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**"Pioneer Title Agency, Arizona Trail Association celebrate 30 years with 'Take a Hike' project"**

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**Pioneer Title Agency**, Arizona Trail Association celebrate 30 years with 'Take a Hike' project

Staff report

East Valley Tribune

For its 30th anniversary, **Pioneer Title Agency**, an Arizona-based, family owned business, has partnered with the Arizona Trail Association " also celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Arizona Trail " on "Take a Hike," a fundraising and employee wellness challenge utilizing the Arizona National Scenic Trail.

The Arizona Trail is a continuous path across the state of Arizona that is divided into 43 unique passages and is open to all forms of non-motorized recreation, including hiking, running, backpacking, horseback riding and mountain biking (outside designated wilderness areas).

Through the partnership, Pioneer's team of more than 375 individuals has set a goal to raise at least \$30,000 in 2015 to support the Arizona Trail. The community-minded team will also collectively hike, bike, run or ride all 800-plus miles of the Arizona Trail, with local offices adopting and overseeing that each passage is completed, by the summer.

Families, friends, customers and associates are also invited to participate. In addition to the wellness benefits associated with time spent on the trail, the initiative hopes to encourage everyone to explore a segment of the Arizona Trail that they likely haven't seen.

Across Maricopa County, their family of offices in Anthem, Wickenburg, Mesa, Tempe, Chandler, Scottsdale and more will also take on strenuous trails including the Gila River Canyons, Pine Mountain, Four Peaks and Superstition Wilderness, among others.

In the West Valley, which includes multiple branches in Glendale and Goodyear, the local offices are up for the task and have signed on to raise funds for and to trek across Passage 17, which is nearly 12 miles through Alamo Canyon.

"This project " which many of our offices will be undertaking together " is one of many volunteer and fundraising activities happening in 2015 that our folks will be involved in. In fact, our team has a statewide community relations program, **Pioneer Title Agency** in Action, which focuses on giving back both time and money to hundreds of local causes across Arizona," says Keith Newlon. "While our 'Take a Hike' Trail program is special for our 30th anniversary, giving back at the hyperlocal level is something each and every team members in all 55 branches is encouraged to do each day."

When complete, the \$30,000 raised through the project will greatly assist the Arizona Trail Association in its mission to build, maintain, promote, protect and sustain the Arizona Trail as a unique encounter with the land.

Perhaps not coincidentally, the concept of the Arizona Trail began about 30 years ago when Dale Shewalter sat atop Coronado Peak near the U.S./Mexico border and shared his dream of a

cross-state trail with others. The nearest town to this historic location is Sierra Vista " where the Newlon family founded **Pioneer Title Agency** and still operates today.

"One of our goals for this challenge is that more Arizonans will fall in love with the natural wonders that exist along the Arizona National Scenic Trail," said Matthew Nelson, executive director of the Arizona Trail Association. "Pioneer's commitment to covering the entire length of the trail is admirable, and means that many individuals will get to experience some of the least traveled areas in our state."

For information, or to make a donation to the trail, visit <http://www.ptaaz.com/>  
<http://www.ptaaz.com>

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**Highlights: Pioneer Title Agency**