Alma School Rd. north of Dynamite Blvd.

Hike details and directions to the meeting places are on the website www.mcdowellsonoran.org.

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