

NOTICE

Temporary Closure – Rock Climbing on North Face of Tom’s Thumb

The northern side of Tom’s Thumb is temporarily closed to public access to protect sensitive birds of prey in that area. Please help us protect the wild inhabitants of the Preserve by observing this temporary closure. Wildlife Biologists will continue to monitor the area, and the temporary closure will be lifted when appropriate.

CLIMBERS: A handful of climbs on the north face of Tom’s Thumb are temporarily closed. Also, if you are on the top of Tom’s Thumb, please avoid the northern edge, and do not rappel down the north face. The climbing routes that are temporarily closed on the north face of Tom’s Thumb include, but may not be limited to:

- Pretty Girls Make Graves
- Sacred Datura Direct
- Sucubus
- Deep Freeze
- Garbanzo Bean Direct
- Garbanzo Bean
- Krueser’s Route

The other climbs on Tom’s Thumb remain open, but please stay away from the north face. Other crags in the area are also open, including Fort McDowell, Half and Half, Morrell’s Wall, Gardener’s Wall, Sven Slab, Sven Towers, etc.

HIKERS: The Tom’s Thumb Trail is open. You can still access near to the eastern base of Tom’s Thumb. We just ask that you please obey the closure signs, and do not access the northern base of Tom’s Thumb. As a good alternative, try taking the Lookout Trail for spectacular views.

The City of Scottsdale thanks ALL Preserve users for their observance of this temporary closure, and commitment to protecting the sensitive natural resources of the Preserve. When in the vicinity of the closed area, please speak quietly. Sound carries and can disrupt nesting birds.

Hikers and climbers are not the only creatures drawn to the rocky crags of Tom’s Thumb. It is also crucial breeding habitat for birds of prey. They are sensitive to human disturbance during their nesting and roosting cycle. People who stray too close to the nest can scare off the parent birds and cause abandonment of the nest. Even if the nest is not abandoned, disturbance can cause nest failure. Eggs need to be constantly incubated so they do not become too hot or cold. Newly hatched raptors cannot regulate their own body temperature and frightened juvenile birds may attempt to flee the nest before they are ready. It is critical that everyone abides by this temporary closure in order to protect the birds.

