



ADVENTURES WITH NATURE

AUGUST 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	Thu	9:00 AM	MB		Songbirds in the Pines	Watts and Freitas
1	Thu	11:00 AM	MdO		Living History: Pecho Ranch in 1919	Kathy Flock
2	Fri	10:00 AM	MB	♻️	Birding the Boardwalk	Freitas and Revel
3	Sat	9:00 AM	MS	♻️	Animal Tracks, Clues Left Behind	Ranger Rushworth
3	Sat	10:00 AM	OC	♻️	Summer Fun Day at the Visitor Center	Staff/Docents
3	Sat	11:00 AM	MB		Birds of Land and Sea at Morro Rock	Rouvaishyana
3	Sat	11:00 AM	CDC	♻️	Get In to Your Sanctuary Day	CDC Docents
3	Sat	11:00 AM	MB	♻️	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
4	Sun	11:00 AM	MB	♻️	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
4	Sun	6:00 PM	MB	♻️	Marine Mammals	Ranger Wynns
9	Fri	10:30 AM	MB	♻️	Birding for Beginners - Part 1	Watts and Revel
10	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻️	Deep Sea Exploration of Davidson Seamount	CDC Docents
10	Sat	10:00 AM	OC		Oceano's Beavers	Dan Green
10	Sat	11:00 AM	MB	♻️	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
10	Sat	12:00 PM	MdO		Spooners at Home	MdO Docents
10	Sat	7:00 PM	MdO	♻️	The Underdogs of MdO	Ranger Wilson
11	Sun	10:00 AM	LO		Los Osos Oaks Reserve	Faylla Chapman
11	Sun	11:00 AM	MB	♻️	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
16	Fri	1:00 PM	MB	♻️	Salt Marsh to Mudflats	Faylla Chapman
17	Sat	10:00 AM	OC	♻️	Our Nocturnal Neighbor the Raccoon NEW!!	Peggy Coon
17	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻️	Pier Safari	CDC Docents
17	Sat	10:00 AM	MB		White's Point Vistas	Norma Wightman
17	Sat	11:00 AM	MB	♻️	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
17	Sat	11:00 AM	MB	♻️	Wolves and Their Habitat Effects	Jay Mallonee
17	Sat	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Saturday Scientists: Worms Creepy Crawlies Inside and Out	Cheryl Powers
17	Sat	4:00 PM	MB	♻️	Morro Bay Estuary: Nursery of the Sea	Ranger David
18	Sun	11:00 AM	MB	♻️	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
21	Wed	10:00 AM	OC		Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve NEW!!	Staff
22	Thu	09:30 AM	MdO	♻️	Plants and Animals along the MdO Bluff Trail	Sally Krenn
23	Fri	9:00 AM	EB		Estero Bluff Rocks!	Norma Wightman
24	Sat	9:30 AM	PB		Grove to Boardwalk to Beach	Becky Bowen
24	Sat	10:00 AM	MB	♻️	Marina Peninsula Trail Hike	Ranger Taylor
24	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻️	Whales and Dolphins of the CA Coast	CDC Docents
24	Sat	11:00 AM	MB	♻️	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
25	Sun	11:00 AM	MB	♻️	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
25	Sun	11:00 AM	LO		The Story of the 9 Sisters Volcanic Peaks NEW!!	Faylla Chapman
25	Sun	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Discover Hidden Life in the Morro Bay Estuary	Karen Watts
25	Sun	6:00 PM	HH		The Peaceful Setting of Harmony Headlands	Ranger Browe
28	Wed	10:00 AM	MB		Birds of Land and Sea at Morro Rock	Revel and Revel
29	Thu	1:00 PM	MdO		Eucalyptus-Beauty or Beast?	Faylla Chapman
31	Sat	10:00 AM	MB	♻️	Marina Peninsula Trail Hike	Ranger Taylor
31	Sat	11:00 AM	MB	♻️	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
31	Sat	11:00 AM	MB		White's Point Vistas	Molly Stoddard

***LOCation Codes:** EB-Estero Bluffs, GB-Grover Beach, 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*. For more information, please call 805-772-2694.

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 August 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.

Get into Your Sanctuary Day: Annual event to celebrate our NOAA's national marine sanctuaries will include activities in the Coastal Discovery Center and on the San Simeon Pier from 11-3. Join the Cambria Fishing Club to learn tips on how and what to fish, collect a water sample and look at the animals that live in a drop of sea water, learn about marine birds and mammals that live in San Simeon Bay!

Deep Sea Exploration of Davidson Seamount: The Davidson Seamount is an underwater volcano off the coast of Central CA., 75 miles west of the Coastal Discovery Center. It is part of MBNMS, 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!

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.

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.

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. 1-2 hours

Birding the Boardwalk: Enjoy a stroll while identifying shorebirds and more. Beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars and field guide. Park close to east end of Morro Bay State Park Bayside marina parking lot. 1 mile, 1.5 hours.

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. 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. 1 mi, 2 hrs.

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 dirt parking lot one mile north of the end of the divided section of Hwy 1, north of Cayucos. Moderate hike but short, steep path to beach. 2 miles. 2 hrs.

Eucalyptus – Beauty or Beast?: Love it or hate it? Can't decide? Walk through a grove in Montaña de Oro (MdO) and learn the history, biology, pros and cons, and uses of these trees. Then decide for yourself! Enjoy the drive with the light filtering through the groves, trees and bark, to meet at the Hazard Canyon parking lot, on west side, 1.6 miles from the MdO park entrance. Easy walk, 0.5 miles, 2 hours.

Grove to Boardwalk to Beach: This is an easy stroll through the Monarch butterfly Grove, the boardwalk and then returning by way of the beach. Along the way, we'll discuss a bit about the area's history, the monarchs, the Pismo clams, the sand dollars and shorebirds as we identify some of the area's plants and animals. Dress in layers. Wear comfortable walking shoes, sunscreen and a hat. Other helpful items include: binoculars, a camera, water, birding and/or plant books. Meet at the benches in the Pismo State Beach Monarch Butterfly Grove, 455 S. Dolliver. Easy walk. One mile. Approx. 2 hours.

Living History: Pecho Ranch in 1919: 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.

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.

Morro Bay Estuary: Nursery of the Sea: Learn about the estuary: what it is, the environmental factors that affect it, marine life, recreation uses. Meet at the Morro Bay Marina Peninsula Trail head at the east end of the marina parking lot (opposite end from the Bayside Café). Family friendly. 0.5 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.

Our Nocturnal Neighbor the Raccoon: Come meet our plentiful, clever and opportunistic nocturnal neighbor, the Raccoon. We will review the natural history of the Raccoon, discuss its place in history and learn how to keep Raccoons away from our property. We will take a short walk near the Oceano Lagoon to explore possible Raccoon habitat. Meet at 9:55 am at the Oceano Dunes Visitor Center in Guiton Hall for this 10 am talk.

Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve: Join Park Staff for a hike through the preserve while learning about the dune landscape and the unique adaptations of the plants and animals that call this place home. Meet outside of the Pacific Dunes Ranch located at 1205 Silver Spur, Oceano. Please park in the gravel lot outside of the campground. We will walk to the preserve together as a group. One mile, uneven sandy terrain, 2 hrs.

Plants and Animals along the MdO Bluff Trail: Walk the bluffs and look for whales, birds, otters and seals. You will be enlightened about some of the medicinal uses of the native plants and learn about the local history on the walk. Wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers for the coast and bring binoculars and magnifying glass. Meet at Coastal Bluff Trailhead, about 100 yds south of Spooner Ranch House in Montana de Oro State Park. Moderate paced walk on an ADA Accessible trail, 2 miles, 2.0 hours. Poison oak present.

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-WORMS – Creepy Crawlies Inside and Out: Join us as we explore the fascinating world of worms found in soil, water, our pets and sometimes our bodies. Learn to use a dissecting microscope to see these creatures in their wiggling wonder. Meet at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History auditorium. Family friendly. 2 hours.

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.

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

Summer Fun Day at the Visitor Center: Join us for family activities and kids crafts at the Oceano Dunes Visitor Center, 555 Pier Avenue, Oceano (Oceano Campground). 2 hours.

The Peaceful Setting of Harmony Headlands: The wildlife, landscape and history of Harmony Headlands will be discussed via a nature hike originating from the trail head and concluding at the ranch house. Binoculars and water a suggested. Meet at Harmony Headlands pull-out on the left side of Highway 1, ½ mile south of Harmony. All ages. 1 hour.

The Story of the 9 Sisters Volcanic Peaks: Morro Rock is the most famous of a chain of volcanic peaks leading into San Luis Obispo. Learn about the Nine Sisters, also called the 7 Sisters or the Morros, and other geologic aspects of the area. Meet at the Los Osos Oaks Reserve parking lot, 0.7 mile east of South Bay Blvd on Los Osos Valley Road. 0.5 mile, 1 hour. Chance of poison oak.

The Underdogs of MdO: A presentation and display of some of the animals at Montana de Oro that visitors typically see as a nuisance. Meet at the Montana de Oro campfire center, dress for the evening weather. Family friendly, 1 hour.

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.

Wolves and Their Habitat Effects: A presentation on wolves, their recent presence in California and the Pacific Northwest, and their effects on living systems as top predators. Suitable for high school age and above. Meet at the Morro Bay Natural History auditorium. 1.5-2 hours