

May 2026 Hiking Schedule

Updates & changes in RED

NEW HIKES in GREEN

All hikes meet at the Welcome Center unless otherwise specified in the hike description.
Carpools can be arranged when the group meets at Welcome Center

***AZ State Parks entrance fees increased on 2/25/25. The fee is now based on the number of people in a vehicle, if no one has a park pass. The fee is \$10 for one person and \$20 for 2 – 4 people total. The fee should be split among those in the vehicle. A park pass allows for up to 4 people to enter without charge.**

Tuesday, May 5th, 2026, Walter's Cascade/Stock Tank (C/5mi./800ft./\$4.00/7:00am) Meet behind the Welcome Center before 7:00 am. Bring your Catalina park pass if you have one. We will park at the picnic area after crossing the CDO wash. We will hike across the road and follow the trail up the SW side of Alamo Canyon for about a mile. Then take a side trail that goes up to the stock tank. There are a couple of short, steep rocky areas on the trail so poles are recommended. Jorgy launiebob@gmail.com 406-672-0823

Wednesday, May 6, 2026, Top of Mt. Lemmon Loop [C/6.0 mi./1000'/\$10/7am] Meet behind the Welcome Center. Drive to Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley parking lot. Hike the trail to the top of the ridge. Go down the Mt. Lemmon Trail #5A to Trail #5. Go up Trail #5 to the Lemmon Rock Lookout and return to the parking lot. Hiking poles recommended. Larry Best, lbestrun@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 6, 2026, Birding Trail over to Alamo Canyon [D/4miles/450'/\$4/7:00] Meet at the main trailhead or welcome center. We'll take the birding trail up toward Alamo Canyon, take a side trail up to view Buster Mt. on the way over. Then head to the first Wash of Alamo Canyon and return. Ken Percival knmdsunchasers72@gmail.com

Thursday, May 7, 2026, C/D Early Bird Golf Course Hike [D/3mi or C/5mi/300' total/\$0/5:15AM] Meet at the SCOV clubhouse. Walk holes 1 through 9 for 3 miles or 7 holes on the back 9 for 5 miles, starting at 5:15 AM. This is a fast pace hike due to time constraints. Jane Budden, janeannabudden@gmail.com

Thursday, May 7, 2026, Big Wash Scenic Trail /Honey Bee Canyon Access Loop [C/6mi/<400'/\$0/7am] From Desert Oasis enter the trail at Summerstar. Hike out to the Scenic Trail, heading down to appreciate the quiet wilderness in our own backyard, take a cookie break in The Grove and return up Honey Bee Canyon Access Trail. Deb Wehrung, debwehrung@gmail.com

HIKE IS FULL. Contact Debbie for waitlist. **Friday, May 8, 2026, Exploratory Spring Birding on Mt. Lemmon [C/max 7 miles/max 1400'/\$11/6:15 am]** This is planned as a full day of high elevation birding on Mt. Lemmon (our stops will be at elevations of 7,000-9,200 feet). May and June are absolutely the best birding months up on Mt. Lemmon because our high elevation songbirds have returned to breed. They're actively calling and moving around to set up territories, making them easier to find. I'm calling it an exploratory hike because I will not have time to check out all the trails before we head up, though they're all ones I've been on in previous years. We'll meet behind the Welcome Center to carpool up to our first stop, Rose Canyon Lake for a few miles of hiking/birding. From there we'll make a shorter stop at Incinerator Ridge, where Red-faced Warblers are frequent nesters before heading up to Summerhaven and the ski valley. Lunch will be in one of the picnic areas and if there's time, we'll stop for treats/refreshments before heading down the mountain. As always, we'll let the birds set our pace and for this day, we'll be conscious of the challenges of elevation hiking as well. I have a spare pair of binoculars if anyone needs them. Limit 8 hikers Debbie Carr-Taylor, debbiecarrtaylor@gmail.com

Tuesday, May 12, 2026, Tortolita Flats [C/6mi/300'/\$0/7am] Meet at Desert Oasis. Enter the trail at Summerstar. Walk north on Sun City Blvd. Take bike trails to the Rail X Ranch - Honey Bee Canyon Loop. Hike the loop, crossing the Powerline, completing the loop, crossing the Powerline again, and return on the bike trails. Deb Wehrung, debwehrung@gmail.com.

Wednesday, May 13, 2026, Tortolita Flats Trails [D/4mi/120'/6:30am] Meet at Desert Oasis parking lot and take Summerstar trail connecting to bicycle and powerline trails. This hike is on State Trust land. Byron Wolffing, wolffing5@gmail.com

Thursday, May 14, 2026, C/D Early Bird Golf Course Hike [D/3mi or C/5mi/300' total/\$0/5:15AM] Meet at the SCOV clubhouse. Walk holes 1 through 9 for 3 miles or 7 holes on the back 9 for 5 miles, starting at 5:15 AM. This is a fast pace hike due to time constraints. Jane Budden, janeannabudden@gmail.com

Saturday, May 16, 2026, Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve [D/3mi/100'/\$0/8:00 am] Short, close-in hike; easy, paved, minimal elevation, three-mile loop trail at Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve. A concrete trail winds through the former Vistoso Golf course. Social pace. Beautiful mountain views and opportunities to view wildlife. Carpool from BEHIND SCOV Welcome Center; Debbie Hansen, 425.931.3334, djhansolo@comcast.net

Monday, May 18, 2026, Big Wash Scenic Trail/ Honey Bee Canyon Access Loop

[C/6mi/<400'/\$0/7am] From Desert Oasis enter the trail at Summerstar. Hike out to the Scenic Trail, heading down to appreciate the quiet wilderness in our own backyard, take a cookie break in The Grove and return up Honey Bee Canyon Access Trail. Deb Wehrung, debwehrung@gmail.com

Monday, May 18, 2026, Minimal Moon Golf Course Hike [D/3mi/100'/7pm] This evening hike will start from the Welcome Center and cover half the golf course. We may be able to see more stars with only a minimal moon present. Byron Wolffing, wolffing5@gmail.com

Thursday, May 21, 2026, C/D Early Bird Golf Course Hike [D/3mi or C/5mi/300' total/\$0/5:15AM] Meet at the SCOV clubhouse. Walk holes 1 through 9 for 3 miles or 7 holes on the back 9 for 5 miles, starting at 5:15 AM. This is a fast pace hike due to time constraints. Jane Budden, janeannabudden@gmail.com

Tuesday, May 26, 2026, Tortolita Flats [C/6mi/300'/\$0/7am] Meet at Desert Oasis. Enter the trail at Summerstar. Walk north on Sun City Blvd. Take bike trails to the Rail X Ranch - Honey Bee Canyon Loop. Hike the loop, crossing the Powerline, completing the loop, crossing the Powerline again, and return on the bike trails. Deb Wehrung, debwehrung@gmail.com.

Wednesday, May 27, 2026, Lost Coyote and Honey Bee Canyon Loop [C/5mi/380'/6:30am] Meet at the Mountain View Plaza parking lot (across from Copper Center). Take Lost Coyote (powerline) trail South to newer subdivision, then follow an Oro Valley trail to Southern border of Honey Bee Canyon park. Follow Honey Bee Canyon trail to restrooms and picnic area, and return on Lost Coyote trail. Byron Wolffing, wolffing5@gmail.com

Thursday, May 28, 2026, C/D Early Bird Golf Course Hike [D/3mi or C/5mi/300' total/\$0/5:15AM] Meet at the SCOV clubhouse. Walk holes 1 through 9 for 3 miles or 7 holes on the back 9 for 5 miles, starting at 5:15 AM. This is a fast pace hike due to time constraints. Jane Budden, janeannabudden@gmail.com

Saturday, May 30, 2026, Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve [D/3mi/100'/\$0/8:00 am] Short, close-in hike; easy, paved, minimal elevation, three-mile loop trail at Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve. A concrete trail winds through the former Vistoso Golf course. Social pace. Beautiful mountain views and opportunities to view wildlife. Carpool from BEHIND SCOV Welcome Center; Debbie Hansen, 425.931.3334, djhansolo@comcast.net