



ADVENTURES WITH NATURE JUNE 2017



Sponsored by the S. L. O. Coast & Oceano Dunes State Park Districts
Supported by the Central Coast State Parks Association

This schedule can be found at www.centralcoastparks.org

Date	Day	Time	*LOC	*SC	Adventure	Presenter
3	Sat	10:00 am	MB	♿	The Otter Information Station!	David Curtius & Richard Schultz
4	Sun	10:00 am	LO		Los Osos Oaks Reserve	Faylla Chapman
4	Sun	10:00 am	PB	♿	Pismo Beavers: Adorable Wildlife or Destructive Pests?	Dan Green
4	Sun	2:00 pm	MdO	New!	The Pecho Ranch and Spooner History	Kathy Flock
8	Thu	11:00 am	MB		Great Blue Herons, Egrets and Other Rookery Wonders	Louise Abbott
9	Fri	9:00 am	EB		Walk Along the Edge	Norma Wightman
9	Fri	10:00 am	MB		Birds of Land and Sea at Morro Rock	Claudia Freitas & Rouvaishyana
9	Fri	4:00 pm	MB	♿	The Importance of Sea Otters	Ranger Marston Taylor
10	Sat	11:00 am	MB		White's Point Vistas	Molly Stoddard
10	Sat	2:00 pm	MB		Black Hill Trail	Roger Randall
10	Sat	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Saturday Scientists: Honeybees and You	Judy Neuhauser
10	Sat	4:00 pm	MB	♿	The Importance of Sea Otters	Ranger Marston Taylor
11	Sun	10:00 am	PB		Oceano Lagoon Walk	Jerry Stanley
12	Mon	10:00 am	MdO	♿	Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk	Paul O'Connor
14	Wed	10:00 am	MB	♿	Birding the Boardwalk	Claudia Freitas
15	Thu	9:30 am	MdO		Hike the Sand Spit	Bardeen, Kirkhart, Reifel, Renshaw
15	Thu	11:00 am	MdO	New!	The Pecho Ranch and Spooner History	Kathy Flock
16	Fri	10:00 am	MB		Windy Cove Mud and Tide Pools	Faylla Chapman
17	Sat	11:00 am	MB		White's Point Vistas	Norma Wightman
17	Sat	12:00 pm	MB		Great Blue Herons, Egrets and Other Rookery Wonders	Louise Abbott
18	Sun	10:00 am	MB	♿	The Otter Information Station!	David Curtius & Richard Schultz
18	Sun	1:00 pm	EB		Discover Estero Bluffs-Human History and Coastal Geology	Mimi Kimball
18	Sun	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Discover Hidden Life in the Morro Bay Estuary	Karen Watts
20	Tue	9:30 am	MdO		Hike Coon Creek Out and Back	Bardeen, Kirkhart, Reifel, Renshaw
20	Tue	1:00 pm	MB	♿	Salt Marsh to Mudflats	Faylla Chapman
21	Wed	10:30 am	MB	♿	Birding for Beginners - Part 1	Karen Watts & Robbie Revel
23	Fri	8:00 am	MdO		Exploring Tide Pools	Ranger Rob Mullins
23	Fri	11:00 am	MB		Great Blue Herons, Egrets and Other Rookery Wonders	Louise Abbott
24	Sat	8:00 am	MdO		Exploring Tide Pools	Ranger Rob Mullins
24	Sat	11:00 am	NC		Discovery Saturday: San Simeon Pier Safari	CDC Staff
24	Sat	11:00 am	MB	♿ ☀	Summer Solstice Celebration	Docents
24	Sat	1:30 pm	PB		Chumash - Before Spanish Explorers	Jim Avila
25	Sun	11:00 am	MB	♿	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
26	Mon	10:00 am	MdO	♿	Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk	Paul O'Connor
28	Wed	10:00 am	MB	♿	Birding the Boardwalk	Claudia Freitas & Bob Revel
30	Fri	10:00 am	MB		Windy Cove Mud and Tide Pools	Faylla Chapman

* **LOCation Codes:** EB - Estero Bluffs, HH - Harmony Headlands, LO - Los Osos, MB - Morro Bay, MdO - Montaña de Oro, MS - Morro Strand
NC - North Coast, OF - Oso Flaco, PB - Pismo Beach

* **SC - Special Codes:** ♿ - Adventure accessible by wheelchair ; **New!** - New event added to the AWN calendar

(Adventure Descriptions on the Reverse Side)

SPECIAL EVENTS!

Summer Solstice: ☀ Join State Park Docents and Staff as well as other environmental agencies in a celebration of Summer! There will be activities, demonstrations, games, and live critters to see and touch. The event will be held at Morro Bay State Park campground picnic area. FREE Family event on June 24, 11 am - 2 pm.

Oceano Dunes District Visitor Center: Opening Soon.

Spooner Ranch House: Open daily, 11am - 2pm, bad weather will cancel. In Montaña de Oro State Park, above Spooner's Cove. Historical ranch house, Spooner history, nature displays.

Coastal Discovery Center: Open Fri - Sun, 11am - 5pm. Hearst State Beach, across from the entrance to Hearst Castle.

ADVENTURE DESCRIPTIONS

Everyone is welcome, but no dogs, please. All times are approximate. Rain cancels outdoor activities

Birding for Beginners - Part 1 ☺

Learn about the skills needed to master birding as a hobby. Practice making observations, learn to use binoculars and spotting scopes, and learn about resources available for ongoing skill building. Binoculars helpful but not necessary. An outdoor walk will follow a discussion in the Museum's Learning Center. Meet at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History. Family event, walk 1 mile, 2 hours

Birding the Boardwalk ☺

Enjoy a stroll while identifying shorebirds and more. Beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars and field guide. Dress for wind/weather. Park at east end of Morro Bay State Park Bayside marina parking lot. 1 mi., 1.5 hr.

Birds of Land and Sea at Morro Rock

Observe cormorants, pelicans, and various species and age classes of gulls. Watch for resident Peregrine falcons over the Rock and sea birds in the channel. Dress for wind/weather; bring binoculars and a field guide. Meet near the chain link fencing at the base of Morro Rock, in the northwest corner of the large parking lot.

Black Hill Trail

Walk the most accessible of the volcanic sisters while discussing their history and enjoying a panoramic view of the surrounding geography. Dress for wind/weather. Take Golf Course Drive past the clubhouse and bear left at fork in road. Meet at the overlook parking lot above the Morro Bay Golf Course. 0.5 miles, 1.5 hours.

Chumash - Before Spanish Explorers

Walk along the lagoon shore at Oceano Campground to hear about the way the Chumash lived before the Spanish explorers. Learn about the plants and animals they utilized for food and other uses. Dress for wind/weather. Meet at the Ocean Dunes Visitor Center on Pier Ave. in Oceano. Easy walk, chance of poison oak, 0.5 miles, 1.5 hours.

Discover Estero Bluffs-Human History and Coastal Geology

Walk along the Bluffs to discover ancient proof of geologic forces that shaped our coastline. The Chumash culture and proof of their presence will be shown. Along the way we might observe marine mammals and birds. Meet at the Fig Tree Parking Lot. One mile north of Cayucos. Easy hike. Wear layers. 1-2 miles: 1 - 1 1/2 hours.

Discovery Saturday: San Simeon Pier Safari

Explore marine life in San Simeon Cove, from the largest residents to the smallest. Bring your binoculars to look for marine birds and mammals. Fish for plankton off the pier and learn the important role they play in the San Simeon Cove food web. Learn about how these marine animals have influenced the rich history of San Simeon Cove. Binoculars and field guides provided (limited number). Suggested donation \$2/person. Rain cancels. No dogs please. RSVP: 805-927-6575

Discover Hidden Life in the Morro Bay Estuary ☺

Learn about some of our planet's most fascinating, seldom seen life-forms. A video-microscope will be used to look at the life that exists in a drop of water. Meet at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History. Talk, 1 hour.

Exploring Tide Pools

Check out the tide pools at Corallina Cove in the early morning to see what might be early risers. Meet at the top of the stairs to Corallina Cove on the Bluff Trail in Montaña de Oro. Wear shoes that have good tread and can get wet and dress for the weather. 2 hours.

Great Blue Herons, Egrets and Other Rookery Wonders

Enjoy a short talk and walk to the rookery in Morro Bay State Park to observe these magnificent birds. Learn about courtship rituals, nesting habits, and in spring, see adults caring for their young. Dress for wind/weather. Meet at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History in the Learning Center. Easy walk, 0.25 miles, 1.5 hours.

Hike Coon Creek Out and Back

Follow the creek to the end of the trail, crossing 6 bridges on the way. Bring water and wear sturdy walking shoes. Meet in Montaña de Oro State Park at the end of Pecho Road in the Coon Creek parking lot. Active hike, chance of poison oak. 5 miles, 2.5 - 3 hours.

Hike the Sand Spit

Walk through the dune scrub to the beach on the Sand Spit Trail. Then walk north along the shore. Wear sturdy shoes. Dress in layers, and bring water. Meet at the Sand Spit Parking Lot, Montaña de Oro State Park (turn right on paved road .7 mile past the entrance sign). 3 mi., 2 hr.

Los Osos Oaks Reserve

Enjoy a shaded stroll through ancient forest. See native plants and evidence of Chumash habitation. Learn colorful historical background. Dress for wind/weather. Meet at Reserve entrance, 0.7 miles east of South Bay Blvd. on Los Osos Valley Road. Easy walk, chance of poison oak, 1 mile, 1.5 hours.

Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk ☺

Take a pleasant hike along the bluffs for the magnificent views and look for wildlife. Dress for wind/weather and bring binoculars. Meet at Bluff Trailhead, about 100 yards south of Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro. Active hike, chance of poison oak, 2 miles, 3 hours.

Oceano Lagoon Walk

As we take a leisurely walk, learn about the history, native plants and animals, and the recreational opportunities of the Oceano Lagoon. Wear sturdy shoes. Dress for weather. Bring water/binoculars. Meet at the Oceano Dunes Visitor Center on Pier Ave in Oceano. Easy walk. Chance of poison oak. 1.25 miles, 2 hours.

Pismo Beavers: Adorable Wildlife or Destructive Pests? ☺

Discover the beaver's physical adaptations, their role in our country's westward expansion, why they were hunted, and their local history. Search for evidence of their activities during a short walk. Dress for wind/weather with comfortable shoes. Bring insect repellent and water: binoculars a plus. Meet at Monarch Butterfly Grove, 1/2 mile north of Grand Avenue on Hwy 1, Pismo Beach. Moderate walk, 1/4 miles, 1 1/2 - 2 hours.

Salt Marsh to Mudflats ☺

Walk the State Park Marina Peninsula boardwalk to learn the history of the salt marsh and the plants and animals living in this specialized environment. Dress for wind/weather and mud. Bring binoculars. Park close to east end of Bayside marina parking lot or across the street at MB campground restrooms. Easy walk, 0.5 miles, 2 hours.

Saturday Scientists: Honeybees and You ☺

Learn about honeybees and how they make honey (you'll even get to taste that honey!). Use binocular scopes to get a closer look at these furry little creatures. Look inside a honeybee hive and watch a hive of live honeybees - see if you can find the queen! Morro Bay Museum of Natural History auditorium. Family event.

Sea Otter Experience ☺

Come out to see live otters, ask questions and listen to Docents talk about these fascinating sea mammals. We have spotting scopes and binoculars for close-up viewing. Look for us on the left side of Coleman Road along the boardwalk or in the parking area across from the restrooms in the Morro Rock parking lot. Free Family event, 11am-3 pm.

Summer Solstice Celebration ☺

Join the State Park Docents, Staff and other environmental organizations in celebrating the beginning of summer. There will be many activities including stamping, making animal tracks, bird games, Native American games and medallions, and learning about conservation and protection of our threatened species. Also live animals to handle such as snakes lizards, insects and different marine organisms. Morro Bay State Park Campground picnic area, please park outside and walk in. FREE Family event, 11am -2 pm.

The Importance of Sea Otters ☺

One of the best places in the county to observe sea otters is out by Morro Rock. Binoculars will be provided. Meet at the southeast parking lot of Morro Rock. Layered clothing is recommended. 1 hour.

The Otter Information Station! ☺

View otters in the waters of Morro Bay, visit our information station, and learn about these incredible creatures from museum docents!! Location varies- look for our spotting scopes on Coleman Drive. For specific location, call (805) 806-0221 after 10:00 am the day of the event. Family-friendly, wildlife viewing station, open 10am:noon.

The Pecho Ranch and Spooner History

Visit the Spooner Ranch House in 1919 with Katie Spooner leading the tour. Katie will talk about the making of The Pecho Ranch and Spooner family history. Meet in the Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro. Easy, with chairs available for sitting. 1 hour.

Walk Along the Edge

Explore the bluffs and beach along Estero Bay examining relationships of animals seen. Bring binoculars; wear sturdy beach shoes and layered clothing. Meet in dirt parking lot one mile north of the end of divided section of Hwy 1, north of Cayucos. Moderate hike, 2 miles, 2.5 hours.

White's Point Vistas

Enjoy a short, steep walk to view the estuary, home to hundreds of marine and terrestrial animals. Learn about the forces creating and changing this watery world. Dress for wind/weather. Meet at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History. Moderate walk, 0.5 miles, 0.75 hours.

Windy Cove Mud and Tide Pools

Walk to Windy Cove below the Museum learning about the plants, the mud and the organisms that inhabit the mud and the rocks around the cove. Dress for the weather and wear shoes that can get muddy; no bare feet. Meet at the "Nature Walk" sign in front of the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History. Easy family walk, 1-2 hour.