



ADVENTURES WITH NATURE

JUNE 2019

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
1	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻	Pier Safari	CDC Docents
1	Sat	11:00 AM	MB		White's Point Vistas	Molly Stoddard
2	Sun	11:00 AM	MB		Great Blue Herons, Egrets and Other Rookery Wonders	Louise Abbott
7	Fri	9:00 AM	MdO		Intertidal Life at Hazard Reef	Faylla Chapman
8	Sat	9:00 AM	EB		Estero Bluffs Rock!	Norma Wightman
8	Sat	9:30 AM	CDC		Beach Exploration at San Simeon Beach	CDC Docents
9	Sun	10:00 AM	MB		Windy Cove Mud and Tide Pools	Faylla Chapman
9	Sun	1:00 PM	EB		Discover Estero Bluffs	Mimi Kimball
10	Mon	10:00 AM	EB		Hike Estero Bluffs - Bardeen, Kirkhart	Reifel, Renshaw
13	Mon	10:00 AM	MdO		Hike Reservoir Flat - Bardeen, Kirkhart	Reifel, Renshaw
15	Sat	9:00 AM	MS	♻	Animal Tracks, Clues Left Behind	Ranger Rushworth
15	Sat	10:00 AM	OC		Oceano's Beavers	Dan Green
15	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻	Life of the California Sea Otter	CDC Docents
15	Sat	11:00 AM	MB		Great Blue Herons, Egrets and Other Rookery Wonders	Louise Abbott
15	Sat	1:00 PM	MB		White's Point Vistas	Norma Wightman
15	Sat	2:00 PM	MB	♻	Saturday Scientists: INSECTS	Claudia Freitas
16	Sun	10:00 AM	LO		Los Osos Oaks Reserve	Faylla Chapman
17	Mon	2:00 PM	MB	♻	Discover Hidden Life in the Morro Bay Estuary	Karen Watts
22	Sat	9:30 AM	PB		Grove to Boardwalk to Beach	Becky Bowen
22	Sat	10:00 AM	OF	♻	Summer Fun Day at Oso Flaco	Staff/Docents
22	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻	Whales and Dolphins of the CA Coast	CDC Docents
22	Sat	10:00 AM	MB	♻	Marina Peninsula Trail Hike	Ranger Taylor
22	Sat	10:30 AM	MB	♻	Birding for Beginners - Part 1	Karen Watts
24	Mon	11:00 AM	MB		Great Blue Herons, Egrets and Other Rookery Wonders	Louise Abbott
27	Thu	9:00 AM	MB		Songbirds in the Pines	Watts and Freitas
27	Thu	1:00 PM	MB	♻	Salt Marsh to Mudflats	Faylla Chapman
29	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻	Deep Sea Exploration of the Davidson Seamount	CDC Docents
29	Sat	11:00 AM	MB	♻	Summer Solstice Event	Docents and Staff
29	Sat	12:00 PM	MdO		Spooners at Home - The Women of the Pecho Ranch	Kathy Flock
30	Sun	10:00 AM	OC		Oceano Lagoon	Jerry Stanley
30	Sat	10:00 AM	MB	♻	Marine Mammals	Ranger Wynns

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

Adventure Descriptions on reverse side.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Morro Bay Museum of Natural History: 20 State Park Road, Morro Bay 93442. Open every day, 10 am to 5 pm, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year. \$3 admission, CCSPA members and under 17 are free. Special exhibit – *Nests of Ingenious Creatures*

Oceano Dunes Visitor Center: Open daily, Noon to 4 pm. The exhibits highlight the Oceano Dunes District's natural and cultural resources as well as our diverse recreational activities. Visitors learn about Chumash culture, the famous Pismo clams, dune habitat, shorebirds, the history of off-highway vehicles and the Dunites. Located at 555 Pier Ave, Oceano 93445 (in the Oceano Campground). For more information, please call 805-474-2664.

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

Coastal Discovery Center: Hours are 11 am to 5 pm, Fri, Sat and Sun. San Simeon State Park, Hwy 1, San Simeon.

Coastal Discovery Center Activities for June 2019

Important information for all Coastal Discovery Center activities. Activities are free but reservations are required. Call 805-927-2145 to reserve a space and leave a call-back number. Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Cove near Hearst Castle off Hwy 1.

Beach Exploration at San Simeon Beach: Join us at low tide to explore the invertebrate and algae communities that live between high and low tides. Learn what causes tides, investigate what lives under the sand and discover the stories behind beach-cast plants and animals.

Pier Safari: Look for the inhabitants of San Simeon Bay and pier by using your senses of vision and hearing. Learn how to identify the seasonal birds and animals that migrate through the bay, and practice your science skills by collecting and analyzing data and plankton used to determine the health of the bay. Plankton will be examined using the Center's video microscope.

Life of the California Sea Otter: Join us to learn about our local California Sea Otters, how marine biologists study otters and best sea otter viewing locations. A 45-minute talk will include a slideshow presentation, videos, live pelts and skulls.

Whales and Dolphins of the CA Coast: Come join us to learn how to identify the common whales and dolphin off of California's coast. A 45-minute presentation will include photos, videos and underwater sounds of whales and dolphins right off of San Simeon Pier. We will also examine whale bones left over from the whaling days in San Simeon Cove.

Deep Sea Exploration of the Davidson Seamount: The Davidson Seamount is an underwater volcano off the coast of Central California, 75 miles west of the Coastal Discovery Center. It is part of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, is over 12,000 ft deep, and hosts an amazing array of deep-sea creatures and habitat. Come join us to learn about this amazing underwater oasis and how we explore Davidson Seamount through recent advances in technology!

ADVENTURE DESCRIPTIONS

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

Animal Tracks, Clues Left Behind: Learn about tracks of animals in the State Park. Make a mold of a track to take home. Morro Strand Campground kiosk picnic tables. Family event. 1 hour.

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. 1 to 2 hours.

Discover Estero Bluffs: 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 N. end of Fig Tree parking Lot, 3rd large lot on the left past Cayucos on Highway 1. Easy hike. Wear layers. 1-2 miles: 1 - 1 1/2 hours.

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 single drop of water. Meet at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History auditorium. 1 hour.

Estero Bluff Rocks!: See the mix of tortured rocks (sedimentary, metamorphic and volcanic) that tectonic forces spewed up along this scenic section of coastline. Bring binoculars and water; wear sturdy beach shoes and layered clothing. Meet in second large parking lot (Windmill) on left, north of Cayucos on Highway 1. Moderate hike but short, steep path to beach. 2 miles. 2 hrs.

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. Meet at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History in the Learning Center. Easy walk, 0.25 miles, 1.5 hours.

Grove to Boardwalk to Beach: Enjoy an easy stroll through the Monarch Butterfly Grove, the boardwalk and return on the beach. Along the way, we'll discuss the area's history, the monarchs, Pismo clams, sand dollars and shorebirds as we identify area plants and animals. Meet at the benches in the Pismo State Beach Monarch Butterfly Grove, 455 S. Dolliver. Easy walk, 1 mi., 2 hrs.

Hike Estero Bluffs: Hike along the edge of the bluff, stopping to admire the rocky coast, the waves, or distant coastal views. Watch for interesting plants, birds, or sea mammals. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. Meet north of Cayucos at the parking area on the west side of HWY 1, 1.7 miles north of the HWY 1/Cayucos Drive interchange. Easy walk of 2 miles, 1.5 to 2 hours.

Hike the Reservoir Flat Trail: Walk through the chaparral into the riparian zone near Islay Creek. Enjoy the view back to Spooner's Cove and the ocean. Then stroll through the shady woods. Meet at the Spooner Ranch House, Montaña de Oro State Park. 2 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. Look for announcement board. Active hike, chance of poison oak, 1 mile, 3 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.

Marina Peninsula Trail Hike: Enjoy an easy hike next to the Morro Bay estuary. We will discuss the importance of the estuary. Meet at the east end of the Marina parking lot in Morro Bay State Park. Family event. 1 mile, 1 hour.

Marine Mammals: Come to Morro Bay State Park picnic area and learn about marine mammals. Pictures, bones and furs to see and touch. Morro Bay State Park campground picnic area. Family event. 1 hour.

Oceano's Beavers: 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 Oceano Dunes Visitor Center, Guiton Hall meeting room, Oceano Campground, 555 Pier Ave, Oceano. Moderate walk, 0.5 miles, 2 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. Bring water/binoculars. Meet at the Oceano Dunes Visitor Center on Pier Ave in Oceano. Easy walk. 1.25 miles, 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-INSECTS: Join the Saturday Scientists docents at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History to look at bugs up close and personal!! Look at body parts such as wings, antennae, simple eyes, compound eyes, legs, and mouthparts. Insects are amazing animals and have many interesting and beautiful adaptations, especially seen through a binocular microscope. Come learn how. Bring your own insects too. Meet at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History auditorium. Family friendly. 2 hours

Songbirds in the Pines: Walk through pine woods and along the edges of Morro Bay State Park, expecting to see woodpeckers, songbirds, and birds of prey. Bring binoculars and your bird guidebook. Meet at the end of Laloma St., off Quintana Blvd. in Morro Bay. Moderate walking at a slow pace, 1.5 miles, 2 hours.

Spooners at Home – The Women of Pecho Ranch: A living history reenactment of daily life at the Spooner Ranch House. Visit with docents in period costume as they bake, make butter, sew and attend to their daily activities. Spooner Ranch House, Montaña de Oro State Park. Family activity. 2 hours.

Summer Fun Day at Oso Flaco: Join us at Oso Flaco Lake for a morning of discovery with educational stations featuring kids' crafts, cultural history and enjoy a leisurely stroll through the park. Take Hwy 1 south toward Guadalupe. Before you arrive in Guadalupe turn right on Oso Flaco Lake Road. Parking at the lot is \$ 5.00. 2 hours.

Summer Solstice Celebration: Celebrate the beginning of summer! Activities include 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. Morro Bay State Park Campground picnic area, please park outside and walk in. FREE Family event, 11am -2 pm.

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. MUDDY family walk, 1-2 hour.