

**Mound House Tourism & Environmental Programs:
Thursday, September 1 Through Saturday, September 10, 2022**

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Ring in your Labor Day Holiday Weekend and the unofficial end of summer with a trip to the iconic Mound House on Fort Myers Beach! 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. 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.

While just a bit outside of this calendar's timeframe, plan to attend the final program in the Mound House's "2022 Summer Lecture Series" when Mound House Environmental Educator Yvette Carrasco presents "Butterflies on The Bay" on Tuesday, September 13, with a wine-&-refreshments reception at 5:30 p.m. and program from 6 to 7 p.m. Yvette provides a closer examination of the endangered Atala Butterfly as well as other Fort Myers Beach butterflies. Due to limited seating, the Mound House requires advance reservations at 239-765-0865; \$7 for Mound House members & \$12 for non-members.

The Mound House, on the National Register of Historic Places and featuring the one-of-a-kind underground Calusa Indian Shell Mound, 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.

Shell Mound Tour

For all ages every September 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.

Family Fun Kayak Tour

For ages 6 & up weather permitting on Thursday, September 1; Saturday, September 3; Wednesday, September 7; & Friday, September 9, 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; advance registrations necessary at www.moundhouse.org.

Calusa Masks

For families with kids age 12 & older on Thursday, September 1, at 10 a.m.; Friday, September 2, at 2 p.m.; Friday, September 9, at 10 a.m.; & Saturday, September 10, at 2 p.m.

Learn all about the culture of Calusa masks and then make a replica. \$5-per-person that does not include Mound House admission, with Mound House members free.

Calusa Pottery

Ages 12 & up on Thursday, September 1, at 2 p.m.; Friday, September 2, at 10 a.m.; Friday, September 9, at 2 p.m.; & Saturday, September 10, at 10 a.m.

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

Guided Kayak Tour

For ages 12 & up on Friday, September 2; Thursday, September 8; & Saturday, September 10, 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! 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.

Latino History Tour

For all ages on Saturday, September 3, at 10 a.m. & Thursday, September 8, 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. \$5-per-person that does not include Mound House admission, with Mound House members free.

Archaeology: Can You Dig It?

For all ages on Saturday, September 3, at 2 p.m. & Thursday, September 8, 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.

Untold Stories Tour

For adults on Tuesday, September 6, at 10 a.m. & Wednesday, September 7, 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; Mound House members free.

Cool Calusa Tools

For families with kids 6 & older on Tuesday, September 6, at 2 p.m. & Wednesday, September 7, at 10 a.m.

Discover how the Calusa would hunt, fish, and make masks and pottery! 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.