

**BREAKING** Pennsylvania grand jury report identifies more than 300 'predator priests' who molested ...

---

[https://azdailysun.com/flaglive/rearview/college\\_chronicles/fitting-in-the-arizona-bucket-list/article\\_a75f955b-0c7a-50ec-9de9-d1b702ac939b.html](https://azdailysun.com/flaglive/rearview/college_chronicles/fitting-in-the-arizona-bucket-list/article_a75f955b-0c7a-50ec-9de9-d1b702ac939b.html)

## Fitting in the Arizona bucket list

Megan Troutman May 17, 2018



SUBSCRIBE FOR 17¢ / DAY



I have a week and a half left before I leave the state of Arizona so, after living in northern Arizona for the past four years, I've decided to finally conquer the big adventures.

I made a bucket list — hike the Grand Canyon, Antelope Canyon and Humphreys Peak. On top of graduating, packing up to move to a job halfway across the country and saying goodbye to all my friends and family, why not throw in some monumental hikes?

So far I've hiked the Grand Canyon, on May 5, which was wild. All the way down we passed signs that basically said “turn around now, save yourself,” and “you're not as athletic as you think, you moron.” Naturally, we ignored them.

The thing about hiking the Grand Canyon is everything is the opposite. On normal mountain hikes, you have the hard part first and then you're rewarded with the downhill trek. The Grand Canyon, however, tricks you into believing you're more athletic, with an easy downhill for starters.

From the start there were signs everywhere that warned: "DO NOT attempt to hike from the canyon rim to the river and back in one day. Each year hikers suffer serious illness or death from exhaustion."

When I first saw the signs, I laughed at the graphic of a struggling man hiking up the switchbacks and thought, *what a loser*.

Then I hiked up nearly 100 switchbacks and 3,195 feet of elevation in 80-degree heat. For three days after the hike, my shins were so sore I could barely get out of bed. I thought I'd never be able to stand on my tip-toes ever again.

The Canyon tricked me. It's certainly not a force to be reckoned with.

But I did it, and that's all that matters. Next on my agenda is Antelope Canyon, and then hopefully I'll fit in Humphreys somewhere.

What I'm trying to say in a backwards way, is that no one should take northern Arizona for granted. It's beautiful. We are neighbors with one of the Seven Wonders of the World and have more hiking trails than a girl could dream.

I took it for granted, and now my shins will be incredibly sore while I try to cram in all the fun and adventure in a week and a half.

But after my last adventurous days in the state, the next stop for me is Madison, Wisconsin. I do not know anything about Madison, but an incredible job opened up, and I accepted. So now I have an entirely new exhilarating and terrifying adventure in store.

I'll do my best to take advantage of the Wisconsin lakes and hiking trails.

College was a lot like hiking the Grand Canyon. At first, classes trick you into thinking it's a breeze, but then by the time you're up 100 switchbacks of 300-level classes, you realize you've been fooled.

Senior year was tough, but I would not have changed a thing.

It's been a pleasure writing about my random experiences as a college student in Flagstaff. Starting College Chronicles was fun, but it's time to pass it on. From here on out, the columns will be written by Ariel Cianfarano, the managing editor of *The Lumberjack* a journalist and friend I have worked closely with over the past three years.

But my parting advice? Hike the Grand Canyon before you're clock is down to a week and a half. You never know what opportunities will move you across the country.

---

*Megan Troutman is the editor-in-chief of The Lumberjack, Northern Arizona University's student newspaper. College Chronicles aims to connect FlagLive! readers to various aspects of campus life.*

