

Arizona Trail Seeds of Stewardship Program

Into the Catalinas

by Deborah Oslik

On February 10th, the Arizona Trail Seeds of Stewardship Program took a group of Pima Partnership Academy students on their third outing on the Arizona National Scenic Trail. It was our largest group of students yet to participate in an outing with this school! Our outings are completely challenge by choice, which means that the students have to want to be there, and make the effort to show up. All of the outings with Pima Partnership are on the weekends, which means all of these students are choosing spend one of their weekend days with us, getting out on the trail and participating in a positive experience. Many of them must wake up extra early to take public transportation, which is especially time consuming on the weekends.

Once they arrive for the day, we do our best to provide all that we can so that their needs are met to ensure the best experience possible. First and foremost is maintaining their safety throughout the day. On top of that, we make it a point to provide nourishing and healthy meals throughout the day, a good amount of exercise, and opportunities along the way to grow within themselves through experiences with nature and challenge.

On Sunday, February 10 a group of 10 students, 2 teachers, and 2 leaders hit the trail for the day. We hiked 4 miles on pretty challenging terrain on a section of the Arizona Trail in the Santa Catalina Mountains. We did lessons on desert adaptations, and enjoyed lunch by a small creek. A highlight for many of the students was seeing a group of horses grazing in the wild. A challenging and successful outing it was!

