

## **Mound House Tourism & Environmental Programs: Thursday, July 7 Through Saturday, July 16, 2022**

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With The Fourth of July behind us and the Labor Day Holiday Weekend two months away, off-season traffic on Fort Myers Beach is light, making this the perfect time to visit the iconic Mound House! As the oldest standing structure on Estero Island, the Town of Fort Myers Beach operates the Mound House as a museum complex and cultural and environmental learning experience that offers numerous monthly tourism and environmental programs, including for kids.

The Mound House “Summer Lecture Series” kicks off with Education Coordinator Adam Knight presenting “Rancho Reality: Latino History at The Mound House” for adults on Tuesday, July 12, with a wine-&-refreshments reception at 5:30 p.m. and the program from 6 to 7 p.m. Learn about the rich history and culture of Cuban fishers, Spanish Indians, and the United States settlers of Estero Island and Southwest Florida during Florida’s “Forgotten Century.” Due to limited seating, advance registrations are necessary at 239-765-0865; \$7 for Mound House members & \$12 for non-members.

One of Southwest Florida’s most-beloved historic attractions, the Mound House traces its roots to the ancient Calusa of over 2,000 years ago, including the one-of-a-kind underground Calusa Indian Shell Mound that reveals clues about this ancient society. The Mound House is open Tuesdays through 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 Fort Myers Beach residents receiving a 50% museum admission discount. For details, reservations, and a monthly programs schedule, call 239-765-0865 or see [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

### **Shell Mound Tour**

For all ages every July Tuesday through Saturday at 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.

If you dig archaeology, the Mound House’s signature program is for you! Tour the one-of-a-kind underground 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, with Mound House members free.

### **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 – walk roughly a half-mile down the

beach and back, discussing whatever you find that morning. Meet at the thatched hut closest to the beach, and bring sunscreen, shoes to get wet, sunglasses and hat. No reservations necessary; while free, parking is \$5-per-hour, with one hour generally enough. Newton Beach Park is mid-island at 4650 Estero Boulevard.

### **Guided Kayak Tour**

For ages 12 & up on Thursday, July 7; Saturday, July 9; Wednesday, July 13; & Friday, July 15, 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; \$45-per-person with Mound House members \$15 that includes Mound House admission. Advance reservations necessary at [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

### **NEW: Shell & Tell**

Ages 12 & up on Thursday, July 7, at 10 a.m. & Thursday, July 14, at 2 p.m.

The Calusa used shells for over a thousand years in their everyday lives. Discover the various species of shells you see on the beach, their biology and importance to our ecosystem. "Shell & Tell" is at Newton Beach Park mid-island at 4650 Estero Boulevard. \$5-per-person and Mound House members free; parking \$5-per-hour.

### **Latino History Tour**

For all ages on Thursday, July 7, at 2 p.m.; Tuesday, July 12, at 10 a.m.; & Friday, July 15, at 2 p.m.

Perfect for Florida history buffs! Experience 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. \$5-per-person that does not include Mound House admission, with Mound House members free.

### **Family Fun Kayak Tour**

For ages 6 & up weather permitting on Friday, July 8; Thursday, July 14; & Saturday, July 16, all at 9 a.m.

This specially-designed Environmental Educator-guided kayak tour is perfect fun for families with children ages 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 that includes Mound House admission. The Mound House provides all padding equipment, with advance registrations necessary at [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

### **NEW: Calusa Masks**

For families with children age 12 & older on Friday, July 8, at 10 a.m.; Saturday, July 9, at 2 p.m.; & Saturday, July 16, at 10 a.m.

Mound House interpretive staff explains the culture of Calusa masks, then helps you make a replica. \$5-per-person that does not include Mound House admission, with Mound House members free.

### **NEW: Calusa Pottery**

For ages 12 & up on Friday, July 8, at 2 p.m.; Saturday, July 9, at 10 a.m.; & Saturday, July 16, at 2 p.m.

Pottery was more than just household decorations to the Calusa! Discover its cultural significance, then make an example of your own. \$5-per-person that does not include Mound House admission, with Mound House members free.

### **NEW: Turtles of Southwest Florida**

Ages 12 & up on Saturdays, July 9 & 16, both at 11 a.m.

Learn about the various Southwest Florida turtle species and what we can do to protect them. "Turtles of Southwest Florida" is at Newton Beach Park mid-island at 4650 Estero Boulevard. \$5-per-person with Mound House members free and \$5-per-hour parking.

### **Archaeology: Can You Dig It?**

For all ages on Tuesday, July 12, at 2 p.m. & Friday, July 15, at 10 a.m.

Learn what it takes to be an archaeologist! Handle real artifacts and discover how archaeologists study past cultures in a program perfect for families. \$5-per-person that does not include Mound House admission, with Mound House members free.

### **Mound House Lecture on "Rancho Reality: Latino History at The Mound House" with Adam Knight**

For adults on Tuesday, July 12

Wine-&-refreshments reception at 5:30 p.m.; program 6 to 7 p.m.

The Mound House Summer Lecture Series kicks off with Education Coordinator Adam Knight presenting "Rancho Reality: Latino History at The Mound House" on Tuesday, July 12! Learn about the rich history and culture of Cuban fishers, Spanish Indians, and

the United States settlers of Estero Island and Southwest Florida during Florida's "Forgotten Century." Due to limited seating, advance registrations are necessary at 239-765-0865; \$7 for Mound House members & \$12 for non-members.

### **Untold Stories Tour**

For adults on Wednesday, July 13, at 10 a.m. & Thursday, July 14, at 2 p.m.

The Mound House is the oldest standing structure on Fort Myers Beach, with an intriguing cast of characters who called it home, ranging from farmers to casino owners; scientists to developers! Learn about their individual stories along with a good dose of island history on this guided tour through the Mound House Museum, native gardens, and majestic grounds. Adults \$15 and Mound House members free.

### **Cool Calusa Tools**

For families with kids 6 & older on Wednesday, July 13, at 2 p.m. & Thursday, July 14, at 10 a.m.

Learn to hunt, fish, and make masks and pottery, just like the Calusa! The Mound House interpretive staff leads this exciting hands-on tour of the Mound House grounds, demonstrating Calusa tools and artifacts, then helps you make Calusa-inspired artwork where your imagination runs wild! \$5-per-person that does not include Mound House admission, with Mound House members free.

### **Beach Clean-Up**

For all ages on Friday, July 15, at 8:30 a.m.

Grab your bucket and help clean up Fort Myers Beach with the Mound House crew! Advance reservations necessary at 239-765-0865.