

We are Bob & Leslie Esparza. We purchased our Sun City home in June of 1987 (the first year that Del Webb began the project). We did not move in until March of 1995 when we were both retired from teaching in Tucson.

In January of 1997 we took a new members orientation hike with Susie Klein. We had lived in Tucson our entire working career but had never done any hiking before this introduction. To say that the Sun City hiking club made a difference in our life is an understatement. We have hiked most of the trails in and around Tucson numerous times (Mt. Wrightson at least 40 times and Wasson Peak too many times to remember).

We have arranged excursions for the hiking club to Canyon de Chelly/Monument Valley; Silver City, New Mexico; 5 trips into the Grand Canyon [including one rim-to-rim in one day with 18 participants]; Yosemite National Park; Glacier National Park; North Shore of Lake Superior in Minnesota; a 17-day trip that included hiking at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, Zion National Park, Bryce National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, Escalante, Canyon Lands National Park, Arches National Park and Canyon de Chelly.

In addition to the trips that we put together we have hiked with the club in northern and southern Arizona, Idaho, California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, New Hampshire, Colorado, Nevada, Texas and Mexico.

As a result of our hiking with the Sun City hiking club we have each accumulated 11,000+ miles on the trail. In addition to gorgeous wildflower displays and incredible waterfalls, we have seen several snakes, lizards, bear (black and grizzly), moose, elk and deer, wild mustang horses, big horn sheep and a variety of birds including owls and the Elegant Trogon. Had we not been hiking we would have missed seeing what our beautiful country has to offer.

You would think that as a result of all these miles we would both be nice and slim but when we each reached a hiking milestone (every 500 miles), there was a chocolate chip cookie feast on that hike.