

LV-FIT Hike Report  
Cienega Canyon - Faulty Trail - Armijo Canyon - Sandia Mountain East  
Wednesday, 06/26/19

**Rating**            B  
**Hike Miles**        5.6  
**Elevation Gain** 800  
**Hike Time**        4:00

**Report** 18 hikers, uncertain about the difficulty of the hike ahead, but willing to 'give it a go', set out of Cienega Canyon Trail Head toward the junction with the Faulty Trail. This part of the trail is along a creek, then through a meadow, and is the alternative to walking the road through Cienega picnic ground. The lush surroundings and running water were such a treat to these hikers who are accustomed to arid conditions!

Meeting the Faulty Trail in less than a mile, we encountered the steep trail to the ridge. We listened to the advice of experienced hikers on the best way to get oneself up; deep breathing, small steps, and moving like a snake: back and forth across the slope! Everyone made it fine and we continued to follow the Faulty trail south to the junction with the Armijo trail. On this traverse part of the hike, we were in a part of the forest where the 'foresters' are working to clear deadfall. The forest floor has room now for new growth and it is growing beautifully!

At the junction with the Armijo trail, the shade was lovely so we stopped for our snack break and noted the sign for the Medallion Tree, just a few feet away. Vivian shared her adventure of finding All the Medallions Trees in the Sandias, then lead the interested hikers to view the "Santa Fe Trail Tree #1" germination date: 1821.

We then headed down the new "relocated" Armijo trail. This trail used to hike through existing ravines and old stream beds, making the footing difficult. Now it is a 2.5 mile meander through Ponderosa Pine parks, to the old Cienega picnic ground.

The last part of this hike, which is a 1/4 mile 'slog' on old pavement to the vans, was considered the uncomfortable part of the hike as it was uphill and shade was scarce...but, we made it through there, too!

Marina was our Sweep and Driver - Thank you, Marina! Our photographers who shared their photo albums of this hike were Jan Sands, Paul Greenbaum, and Judy Bonedor - Thank you all so much! A really nice day of hiking

**Hike Leader** Cindy McConnell

**Photo Album 1** [Jan's album](#)

**Photo Album 2** [Paul's album](#)

**Photo Album 3** [Judy's Album](#)