

## **Mound House Upcoming Outdoor Nature & Education Events: March 18 to 27, 2021**

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With Spring officially in full force and the time change firmly in place, celebrate your longer days and warmer weather at the historic Mound House on Fort Myers Beach!

To inaugurate the new season, the Mound House features all four of its new programs over the next week. The “Beginner Kayak Tour” for ages 12 & up is Friday, March 19, weather permitting at 9 a.m. The debut of the “La Florida Kayak Tour” for ages 12 & up is Tuesday, March 23, weather permitting at 9 a.m. The Mound House offers the “Fishing Rancho Outside Guided Tour” for all ages on three occasions: Tuesday, March 23, Thursday, March 25, and Saturday, March 27, all at 2 p.m. Finally, the new “Advanced Kayak Tour” for ages 12 & up is Saturday, March 27, weather permitting at 1 p.m. Another must-attend event is the always-popular “Full Moon Kayak Tour” on Friday evening, March 26.

One of Southwest Florida’s most iconic historic attractions, the Mound House traces its roots back to the ancient Calusa of over 2,000 years ago. The Town of Fort Myers Beach operates the Mound House as a museum complex and cultural and environmental learning center that offers numerous educational programs each month, including for children. All visitors must wear masks, with Center for Disease Control (CDC) precautions and Social Distancing guidelines in place.

The Mound House, the oldest standing structure on Estero Island, is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is at 451 Connecticut Street with overflow parking at 216 Connecticut. Admission is \$10 for ages 13 & up, \$8 for students with IDs, \$5 ages 6 to 12, and 5 & under free, with Town residents receiving a 50% discount. For more information on the four new events as well as a complete monthly programs schedule, call 239-765-0865 or see [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

### **Thursday, March 18: FREE “Newton Beach Park Guided Beach Walk”**

All ages weather permitting at 9 a.m.

This twice-weekly free outdoor nature program is different every single time, as the “Guided Beach Walks” have a simple premise – the groups walk roughly a half-mile down the beach and back, discussing whatever you find that particular morning, with the wind and waves dictating what comes up each day. Meet at the thatched hut closest to the beach, with CDC and Social Distancing in place and face masks mandatory. In addition to your face mask, bring sunscreen, shoes to get wet, sunglasses, and hat. No reservations necessary; while free, parking is \$3-per-hour, with one hour generally enough. Newton Beach Park is mid-island at 4650 Estero Boulevard.

### **Thursday, March 18: “Family Adventures” Outdoors Program**

Adults & children age 5 & older weather permitting at 10 a.m.

Explore everything fun at the Mound House on this outdoor activity, as the interpretive staff leads families through entertaining and educational experiences you will remember for a lifetime! All participants must wear a mask with CDC and Social Distancing guidelines in place. \$2-per-person that does not include Mound House admission; Mound House members free.

**Thursday, March 18: “Shell Mound” Outside Guided Tour**

All ages at 11 a.m.

If you dig archaeology, this program is for you! Tour the 2,000-year-old Calusa Indian Shell Mound led by the Mound House Interpretive Staff as you explore the archaeology of the site while unearthing clues about this ancient society. All participants over the age of 6 must wear a mask. \$5-per-person that does not include Mound House admission; Mound House members free.

**Thursday, March 18: “Shell Mound” Outside Guided Tour**

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**Friday, March 19: “Beginner Kayak Tour”**

Ages 12 & up weather permitting at 9 a.m.

For newbies who want to kayak at their own pace! Participants on this 2-hour informative and scenic tour learn kayaking basics while marveling at the unique Estero Bay and Matanzas Pass environments. \$45-per-person, with Mound House members at \$15 that includes paddling equipment and instruction. CDC and Social Distancing guidelines in place, and all kayakers must wear masks on land. A maximum of 8 paddlers per tour.

**Friday, March 19: “Family Fun Kayak Tour”**

Ages 6 & up weather permitting at 1 p.m.

Fun for the whole family on a specially-designed Environmental Educator-guided kayak tour! See birds, dolphins, manatee, and other wildlife while paddling through the Estero Bay mangroves. Your family must have children between the ages of 6 to 11 to qualify, with advance registration necessary. \$25-per-person age 13 & up; \$15-per-person ages 6 to 12. The Mound House provides all equipment, with CDC and Social Distancing in place; all participants must wear a mask on land. Maximum of 8 people per program.

### **Saturday, March 20: “Mangroves by Kayak Tour”**

Ages 12 & up weather permitting at 9 a.m.

Explore the winding mangrove creeks and hidden waters of the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve as only a kayaker can on this Environmental Educator-guided tour of the ancient realm of the Calusa! Witness birds, fish, manatee and dolphins as you paddle through the natural beauty of Estero and Hell Peckney Bays in a tandem kayak. All paddling & safety equipment provided, with kayak tours in accordance with Florida Society of Ethical Ecotourism guidelines. \$45-per-person that includes Mound House admission; Mound House members \$15. Advance reservations necessary; private tours available. CDC and Social Distancing guidelines in place & all participants must wear a mask on land. 8 paddlers per tour.

### **Saturday, March 20: “Family Adventures” Outdoors Program**

Adults & children age 5 & older weather permitting at 10 a.m.

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### **Saturday, March 20: “Shell Mound” Outside Guided Tour**

All ages at 2 p.m.

If you dig archaeology, this program is for you! Tour the 2,000-year-old Calusa Indian Shell Mound led by the Mound House Interpretive Staff as you explore the archaeology of the site while unearthing clues about this ancient society. All participants over the age

of 6 must wear a mask. \$5-per-person that does not include Mound House admission; Mound House members free.

**Tuesday, March 23: FREE “Newton Beach Park Guided Beach Walk”**

All ages weather permitting at 9 a.m.

This twice-weekly free outdoor nature program is different every single time, as the “Guided Beach Walks” have a simple premise – the groups walk roughly a half-mile down the beach and back, discussing whatever you find that particular morning, with the wind and waves dictating what comes up each day. Meet at the thatched hut closest to the beach, with CDC and Social Distancing in place and face masks mandatory. In addition to your face mask, bring sunscreen, shoes to get wet, sunglasses, and hat. No reservations necessary; while free, parking is \$3-per-hour, with one hour generally enough. Newton Beach Park is mid-island at 4650 Estero Boulevard.

**Tuesday, March 23: NEW “La Florida Kayak Tour”**

Ages 12 & up weather permitting at 9 a.m.

From Conquistadors to the Fishing Ranchos, learn about the legacy of Southwest Florida’s Spanish explorers and Latino settlers as we paddle through that history on this Estero Bay kayak tour in accordance with the Florida Society of Ethical Ecotourism guidelines. The Mound House supplies all paddling and safety equipment, with reservations required at [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org). \$45-per-person that includes Mound House admission; members \$15-per-person. CDC and Social Distancing guidelines in place; all participants must wear masks on land. Maximum of 8 paddlers per tour, with private tours available.

**Tuesday, March 23: “Shell Mound” Outside Guided Tour**

All ages at 11 a.m.

If you dig archaeology, this program is for you! Tour the 2,000-year-old Calusa Indian Shell Mound led by the Mound House Interpretive Staff as you explore the archaeology of the site while unearthing clues about this ancient society. All participants over the age of 6 must wear a mask. \$5-per-person that does not include Mound House admission; Mound House members free.

**Tuesday, March 23: NEW “Fishing Rancho Outside Guided Tour”**

All ages at 2 p.m.

The perfect program for Florida history buffs! Learn about the Latino fishing village known as a “Rancho” that existed on the shell mound between the ancient Calusa and Anglo-Pioneer eras. Explore the site’s archaeology and history through unearthed clues about this multicultural society. All participants over the age of 6 must wear masks and everyone will observe CDC guidelines. \$5-per-person that does not include Mound House admission.

### **Wednesday, March 24: “Mangroves by Kayak Tour”**

Ages 12 & up weather permitting at 9 a.m.

Explore the winding mangrove creeks and hidden waters of the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve as only a kayaker can on this Environmental Educator-guided tour of the ancient realm of the Calusa! Witness birds, fish, manatee and dolphins as you paddle through the natural beauty of Estero and Hell Peckney Bays in a tandem kayak. All paddling & safety equipment provided, with kayak tours in accordance with Florida Society of Ethical Ecotourism guidelines. \$45-per-person; Mound House members \$15. Advance reservations necessary; private tours available. CDC and Social Distancing guidelines in place & all participants must wear a mask on land. 8 paddlers per tour.

### **Wednesday, March 24: “Family Fun Kayak Tour”**

Ages 6 & up weather permitting at 1 p.m.

Fun for the whole family on a specially-designed Environmental Educator-guided kayak tour! See birds, dolphins, manatee, and other wildlife while paddling through the Estero Bay mangroves. Your family must have children between the ages of 6 to 11 to qualify, with advance registration necessary. \$25-per-person age 13 & up; \$15-per-person ages 6 to 12. The Mound House provides all equipment, with CDC and Social Distancing in place; all participants must wear a mask on land. Maximum of 8 people per program.

### **Thursday, March 25: FREE “Newton Beach Park Guided Beach Walk”**

All ages weather permitting at 9 a.m.

This twice-weekly free outdoor nature program is different every single time, as the “Guided Beach Walks” have a simple premise – the groups walk roughly a half-mile down the beach and back, discussing whatever you find that particular morning, with the wind and waves dictating what comes up each day. Meet at the thatched hut closest to the beach, with CDC and Social Distancing in place and face masks mandatory. In addition to your face mask, bring sunscreen, shoes to get wet, sunglasses, and hat. No reservations necessary; while free, parking is \$3-per-hour, with one hour generally enough. Newton Beach Park is mid-island at 4650 Estero Boulevard.

### **Thursday, March 25: “Shell Mound” Outside Guided Tour**

All ages at 11 a.m.

If you dig archaeology, this program is for you! Tour the 2,000-year-old Calusa Indian Shell Mound led by the Mound House Interpretive Staff as you explore the archaeology of the site while unearthing clues about this ancient society. All participants over the age of 6 must wear a mask. \$5-per-person that does not include Mound House admission; Mound House members free.

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**Friday, March 26: “Mangroves by Kayak Tour”**

Ages 12 & up weather permitting at 9:30 a.m.

Explore the winding mangrove creeks and hidden waters of the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve as only a kayaker can on this Environmental Educator-guided tour of the ancient realm of the Calusa! Witness birds, fish, manatee and dolphins as you paddle through the natural beauty of Estero and Hell Peckney Bays in a tandem kayak. All paddling & safety equipment provided, with kayak tours in accordance with Florida Society of Ethical Ecotourism guidelines. \$45-per-person; Mound House members \$15. Advance reservations necessary; private tours available. CDC and Social Distancing guidelines in place & all participants must wear a mask on land. 8 paddlers per tour.

**Friday, March 26: “Full Moon Kayak Tour,” 6:45 p.m.**

The unique tour offers kayakers the rare opportunity to experience the backwaters of the Estero Bay in the quiet of twilight by the light of the full moon! Participants explore the estuary’s tidal creeks, winding mangroves, and abundant wildlife illuminated by the full moon. Weather permitting and reservations required at [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org); \$45-per-person with Mound House members \$15. The Mound House provides all paddling equipment, with a maximum of 8 people per tour. CDC and Social Distancing guidelines in place, and everyone must wear a mask while on land.

**Saturday, March 27: “Mangroves by Kayak Tour”**

Ages 12 & up weather permitting at 9 a.m.

Explore the winding mangrove creeks and hidden waters of the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve as only a kayaker can on this Environmental Educator-guided tour of the ancient realm of the Calusa! Witness birds, fish, manatee and dolphins as you paddle through the natural beauty of Estero and Hell Peckney Bays in a tandem kayak. All paddling & safety equipment provided, with kayak tours in accordance with Florida Society of Ethical Ecotourism guidelines. \$45-per-person that includes Mound House admission; Mound House members \$15. Advance reservations necessary; private tours available. CDC and Social Distancing guidelines in place & all participants must wear a mask on land. 8 paddlers per tour.

**Saturday, March 27: “Shell Mound” Outside Guided Tour**

All ages at 11 a.m.

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**Saturday, March 27: NEW “Advanced Kayak Tour”**

Ages 12 & up weather permitting at 1 p.m.

For kayakers who want a new 3-hour challenge of exploring areas of the Estero Bay where few get to venture, including the Hell Peckney Bay’s mangrove isles! \$55-per-person; Mound House members \$25 that includes Mound House admission as well as all paddling & safety equipment. Advance reservations necessary, with CDC and Social Distancing guidelines in place & all participants must wear a mask on land. A maximum of 8 paddlers per tour.

**Saturday, March 27: NEW “Fishing Rancho Outside Guided Tour”**

All ages at 2 p.m.

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