

D LEVEL HIKING GROUP – Tuesday

Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 6:45 am, depart at 7:00.

March 6 - Library North Trail (White Tanks). Rating D. This is a 4+ mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 350 ft. We head north from the White Tanks library with expansive views of the west valley, before taking our break at Ramada #4 and then returning to the library. For those interested in seeing some of the desert wildlife in a controlled environment, there is a small nature center with several rattlesnakes, a Gila Monster, a tarantula, and some scorpions (safely behind glass). Restrooms are in the library and Ramada #4. Park Fee is \$6.00. Driving distance is 24 miles RT.

March 13 - Black Canyon Trail – Skyline Segment (Rock Springs Trailhead - I-17 Exit 242) Rating D. This is a 3.7 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of about 430 feet. You hike to the Agua Fria River at about the 1.5 mile point. This section has great views of the river valley as you descend down to the river. You can walk along the river in both directions. The main climb is on the way back as you ascend from the river to the top of the ridge. There is a restroom at the trailhead. Trail condition - a good biking trail with one steep section just before getting to the river. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 100 miles RT - the last .25 miles are on a gravel road. The Rock Springs Café (great pies) is .8 miles from the trailhead and you will pass it to get back on I-17. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/BCT-Skyline-Segment>

March 20 - Brethren North – SR/JL/BL/GS/UT Loop (Estrella Foothills Park). Rating D. This is a 4.8 mile Lollipop loop considered somewhat of a desert ramble with minimal elevation gain. Nice pleasant hike to get some of the holiday cheer off the waistline. Helps begin the post holiday conditioning program to get back in the groove. Trail condition - good hiking trail. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No parking fee. Driving distance 13 miles.

March 27 Granite Mountain North (McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Scottsdale). Rating D.

This is a 5.1 mile modified, in-and-out hike with an elevation gain of 300 ft. There are lots of interesting Saguaro cacti, granite rock formations, and distant views of the surrounding mountains. This is one of the best trail surfaces of any hike we do - Scottsdale has done an excellent job with their McDowell Sonoran Preserve trails. No restrooms at this trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Granite-Mt-North>