

Friends of the Scenic Drive is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the Desert Foothills Scenic Drive.

### 1963-1993

- ?? Small redwood signs identify plants along Scottsdale and Cave Creek Roads
- ?? Residents and visitors learn the names of native plants and trees through the signs
- ?? Scenic corridors and setbacks preserved the desert

### 1994-Present

- ?? We restore plant sites according to 1963 plan
- ?? The drive monument sign enhanced
- ?? Scenic Drive signs posted
- ?? Power lines and poles buried
- ?? Traffic masts, rails and poles painted desert-sensitive color
- ?? Entry signs placed at each end of drive
- ?? Visitor exhibit created near monument sign
- ?? Weekend real estate signs banned
- ?? Political campaign signs voluntarily banned
- ?? Roadside utility boxes painted desert-sensitive color

### Objectives

- ?? Preserve roadside plants and vistas
- ?? Reduce litter, sign and pole pollution
- ?? Support beautification projects
- ?? Enhance drive through implementation of Scottsdale's Scenic Corridor Guidelines

### Location

The restored section of the Desert Foothills Scenic Drive is on Scottsdale Road in north Scottsdale. It begins about 1 mile north of Pinnacle Peak Road and extends north for 6 miles to Carefree Highway. Plant identification signs are posted approximately 1/4 mile apart.



The visitor exhibit area is located on the east side of Scottsdale Road 1 1/2 miles north of Pinnacle Peak Road. A large "Desert Foothills Scenic Drive" sign marks the spot. Scottsdale Road is a heavily-traveled public highway. The drive exhibit area is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### Birth of a Scenic Drive

*"It was a moonlit evening in 1963. My husband and I and another couple were making the lonely, quiet drive home through the tall saguaros and thickets of jumping chollas. We spoke of our fear that the roadside would become lined with neon-lit gas stations and motels. Creating the drive was our way of preserving the desert."* - Corkie Cockburn, foothills resident, drive visionary



Most residents of Cave Creek and Carefree, then tiny, remote desert communities, were involved in creating the drive. There is an unrestored section of the original drive on Cave Creek Road in Phoenix. The original drive entry sign, pictured above, was located on Scottsdale Road 1/4 mile south of the drive's exhibit area.

# Desert Foothills Scenic Drive

Scottsdale, Arizona



**Friends of the Scenic Drive**  
In partnership with  
**Scottsdale Pride**

## Desert Foothills Scenic Drive

"The desert foothills is a special place where the desert gradually rises to the mountains, creating slightly cooler temperatures and a lush landscape dotted by saguaros, palo verde, mesquite and chollas. A landscape where the fertile floor covers the forgotten footprints of Apaches, prospectors and pioneers." Les Conklin, "Discovering the Desert Foothills Scenic Drive", *Scottsdale Magazine*, 1996

The Desert Foothills Scenic Drive was created by residents in 1963 to preserve and showcase the unique plants and trees of the desert foothills.

### Showcases Sonoran Plants

Small redwood signs help Arizona newcomers and visitors learn the names of the unique plants and trees that are peculiar to the Sonoran Desert. Without stopping their automobiles visitors can view a variety of species.



Barrel Cactus	Blue Palo Verde
Catclaw	Chuparosa
Chain Fruit Cholla	Creosote Bush
Crucifixion Thorn	Desert Broom
Foothills Palo Verde	Greythorn
Hackberry	Hedgehog
Ironwood	Jojoba
Jumping Cholla	Mesquite
Mormon Tea	Ocotillo
Prickly Pear	Saguaro
Staghorn Cholla	

## Drive Exhibit Area

Visitors of all ages can enjoy a quiet desert area that is adjacent to the drive. Tour busses often stop here to allow visitors to photograph the towering saguaros. An exhibit tells the story of the drive and redwood signs identify many of the plant species seen along the roadside. The area has been a popular stopping place for decades.



"Back in the sixties, Maricopa County erected a large cement sign identifying the drive— Desert Foothills Scenic Drive." There were redwood picnic tables there for a long time." Jo Walker, former president, Cave Creek Improvement Association

### Attractions, Shopping and Scenery

The drive once cut through an expanse of wild and unsettled land that separated Scottsdale from the tiny communities of Cave Creek and Carefree. Today, Scottsdale Road is a four lane highway that provides easy access to golf courses, resorts, restaurants, shopping and residential neighborhoods.



As you drive north the elevation gently increases from 1100 to 2300 feet affording sweeping views of the McDowells, the Boulders, Black Mountain and Tonto National Forest. Area attractions include:

**Rawhide** ... old western town  
**MacDonald's Ranch** ... horseback riding  
**El Pedregal** ... galleries, restaurants, shops  
**Heard Museum North** ... exhibits of Native American history  
**The Boulders** ... world renowned resort  
**The desert communities of Carefree and Cave Creek**

## Join the Tradition

"The Desert Foothills Scenic Drive is truly an outstanding example of a community doing things for itself with a minimum of government assistance." - Vince Thelander, 1966 report to Maricopa County Planning Department

For more information about the drive and related activities visit Friends' popular Web site:  
**www.scenicdrive.org**

You can help preserve and enhance the Scottsdale Road scenic corridor and the Desert Foothills Scenic Drive by donating money or time.

E-mail: friends@scenicdrive.org

Telephone: 480-585-0630

Write:

Friends of the Scenic Drive  
 8711 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, POB #360  
 Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Please Print:

I would like to volunteer.  
 I am enclosing a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Make check payable to Friends of the Scenic Drive.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Friends of the Scenic Drive, Inc. is a non-profit, tax exempt Arizona corporation. Contributions are not tax deductible.