



Nota DeSoto

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1



FEBRUARY 2014

Upcoming Events

Concert on the Lawn

February 22, 2014, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

A six piece band whose members hail from Panama and the United States. Los Legendarios plays a mixture of traditional and contemporary Panamanian music. They play in many circuits and festivals around Tampa Bay and Orlando as ambassadors of Latin culture and music.

Dog Days at De Soto

March 29, 2104, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Come out and help us celebrate our four-legged friends. This event features local vendors and dog health specialist. This event is designed to promote safe and healthy dog visits to the park.

Five Centuries of Florida History

March 29, 2104, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m..

Every March DeSoto Memorial brings together re-enactor groups from all over Florida for a timeline spanning 500 years.

De Soto Landing

April 20, 2014, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Be here as Conquistador Hernando De Soto comes ashore and claims Florida. Stay all day as we provide talks and demonstrations about De Soto's expedition and its lasting impact on the Native American people of the Southeast.

Ranger Led Kayak Tours Saturdays and Sundays April through October

Take a unique look at the park from its waterways. Follow in the wake of our Native American and Spanish ancestors and learn the history of Florida's waters. Space is limited and reservations are required.

Every Day Programs

Ranger Led Trail Walks & Junior Ranger Program

DeSoto National Memorial offers ranger led walks along the parks nature trails all day long. The junior ranger program offers a chance for kids to earn their own ranger badge with our Junior Ranger Activity Book.

Camp Uzita Living History: Every Day from December 7th through April 19th. Visitors get a unique look into Spanish and Native American life in the 16th Century. Park staff offer talks and demonstrations on the lasting impact De Soto would have on the history of America and the native people. Programs run daily at the top of each hour from 10 am-3 pm. Rangers and volunteers dressed in period clothing will present talks on a variety of historical topics related to the De Soto Expedition and Florida's Native Americans. There will also be weapons and Spanish and native craft demonstrations throughout the day.

Our living History Camp Season closes in April with our popular De Soto landing event. Living History Rangers and volunteers re-enact the historic landing of Hernando De Soto on the beaches of Tampa Bay. The day will include talks and demonstrations on Life in the 16th Century, Florida's Native American heritage, and the Legacy of De Soto's expedition.

Walk the Nature Trails

The Nature Trail winds along the shoreline and through several Florida ecosystems, including a mangrove forest like the one that DeSoto's men would have encountered when they landed. Trails include interpretive signage and waysides that tell the story of the DeSoto Expedition and the natural history of the area. Bicycling is allowed in the parking lot, but not on the sidewalks or trails.

Forty-five minute guided Trail Walks are offered by Park Rangers daily at 11 a.m., staff availability and weather permitting. Inquire at the Visitor Center. For tour availability, call 941-792-0458, ext. 105.

Who are Friends of DeSoto?

Friends of DeSoto National Memorial, Inc., was created on January 15, 2008, for the purpose of supporting a very special place—the National Park Service's DeSoto National Memorial. The Memorial is located in Manatee County, FL, northwest of the City of Bradenton at the mouth of the Manatee River. We are a private non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Florida. Our purpose and mission statement:

To initiate, promote, and support the educational, historical, interpretive, and scientific activities of the DeSoto National Memorial.

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Friends of DeSoto National Memorial, Inc.
P.O. Box 14422
Bradenton, FL 34280-4422

Email: info@friendsofdesoto.org

Website: FriendsofDeSoto.org

Membership



We are now enrolling new members at a donation level of \$25 per person annually. Join our Email List. We send out periodic notices and email newsletters with the latest information on activities at the Park or with the Friends group.

Our Living History Camp is opened December through April. Rangers and volunteers dressed in period clothing will present talks on a variety of historical topics related to the De Soto Expedition and Florida's Native Americans. There will also be weapons and Spanish and native craft demonstrations throughout the day.

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FRIENDS OF DESOTO
NATIONAL MEMORIAL, INC.

Picnic Area: A ten table picnic area is located adjacent to the parking lot and is available for visitors on a first come basis. Large groups and schools should call ahead to reserve seating. Grills and alcohol are not allowed within the park.

Bird Watching: The seasonal migration of birds brings many bird watchers to the park in the fall and early spring. The exact timing of migration is dependent upon weather. Come to our visitor center and inquire what new and rare birds have been sighted recently at De Soto National Memorial.

Camping: De Soto National Memorial has no facilities for camping. The park grounds are closed from sunset to sunrise.

Beach: Several small beaches are located within the park. The De Soto Point Beach is located west of De Soto Point and northwest of the Visitor Center. This beach is exposed to the current of the Manatee River and the waves of Tampa Bay. The Cove Beach located on the south side of De Soto Point and is more popular because it is sheltered from most current and waves. No life guards are on duty. Swimmers use park beaches at their own risk.

Fishing: Fishing with rod and reel is allowed within the park with a valid Florida drivers license and valid State of Florida fishing license. Fishermen are not allowed to stand on rip rap or to clear brush from any area in order to gain access to the water. For questions of licensure and eligibility please visit <http://myfwc.com/license/>

Boating: The Cove is a popular temporary anchorage for small pleasure boats. Canoes and kayaks may be launched that may easily be carried to the water by hand may be launched from the park beaches provided that vegetation, terrain, and wildlife is not disturbed. Loud motors and the creation of excessive wave action is prohibited.

Dogs: Dogs are permitted within the park only when on a hand held leash. For all of our dog walkers and four legged friends make sure to come to our Dog Days at De Soto event held annually in March.

Exhibits: The Visitor Center includes stunning displays of historic armor, weapons,

and related period items. Helmets and armor are available to try on.

Theater: Our newly re-modeled theater and museum features a wide array of exhibits of Spanish and Native American artifacts. The new museum exhibits are designed to be rotating with new items and art that will be displayed periodically. Our theater shows our parks film Hernando De Soto in America throughout the year. During season the film is shown on a time schedule to coincide with scheduled living history programs.

Bookstore: The bookstore features an excellent selection of books about the De Soto Expedition and the Native American cultures encountered, as well as keepsakes to remember your visit by. Some items may be ordered on-line by clicking here.

Other Amenities: Modern restrooms and a drinking fountain are available in the Visitor Center.

There are no entry fees for the park or the Visitor Center.

Donations

How to Support Your National Parks

The National Park Service appreciates your support in the form of visitation and donations. Your donations directly contribute to the services and features you enjoy at De Soto National Memorial. Donation money supports the maintenance of our nature trails and boardwalk, they fund many of our special events like our living history programs and holiday events, and they support many of our youth programs like Junior Ranger Summer Camp.

There are several ways you and your family can make a donation to De Soto National Memorial or the National Park Service. These options include: on-line giving through our friends group and cooperating associations, Memorial gifts for living or deceased family or friends, Wedding party favors or gifts, holiday gift, and wills and bequests.

Your donation and gifts will be greatly appreciated and be given direct recognition if you and your family desires. You have the option to give anonymously as well. recognition of your donation can be used to inspire others to give to De Soto National Memorial or to the National Park Service.

You can make a gift to benefit our park either directly to the National Park Service or to our primary non-profit tax exempt support organization the Friends of De Soto National Memorial. If you make the gift directly to the park, the entire gift will be used for the purpose you identify. No administrative costs are deducted from your gift to the National Park Service. Your check will be deposited in a government account and the full amount will be spent as you intended. Most parks have separate donation accounts for park-specific projects and programs for which you can earmark your gift. Government accounts are non-interest bearing and cannot generate interest between the time it is deposited and the time it is spent.

The advantage of making your gift check to the Friends of De Soto National Memorial, our parks Friends Group, is that the amount will be deposited in an interest bearing account to assist park-prioritized requested projects and programs.

To make a donation please mail your check to:

Friends of DeSoto National Memorial • PO Box 14422 • Bradenton, FL 34280-4422



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