



ADVENTURES WITH NATURE

AUGUST 2016

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.ccsa.info



Date	Day	Time	*LOC	*SC	Adventure	Presenter
2	Tue	10:00 am	MB	♿	Birding the Boardwalk	Claudia Freitas & Robbie Revel
2	Tue	1:00 pm	MB	♿	Salt Marsh to Mudflats	Faylla Chapman
3	Wed	10:00 am	MdO	♿	Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk	Randy Bello
5	Fri	10:00 am	MdO		Birding Adventures: Montaña de Oro	Robbie & Bob Revel
6	Sat	10:00 am	MdO		Junior Ranger Coastal Program - MdO	SP Env. Staff
6	Sat	10:00 am	PB	♿	Pismo Beavers: Adorable Wildlife or Destructive Pests?	Dan Green
6	Sat	11:00 am	NC		Discovery Saturday: Central Coast Marine Mammals	CDC Staff
6/7	Sat/Sun	11:00 am	MB	♿	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
6	Sat	11:00 am	OF	☀	Summer Fun Day	Docents & Staff
7	Sun	10:00 am	MB		Junior Ranger Coastal Program - MBSP	SP Env. Staff
9	Tue	10:00 am	MdO	♿	Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk	Paul O'Connor
12	Fri	10:00 am	MdO	♿	Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk	Randy Bello
13	Sat	10:00 am	MB		Junior Ranger Coastal Program - MBSP	SP Env. Staff
13	Sat	10:00 am	LO		Los Osos Oaks Reserve	Faylla Chapman
13	Sat	10:30 am	MdO	♿	Slow Stroll on the Bluffs	Joyce Cory
13/14	Sat/Sun	11:00 am	MB	♿	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
13	Sat	12:00 pm	NC		Discovery Saturday: Beach Exploration	CDC Staff
13	Sat	2:00 pm	MB		Black Hill Trail	Roger Randall
13	Sat	7:30 pm	MB		Ranger Program: Great White Sharks	Ranger Darren Wynns
14	Sun	10:00 am	MdO		Junior Ranger Coastal Program - MdO	SP Env. Staff
18	Thu	10:00 am	EB		Hike Estero Bluffs	Bardeen, Kirkhart, Reifel, Renshaw
19	Fri	9:00 am	EB		Walk Along the Edge	Norma Wightman
19	Fri	9:30 am	MdO		Ranger Program: Exploring Animal Tracks and Pelts	Ranger Jeff Sears
19	Fri	5:00 pm	MdO	♿	Ranger Program: Whale Walk	Ranger Marston Taylor
20	Sat	10:00 am	MdO		Junior Ranger Coastal Program - MdO	SP Env. Staff
20	Sat	11:00 am	NC		Discovery Saturday: San Simeon Pier Safari	CDC Staff
20/21	Sat/Sun	11:00 am	MB	♿	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
20	Sat	11:00 am	MB		White's Point Vistas	Molly Stoddard
20	Sat	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Saturday Scientists: Wonders of the Museum	Curatorial Staff
20	Sat	5:00 pm	MdO	♿	Ranger Program: Whale Walk	Ranger Marston Taylor
21	Sun	10:00 am	MB		Junior Ranger Coastal Program - MBSP	SP Env. Staff
21	Sun	10:00 am	LO		Los Osos Oaks Reserve	Faylla Chapman
21	Sun	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Discover Hidden Life in the Morro Bay Estuary	Karen Watts
22	Mon	9:30 am	MdO		Hike Hazard Peak	Bardeen, Kirkhart, Reifel, Renshaw
23	Tue	10:00 am	MdO		Birding Adventures: Montaña de Oro	Claudia Freitas & Robbie Revel
23	Tue	10:00 am	MdO	♿	Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk	Paul O'Connor
23	Tue	10:00 am	MdO		Ranger Program: Animal Tracks: Clues Left Behind	Ranger Will Rushworth
26	Fri	9:30 am	MdO		Ranger Program: Exploring Animal Tracks and Pelts	Ranger Jeff Sears
26	Fri	5:00 pm	HH		Ranger Program: Harmony Headlands Walk	Ranger Gene Browe
27	Sat	11:00 am	NC		Discovery Saturday: Central Coast Marine Mammals	CDC Staff
27/28	Sat/Sun	11:00 am	MB	♿	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
27	Sat	11:00 am	MB		White's Point Vistas	Norma Wightman
27	Sat	5:00 pm	HH		Ranger Program: Harmony Headlands Walk	Ranger Gene Browe
29	Mon	1:00 pm	MB	♿	Salt Marsh to Mudflats	Faylla Chapman
30	Tue	10:00 am	MdO		Ranger Program: Animal Tracks: Clues Left Behind	Ranger Will Rushworth
31	Wed	10:00 am	MB		Exploring Shifting Sands	Karen Watts & Robbie Revel

* **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

(Adventure Descriptions on the Reverse Side)

SPECIAL EVENTS!

Junior Rangers: The Junior Ranger program is an activity based program that offers young visitors the opportunity to join the National Park Service "family" as Junior Rangers. See the calendar above for event dates and the reverse side for event descriptions.

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

Pismo Nature Center: The Pismo Nature Center and Oceano Campground are closed for remodeling and will reopen in the Fall.

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.

ADVENTURE DESCRIPTIONS

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

Birding Adventures: Montaña de Oro

Explore the many habitats of the Central Coast, from grasslands to the rocky shoreline, looking for a variety of bird species. Bring binoculars, water, hat and sunscreen. Dress for wind/weather. Meet at the Bluff Trail head, about 100 yards south of Spooner Ranch in Montaña de Oro. Slow walk, chance of poison oak, 1.7 mi, 2 hrs.

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. Easy walk, 1 mile, 1.5 hours.

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. Moderate walk, chance of poison oak, 0.5 miles, 1.5 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. Talk, 1 hour.

Exploring Shifting Sands

How do wind and waves reshape the beach? What kinds of plants and animals live here? Dress in layers for wind/weather and wear sturdy beach shoes. Take Highway 1 north to the Yerba Buena exit; turn west to meet at Morro Strand State Beach in North Morro Bay. Easy walk, 0.5 miles, 1-2 hours.

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 Hazard Peak

Hike to Hazard Peak and enjoy views of the ocean, bay and rock while working off that extra dessert you consumed last week. Bring water, a snack, binoculars, and wear sturdy shoes. Meet in Montaña de Oro State Park at the ridge trailhead, 2.3 miles from the park entrance. Active hike, 5 miles, 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 mi, 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.

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, 2 hours.

Ranger Program: Great White Sharks  A campfire program with Ranger Wynns talking about why great white sharks are apex predators and so important to the ocean ecosystem. Meet at the Morro Bay State Park campfire center near the central picnic area. Dress for early evening weather. Family activity, 45 minutes.

Ranger Program: Whale Walk

 Walk the south end of the Bluff Trail looking for Humpback whales traveling close to shore. Bring binoculars and dress for the early evening weather. Meet in the Coon Creek parking lot at the South end of Montaña de Oro State Park. There is a chance of poison oak off trail. Family friendly, approximately 1 mil of walking. 1-2 hours.

Ranger Program: Animal Tracks: Clues Left Behind

Learn to identify a variety of animals by the tracks that they leave behind. Make your own plaster track to take home. Meet at the Spooner Ranch House picnic area in Montaña de Oro State Park. Family activity, most appropriate for ages 7-12. 1 hour.


Ranger Program: Exploring Animal Tracks and Pelts

Join a State Park Ranger in exploring animal tracks and touching mammal pelts from animals of Montana de Oro. Meet at the Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro State Park. Dress appropriate for the weather. Family activity. 1 hour.


Ranger Program: Harmony Headlands Walk

- Learn about the wildlife and history of the Harmony Headlands area. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable shoes, bring binoculars if possible. Meet at the Harmony Headlands parking lot, on the west side of Highway 1, about 5.5 miles north of Cayucos. Family friendly, moderate walk, 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: Wonders of the Museum

 The museum volunteer curators will have specimens from all our collections on display. Microscopes and hand lenses will be available so you can get a closer look at specimen structures like hair, cells, small crystals, etc. For those who are interested, a few tours of the curatorial department will be offered during the session. Morro Bay Museum of Natural History auditorium. Family friendly, 1 - 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.

Slow Stroll on the Bluffs

 Learn about Spooner family and early agricultural history as you stroll along the ADA-designed trail, viewing the spectacular shoreline. A slow pace with rest stops. People with wheelchairs, walkers, canes and strollers are invited to this experience. Dress for windy, cool conditions. Meet at the Bluff Trail head, accessible parking available, south of the Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro State Park. Less than one mile, one hour.

Summer Fun Day

 Join in for activities including plankton viewing, Chumash necklace making, scope viewing of wildlife and more! Dress for the weather. Meet at Oso Flaco near the boardwalk over the lake. Family friendly. \$5 parking within park boundary.

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.

Coastal Discovery Center Discovery Saturday Events - San Simeon

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please call 805-927-6575 to reserve space in the program. Suggested donation \$2/person.

Discovery Saturday: Beach Exploration

Learn about the mysteries of San Simeon Cove by beachcombing with marine biologists. Find out what causes high and low tides and investigate the animals and algae cast up on the beach. Buckets and gloves will be supplied for those who want to help clean up the beach on our way back!

Discovery Saturday: Central Coast Marine Mammals

Learn how to identify local marine mammals, what you should do if you see a sick or injured seal, sea lion or sea otter, and what you can do to keep these animals healthy. Join us for lively presentation with real fur pelts, skulls and bones, followed by a walk to the pier to look for sea otters, harbor seals, whales and other marine mammals.

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.

Junior Rangers

The Junior Ranger program is an activity based program that offers young visitors the opportunity to join the National Park Service "family" as Junior Rangers.

Junior Ranger Coastal Program - MBSP

Learn about our coastline and the unique shorebirds. Ages 7-12. 1 hour. Meets at the Morro Bay State Park Campground Campfire center.

Junior Ranger Coastal Program - MdO

Learn about our coastline and the unique wildlife that inhabits it. Ages 7-12. 1 hour. Meets at Montaña De Oro Ranch House.