



ADVENTURES WITH NATURE DECEMBER 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
2	Sat	2:30 pm	NC		CDC - Beach Exploration and Tidepooling Saturdays	CDC Staff
2	Sat	2:30 pm	MS		Life and Times on the Shore	Norma Wightman & Gwen Infante
3	Sun	2:00 pm	MdO		Treasuring Tide Pools	Sally Krenn
3	Sun	3:00 pm	MB		Windy Cove Mud and Tide Pools	Faylla Chapman
5	Tue	3:30 pm	MdO		Intertidal Life at Hazard Reef	Faylla Chapman
9	Sat	10:30 am	MB		Birding for Beginners	Karen Watts & Robbie Revel
9	Sat	12:00 pm	EB		Discover Estero Bluffs-Human History and Coastal Geology	Mimi Kimball
9	Sat	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Puppets: Bucket Monster	Linda Winters
10	Sun	10:00 am	LO		Los Osos Oaks Reserve	Faylla Chapman
10	Sun	1:00 pm	MB	♿	Sea Shell Scavenger Hunt	Faylla Chapman
11	Mon	10:00 am	MdO	♿	Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk	Paul O'Connor
13	Wed	10:00 am	MB	♿	Birding the Boardwalk	Karen Watts & Robbie Revel
14	Thu	1:30 pm	MdO		Hike the Sand Spit	Bardeen, Kirkhart, Reifel, Renshaw
16	Sat	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Saturday Scientists: Estuary BioBlitz!	Docents
16	Sat	3:00 pm	NC		CDC - Beach Exploration and Tidepooling Saturdays	CDC Staff
19	Tue	1:00 pm	MB	♿	Salt Marsh to Mudflats	Faylla Chapman
23	Sat	11:00 am	MB		White's Point Vistas	Molly Stoddard
27	Wed	10:00 am	MB	♿	Birding the Boardwalk	Robbie and Bob Revel
30	Sat	11:00 am	MB		White's Point Vistas	Norma Wightman
30	Sat	1:00 pm	MdO		Explore the Tide Pools at Corallina Cove	Paul O'Connor
30	Sat	2:00 pm	NC		CDC - Beach Exploration and Tidepooling Saturdays	CDC Staff
31	Sun	1:30 pm	LO		Plant of the Month: Plant Preview	Barb Renshaw & Jeff Reifel

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EVENTS

21	Thu	2:00 pm	MB		Windy Cove Mud and Tide Pools	Faylla Chapman
22	Fri	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Puppets: It's a Big Ocean	Linda Winters
23	Sat	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Snakes, Lizards and Bugs, Oh My!	Dennis Sheridan
26	Tue	4:00 pm	MB	♿	Lichens That Glow	Rouvaishyana
27	Wed	2:00 pm	MB	♿	The Teeth Make the Skull	Mandy Ward & Dave Dabritz
28	Thu	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Animal Scat and Tracks	Faylla Chapman & Kris Konko
29	Fri	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Kelp Holdfast Dissection	Sally Krenn & Faylla Chapman
30	Sat	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Critter Competition	Robert Ward, Bernie Lozano & Tom Medeiros
1/1	Mon	3:00 pm	MB		First Day Walk--Morro Strand Beach	Docents

* **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, SLO - San Luis Obispo

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

(Adventure Descriptions on the Reverse Side)

SPECIAL EVENTS!

Pismo Monarch Butterfly Grove: The Pismo Monarch Butterfly Grove is open daily from 10 AM to 4 PM and docent-led talks are given each day at 11 AM and 2 PM. Free family fun. Handicap accessible.

Holiday Open Houses: Special dates set aside for your holiday shopping at our 3 nature stores. Morro Bay Natural History Museum: Dec 8, 3-5 pm, Dec 9, 10-5 pm, Dec 10, 10-5 pm, with special activities occurring during the shopping hours. Spooner Ranch House: December 9, 11-2 pm. Oceano Dunes Visitor Center: Dec 9, 12-4. Come see what we have to offer for stocking stuffers and nice presents; sales benefit Central Coast State Parks Association and all the money helps fund our activities.

Holidays at the Museum: Special programs offered during the school winter break time. Most events are at 2 pm in the Museum auditorium, but one is at 4 pm (Lichens). Please check the descriptions on the reverse for more information

Oceano Dunes District Visitor Center: Thurs-Sun, Noon to 4 pm. Displays of the Pismo State Park and other State Parks areas, information on Dunites, Off-road vehicles and areas, Butterflies and a small nature store. Located on Pier Avenue, in the Oceano Campground. For more information call 805-474-2667.

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: Winter Hours will remain 11a-5p, Fri, Sat and Sun. Open on Christmas week (Dec 26 - 31st). We have a fun educational scavenger hunt (for a prize) in the Park during those days. San Simeon State Park, Hwy 1, San Simeon.

ADVENTURE DESCRIPTIONS

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

Birding for Beginners

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. A discussion in the Museum's Learning Center will be followed by an outdoor walk. Meet at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History. Binoculars helpful but not necessary. Family, 2-3 hours, < 1 mile.

Birding the Boardwalk

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

CDC - Beach Exploration and Tidepooling

Saturdays Meet at the Coastal Discovery Center to explore San Simeon Beach at low tide. Meet 15 minutes before start time. Call 805-927-6575 to RSVP. Free to the public.

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 off Hwy 1, 2 miles N of Exit 285 (Cayucos Dr.) in Cayucos. Easy hike. Wear layers. 1-2 miles: 1 - 1 1/2 hours.

Explore the Tide Pools at Corallina Cove

Learn some local history while walking the bluffs looking for sea birds, whales, seals and otters. Explore the tide pools of Corallina Cove at low tide. Wear sturdy shoes, 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, 2 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 7/10 mile past the entrance sign). 3 miles, 2 hours.

Intertidal Life at Hazard Reef

Learn some geology while walking through coastal scrub and sand dunes to see seaweeds and marine animals. Dress in layers and wear non-skid shoes that can get wet. Meet in Hazard Canyon parking lot, on West side of road, 1.6 miles south of Montaña de Oro park entrance. Active hike, chance of poison oak, 1 mile, 3 hours.

Life and Times on the Shore

Observe life on the shore and in the tide pools of Morro Strand to North Point. Learn about seasonal changes of the beach. Bring binoculars; wear sturdy beach shoes, and layered clothing. Take Hwy 1 north to Yerba Buena exit; turn west to meet at Morro Strand State Beach entrance kiosk in North Morro Bay. Moderate walk, 1 mile, 1.5 hours.

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.

Plant of the Month: Plant Preview

Catch the plants waking up to the rainy season. Anticipate the flower calendar of the coming year while enjoying an easy walk in the Elfin Forest. Meet at the North end of 15th St. in Los Osos. Easy hike, 1 mile, 1.5 to 2 hours.

Puppets: Bucket Monster

Come to learn who the Bucket Monster is and learn more about the critters that live in the tidepools. A good chance to learn respect and how to treat tide pool animals. Family event, 2 pm, 1 hour.

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: Estuary BioBlitz!

An afternoon of looking at anything biological under the dissecting and compound microscopes, instruction in the use of the microscopes will be included. Bring something from your yard or house you would like to look at and learn about. Family event, 1 hour.

Sea Shell Scavenger Hunt

Come to the Museum during the Holiday Open House on December 10 and hunt for hidden sea shells. There is a prize for the scavenger at the end.

Treasuring Tide Pools

Gaze into a tide pool and view an entire working ecosystem while learning the rules of tide pool etiquette. Also learn about the coastal sage scrub community and geology of the area. Wear closed-toed shoes that one can get wet. Meet at the Bluff Trailhead, about 100 yards south of the Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro State Park. Chance of poison oak. 2-2.5 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.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EVENTS

Animal Scat and Tracks

Learn about all kinds of animal scat and how important it is to humans as well as other animals. Study tracks and make a model of one to take home. Museum auditorium.

Critter Competition

Are you able to see as far as an eagle? Can you stand on one leg as long as an egret? How about jumping as far as a rabbit, or spreading wings as wide as a condor? Come test yourself against the capabilities of a variety of critters. Museum auditorium and outside.

First Day Walk--Morro Strand Beach

Take a walk along the beach at low tide to celebrate the New Year and to see what ocean curiosities show up. Meet at the Morro Rock parking lot restrooms, dress for the weather. Strollers and wheelchairs encouraged, but should have big tires for sand. No dogs. Family, Easy, 1-2 hours.

Kelp Holdfast Dissection

Join us in pulling apart freshly collected kelp holdfasts to see what lives inside of them and then look at all the critters under the microscope. Family activity, 1-2 hrs.

Lichens That Glow

Come learn about the variety of lichens and watch them give off colors under UV light that are very different from their daytime look. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight, snacks optional. Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, Talk, easy stroll, 1-2 hrs.

Puppets: It's a Big Ocean

Come see a baby whale get lost in the ocean, meet a helpful otter and find his way back to mom. A discussion of marine mammals follows. Museum auditorium, 1 hr.

Snakes, Lizards and Bugs, Oh My!

Live specimens and information about them from a naturalist who loves sharing and showing them off. Specimens can be handled and passed around. Family activity, 1-2 hrs.

The Teeth Make the Skull

Come join the Museum's skull expert to learn about the various skulls and teeth in the collection. See the large whale jaw and all the teeth that fit it as well as our tiniest skulls with their teeth and learn how the teeth differ depending on what the animal eats. Family activity, 1-2 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 hours.