



**Saturday  
May 12, 2018**

**Mt. Wrightson, Tucson, Arizona**

Approximately 160 Miles and 2.5 Hours from Central Phoenix "stack",

Type: See Desc.

Max Rating/Points: 6/2

Elev. Change: 4,020 ft.

Length: 17.5

Start Time: 8:30 am

Duration: All Day

Max No of Part: N/A

Last Scouted: May 2017

- Major Hike:
- Cross-Country:
- Exploratory:
- Individual Effort:
- Options:
- Pass/Fees Rqd.:

	Coordinator	Alternate
Name	Bill Garling	Carmen Garling
Work		
Home		
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Required Equipment:

Recommended Equipment: Enough water for the day, lunch, trail snacks, rain gear, sunscreen, hat sunglasses, boots, moleskin, and trekking poles. You might want to bring binoculars for the great views and bird watching, and ahead net for the bugs that occupy the summit.

Cautions and Special Preparations: Due to the length and elevation change of this hike, hikers must be in good condition. The peak is a prime target for lightning strikes during thunderstorms. The top can be very windy. Last year was pretty good. Watch for bird watching people in the road near the trailhead. Ask Rolly about them sometime.

Description: Mount Wrightson, which is part of the Santa Rita chain, was named for William Wrightson, a miner and entrepreneur in the region who was killed in the 1860s by Apaches during the Battle of Fort Buchanan. We will be going from 5,400 feet to 9,453 feet, traveling thru a variety of vegetation including walnut, sycamore, velvet ash, aspen, oak, alligator juniper, Mexican white pine and Douglas Canyon. Both will take you to Josephine Saddle, a halfway point to the top of Mount Wrightson and a convenient turnaround spot for a shorter hike. The Old Baldy Trail is the more direct route. It is 2.5 miles to Josephine Saddle, steeper and more heavily shaded. The 4-mile Super Trail is easier, climbs more gradually and parallels running water much of the way. The views from both trails are great, but Super Trail offers better panoramas of eastern Arizona. At Josephine Saddle, four trails converge. There is a memorial here to three Boy Scouts who got separated from their group and froze to death during an unexpected snowstorm on Nov. 15, 1958. The Old Baldy Trail continues from here. Follow the signs to Baldy Saddle & Mount Wrightson, and expect a steeper climb with numerous switchbacks as you work toward the tip. The views from this final section of trail to Baldy Saddle are magnificent. From here it's just under a mile to the summit. The extensive views from the mountaintop include Mt. Hopkins observatory, Baboquivari Peak poking above the desert flats to the west; the Santa Catalina, Rincon & Galiuro Mtns rearing up to the

north; the dark, forested cap of Chiricahua Peak resting on the eastern horizon; and to the south, long chains of ridges and peaks receding to the vanishing point deep in Mexico. You may hike in any direction utilizing the Old Baldy Trail and/or the Super Trail, but must include the Super Trail to/from the summit on at least one leg to merit Major Hike status. The Old Baldy Trail is steeper, but the afternoon can be brutally hot on the Super Trail. Who knows ...you might even spot a black bear in the area! Mike and Monica did in 2011. Along the route you will see evidence of the 2005 "Florida Fire" which devastated this mountain wilderness with over 25,000 acres of burned forest.

[www.kactuskickers.org/KKMaps/Wrighton.JPG](http://www.kactuskickers.org/KKMaps/Wrighton.JPG)

[www.azcentral.com/travel/hiking/wrightson.html](http://www.azcentral.com/travel/hiking/wrightson.html)

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/forest/recreation/wilderness/wrightson.shtml>

Driving Directions: : Take I-10 to south Tucson and exit onto I-19. From intersection of I-10 & I-19 in Tucson, travel south on I-19 for @24 mi. to the Continental Road Exit in Green Valley. Turn east on Continental Rd 1.0 mile to White House Canyon Rd. Turn south on White House Canyon Rd. Drive to the end & park in trailhead parking (\$5 fee). You can use your National Park Pass. Friday, camping is available at Bog Springs Campground @ \$10/night.