



WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU RETIRE

Having complete control over your time—what you do and when and how you do it—can be both exciting and a little daunting if you are a recent retiree. Here are some ideas to help you start thinking about the next great chapter of your life.

1. **Meet with your financial advisor and make a budget:** Very few of us are lucky enough to retire with unlimited income. If you have a clear idea what your resources are and budget to live within your means, your other choices will start to fall into place.
2. **Become a “road warrior”:** Increasing numbers of retirees are choosing to buy a motor home and go exploring. You might set a goal such as visiting every national park, every football and baseball stadium, or every state in the United States. And on a prolonged visit to your grandchildren, having your own kitchen and bedroom can give everyone much-needed personal space.
3. **Travel with a purpose:** Many retirees plan to travel the world. But have you thought of volunteering for the Peace Corps, an international humanitarian organization, or a scientific expedition such as an archeological dig? Not only can you make the world a little better place, but you can reduce your travel expenses.
4. **Start a business:** Perhaps you want to start a hobby business or your own consulting firm. Or perhaps there is a research topic you want to pursue as an independent scholar.
5. **Teach:** You don’t need to be a professor to consider teaching. You might choose to become certified as a substitute teacher, in order to bring in some extra income. Or Pima Community College, Tucson Parks and Recreation, Pima County Libraries and other organizations need instructors for the community education courses they operate.
6. **Mentor young people:** Volunteer at a local school or for a youth charity, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters. Connect with young people in your neighborhood. Spend time with your grandkids. Talk to your department head about ways to continue your support of UA students.
7. **Transform yourself into a writer:** Many faculty members, of course, use their retirement to write up their research. But anyone can take a creative writing class, join a writing group, submit short stories to literary publications, blog, write a children’s book, and find other ways to write for fun and profit.
8. **Take advantage of your QTR benefit:** Retirees continue to qualify for reduced tuition rates at the three Arizona universities. Perhaps you want to take language classes to prepare for your travels abroad, pursue a second degree to launch a new career, or just learn for fun.
9. **Become the family historian:** Research your family’s roots, visit the places your family hails from, write biographies of your ancestors who immigrated to this country. Organize an annual family reunion and share what you’ve learned with your clan.



10. **Play music.** Perhaps it's time to dig out the instrument (or voice) you set away after high school, or learn to play a new one. Join a community band, orchestra, or choir. Find other musically inclined friends and start an informal music group in your home. Take music lessons.
11. **Become a public servant:** Run for election to the school board, city council, board of supervisors, or officer of your homeowners' association.
12. **Get in the best shape of your life:** Many Medicare plans offer low-cost memberships to fitness clubs. Or join the [Southern Arizona Hiking Club](#), [Southern Arizona Roadrunners](#), [Greater Arizona Bicycling Association](#), [Arizona Masters Swimming](#), or many other local recreational groups.
13. **Make new friends through affinity groups:** Many people find that over the course of their career, their circle of friends narrows to coworkers and professional associates. Local charities, advocacy organizations, travel clubs, and other organizations sponsor affinity groups that can help people with common interests connect.
14. **Work part-time:** Whether you continue your UA position on a part-time basis or do something completely different—like driving a school bus—part-time work gives you more control over your schedule and responsibilities.
15. **Grow your own food:** If you don't have your own home garden, look into the [UA Community Garden](#) or a community garden in your neighborhood. [Pima Cooperative Extension](#) also has a master gardeners network.
16. **Volunteer:** If you don't have causes you are already passionate about, [Volunteermatch.org](#) contains hundreds of ideas.