

## Results of 2020 Saguaro Census on Plot 17, Rincon Mountains

Individual Volunteers, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020



On February 1, a group of intrepid individual volunteers helped us complete the second half of Plot 17, which had been started by a local hiking club in January. They did a great job navigating this spiny, brushy plot to find the hidden saguaros. We had a great time and got it done much more quickly than we thought because of our strong crew.

This plot is at the base of the foothills of the Rincon Mountains and has seen an increase of more than 100 saguaros since it was first surveyed in 1990. However, there has been a decrease since 2000, which we attribute to the death of many of the large saguaros as a result of a hard freeze in 2011. There are still an impressive number of really large cacti, however, with lots of arms and bird holes. A second reason for the decline may be a slowdown in the number of young saguaros entering the population on this plot, which is generally true in these less hilly areas in the park's east district.

### Saguaro Plot #17

