

Mound House Upcoming Outdoor Nature & Education Events: July 1 through 10, 2021

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Kick off your Independence Day Holiday Weekend with a visit the iconic Mound House on Fort Myers Beach that presents eight family, history, and environmental programs from July 1 through 3! One of Southwest Florida's most-beloved 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.

Over The Fourth of July Holiday Weekend, the Mound House debuts "Cool Calusa Tools" for families with children ages 6 & older, where you learn to hunt, fish, and make masks and pottery, just like the Calusa! "Cool Calusa Tools" starts on Thursday, July 1 & Saturday, July 3, both at 1 p.m., as well as on Thursday, July 8, and Saturday, July 10, at 2 p.m. It continues its exciting new program, "Junior Explorers," for kids age 2 to 5 and their adult guardians at Newton Beach Park on Friday, July 2, and Wednesday, July 7, at 1 p.m. Junior Explorers learn about the environment, culture, and early life skills such as language, numbers, fine motor, and socializing. There are two different kayak programs this week, as well as presenting the Mound House's signature event, the "Shell Mound Outside Guided Tour," on 7 occasions.

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 practices Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and encourages all nonvaccinated guests to wear masks. The Mound House 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 information, reservations, and a monthly programs schedule, call 239-765-0865 or see www.moundhouse.org.

FREE "Newton Beach Park Guided Beach Walk"

For all ages every Tuesday and Thursday 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. Meet at the thatched hut closest to the beach, with CDC guidelines in place. 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.

“Shell Mound” Outside Guided Tour

For all ages on Thursday, July 1, at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.; Saturday, July 3, at 2 p.m.; Tuesday, July 6, at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.; Thursday, July 8, at 1 p.m.; and Saturday, July 10, at 1 p.m.

If you dig archaeology, the Mound House’s signature program is for you! Tour the 2,000-year-old Calusa Indian Shell Mound led by the interpretive staff as you explore the site’s archaeology to unearth clues about this ancient society. \$5-per-person that does not include Mound House admission; Mound House members free, with CDC guidelines in place.

NEW “Cool Calusa Tools”

For families with children ages 6 & older on Thursday, July 1 & Saturday, July 3, both at 1 p.m.; and Thursday, July 8, and Saturday, July 10, at 2 p.m.

Learn to hunt, fish, and make masks and pottery, just like the Calusa! The interpretive staff leads an exciting hands-on tour of the Mound House grounds where they demonstrate Calusa tools and artifacts, then help you make Calusa-inspired artwork where your imagination runs wild! \$2-per-person that does not include Mound House admission. The Mound House enforces CDC guidelines and recommends that all unvaccinated visitors wear masks.

“Mangroves by Kayak Tour”

For ages 12 & up weather permitting on Friday, July 2; Wednesday, July 7; and Friday, July 9, all 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, with CDC guidelines in place.

NEW: “Junior Explorers” at Newton Beach Park

For children 2 to 5 with their adult guardians on Friday, July 2; and Wednesday, July 7, both at 1 p.m.

Your Junior Explorer will investigate Newton Beach Park to learn about the natural environment, culture, and early life skills such as language, numbers, fine motor, and socializing during this 30-minute program, featuring topics like “Counting With Nature,” “Animals of The Estuary,” “Paint Making,” “Calusa Masks,” “Calusa Pottery,” and

“Sorting Shells.” \$2-per-child, with adult guardians and Mound House members free; no reservations necessary. Newton Beach Park is mid-island at 4650 Estero Boulevard.

“Family Fun Kayak Tour”

For ages 6 & up weather permitting on Saturday, July 3, at 9 a.m.

Fun for the whole family on a specially-designed Environmental Educator-guided kayak tour for families with children age 6 & up! See birds, dolphins, manatee, and other wildlife while paddling through the Estero Bay mangroves. \$25-per-person ages 13 & up; \$15-per-person ages 6 to 12, with advance registrations necessary. The Mound House provides all equipment, with CDC guidelines in place.

“Garden Outside Guided Tour”

For all ages on Saturday, July 3, at 11 a.m.

Stroll through the Mound House gardens to discover how its unique plants conserve water and protect wildlife, while learning how the Calusa and other Native Americans used them in their daily lives. \$5-per-person that does not include Mound House admission; Mound House members free, with CDC guidelines in place.

NEW “Latino History Outside Guided Tour”

For all ages on Tuesday, July 6, at 2 p.m.

Perfect 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. Advance registrations necessary at \$5-per-person that does not include Mound House admission, with CDC guidelines in place.