

AZT VETS Program Report, April – June 2023:

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This summer, the **VETS (Veteran Engagement & Trail Stewardship)** Program has achieved the following:

- Attended the 13th Annual Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans, & Their Families sponsored by the BeConnected Network in PHX
- Facilitated Veteran Volunteer Work Weekend event in Coronado NF, supporting the final connector trail from Little Casa Blanca Canyon to Wood Canyon (27-30 APR)
 - 8 veteran volunteers
 - 208 logged volunteer hours
 - ~2.5 miles of positively impacted trail—consisting mostly of trail tread definition, broadcasting outslope material, and backslope removal
- Enlisted 2 local veteran volunteers for the kiosk installation in Sierra Vista
- Enlisted 2 VETS Program volunteers for Oracle Ridge gate installation
- Participated in the 11th Annual Lance Davison Memorial High Country Stand Down at the Flagstaff Armory; Bob Bevill also volunteered to assist at the ATA table
- Recertified Wilderness First Responder (WFR) with NOLS Wilderness Medicine at the Flagstaff Field Institute
- Attended meetings with staff from Edge HS to discuss future projects in Coronado NF
- Facilitated Veteran Volunteer Work Weekend event in Coronado NF over Memorial Day weekend, from Pusch Ridge Wilderness Boundary to Sycamore Reservoir (27-30 MAY)
 - 12 veteran volunteers
 - 252 logged volunteer hours
 - ~2 miles of positively impacted trail—crews worked on redefining the switchbacks near the reservoir, catclaw acacia removal, and a rock-steps project
- Led a Fox Squad event in Coronado NF, from Lemmon Lookout Trail west toward Mt Lemmon Trail
 - 3 veterans
 - ~2.2 miles of positively impacted trail—work consisted of tread definition (benching & grubbing), major brushing, and cairn placements
- Facilitated Veteran Volunteer Work Weekend event in Coronado NF, Huachuca Mts, Sunnyside Canyon (15-18 JUN)
 - 11 veteran volunteers
 - 309 logged volunteer hours
 - ~2 miles of positively impacted trail—work was focused mainly on a 150' reroute section, consisting of benching, building rock steps and retaining wall, and rehabilitation

Logistical planning for fall/winter 2023 is ongoing and confidence is high. We are focusing efforts on the Saguaro NP East event in Oct, the 3rd annual Veterans Day event in collaboration with Team Rubicon in Nov, and 3 additional VVWW/Fox Squad events before the end of the year. We will also attend the first

in-person summit this fall with the Veteran Outdoor Advocacy Group (VOAG) near Vail, CO.