

East Valley Firefighters Charity Ride



The East Valley Firefighters Charity Run 2023 was held Saturday April 1st. Sign-in was at sponsor Superstition Harley-Davidson in Apache Junction, located at 2910 W Apache Trail. This was the 18th year for this event. It is among the traditional rides of Bike Week. Fellow sponsor Law Tigers Arizona hosted the last stop, at their booth at AZ Bike Week at WestWorld in Scottsdale.

My thanks to Steve Heyer, Executive Director of East Valley Firefighters Charities for his help with this article.

Registration at SHD included a pancake breakfast cooked up by a crew of firefighters in their mobile kitchen. According to organizer Steve, about 675 breakfasts were served that morning.

The skirling of bagpipes could also be heard, as the event began with a presentation by the Mesa Fire & Medical Department Honor Guard Pipes & Drums.

There was a display of raffle items up for grabs which included Superstition HD items, a beautiful custom crafted wood flag, numerous gift certificates – {restaurants, auto service, golf, movies, amazon, Home Depot, & more}, ear buds, a sound system, tools, a helmet, Diamondback & Cardinal merchandise ... There was enough variety to draw most anyone’s interest to buy some chances ☺

After the morning’s activities at SHD, bikers departed on their self-paced ride. There were around 645 participants. The route was about 260 miles – with cards being drawn at Jake’s Corner Bar in Payson, the Drift Inn in Globe, LEMAC Aviation at Falcon Field Airport in Mesa, with the last stop at WestWorld in Scottsdale. The ride fee included entry into AZ Bike Week’s Power Yard.

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Riders who gathered at ride’s end at the Law Tiger booth at AZ Bike Week learned who the ride winners and raffle winners were. High hand poker run winner Christine D won \$500 while low hand winner Chris Y collected \$250. Robert W picked up \$255 with his winning 50/50 ticket. Congratulation to each of you, plus all of the raffle recipients.

Steve shared that this year’s event raised \$30,977.49. These donations help East Valley Firefighters Charities to support programs & organizations including The 100 Club of Arizona, Child Crisis Arizona, The Muscular Dystrophy Association, The Gary Pykare Cancer Foundation, A New Leaf, The Arizona Burn Foundation, The Salvation Army, and many others.

On behalf of EVFC, Steve also sent along this message to “thank Superstition Harley Davidson and Law Tigers who are our title sponsors. Also to Ash Creek Financial Advisors and Galloway Financial who continue to sponsor us each year at the Gold Partnership Sponsorship level.” He added, “We continue to love this event and want to thank everyone who sponsors and supports us and comes out and rides with us each year.”

East Valley Firefighter Charities fundraising events each year include this motorcycle ride, the Fill the Boot for MDA (Muscular Dystrophy Association) campaign, the Annual 911 Tribute, and the Annual Hook & Ladder Golf Tournament. Learn more about EVFC and how you can support their efforts in our community at their website <https://firefightercharities.com>

Congratulations on a successful day! Thank you for what you & your fellow firefighters do for our community!

Betsy

