



Nota DeSoto

2017, VOLUME 1

Who are Friends of DeSoto?

Friends of DeSoto National Memorial, Inc. was created for the purpose of supporting the National Park Service's DeSoto National Memorial. We are a private non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Florida. Our purpose and mission statement:

To initiate, promote, and support the educational, historical, interpretive, and scientific activities of the DeSoto National Memorial.

Please visit www.friendsofdesoto.org.

Friends Seek New Friends — Membership Opportunity

Please take a moment to read the last page of this newsletter. More than ever we need your help to provide financial assistance for concerts, educational programs and park maintenance. Through your membership donation you join hundreds of other supporters who are committed to helping the Friends of DeSoto National Memorial. Thank you for your support!

Friends of the Friends

Captain Sherman, Paradise Boat Tours
Backstreet Hair Designers
J&J BBQ
Sarasota Trolley
Siesta Key Trolley

Winter Luminary 2016



The Winter Luminary, a traditional favorite, again proved to be the most popular event at DeSoto National Memorial. Over 3,600 people walked through trails softly lit with "candles" and boardwalks strung with festive overhead lights. Along the trails, Guitarist Rex Willis, Opera Soprano Natalie Almeter and Flutist Juan Leon entertained visitors. The Manatee High School Orchestra performed holiday favorites for the audience surrounding the Gumbo Limbo tree. Trolleys, provided by Sarasota Trolley and Siesta Key Trolley, transported families and

friends from King Middle School to park. J & J BBQ made food and drink available on the mall while the Youth Advisory Council provided cocoa and coffee.

The Winter Luminary could not have occurred without the valuable support of the Friends of DeSoto National Memorial, the Youth Advisory Council, park volunteers and the Manatee County sheriff's department.



This cute little 2-year-old was totally enthralled by the Christmas tree at the Friends' table.

History Lives at Five Centuries Event



Five Centuries of Florida History Weekend
March 25 and 26
10:00 am to 3:00 pm
each day

Did you ever want to experience 500 years of history but don't happen to own a time machine? Come out to the park for the Five Centuries of Florida History Weekend! Learn about the role Florida played in American history and the sacrifices Floridians

made to make this country what it is today!

Thirty reenactors will portray European explorers, Civil War soldiers, WWI doughboys, Rough Riders, WWII GI's and more. Walk through an encampment and displays as the Living Historians share their love of history with you. Centuries programs and demonstrations will also be held each day.

While here at the park, please consider supporting your community by donating blood to the Community Blood Bank, sponsored by One Blood.



A Thinking Person's Guide to America's National Parks

On December 5th Friends of DeSoto National Memorial, Friends of Bradenton Public Library and our representatives of our favorite national park hosted **Nora Mitchell** and **Rolf Diamant** for an evening lecture and book signing as a culminating event of the National Park Service centennial year. As editors and authors of an exciting new book—*A Thinking Person's Guide to America's National Parks*—Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Diamant provided a fresh perspective on the full array of national parks and invited the audience to go out and find their own most meaningful park. An informative Q & A session followed that included DeSoto National Memorial acting park superintendent K Lynn Berry and DeSoto Friends president Lucy Lawliss. The audience was offered the opportunity to buy a signed copy of the book as well as enjoy refreshments provided by the library friends. Profits from the book sales went to support the park.



The Annual DeSoto Landing Reenactment

**Saturday April 8th
10:00 am and 1:00 pm**



You're invited to witness one of Manatee County's **oldest traditions**: the reenactment of Hernando DeSoto's Landing! Held on the shores of the park since 1939, the DeSoto landing signifies the conclusion of the national memorial's living history season. Hear the roar of guns and cannons, witness the sights of European soldiers and conquistadores coming ashore and be present as Hernando DeSoto lays claim to the land of La Florida.

With two landing times for your convenience (10:00 am and 1:00 pm) don't miss out on this truly unique experience! (The explorer will come ashore in front of the Catholic monuments located on the cove beaches. These areas can be accessed through either the Riverview point and DeSoto National Memorial main trails.)

SAVE ^{THE} DATE

May 13, 2017 • 6:30 p.m.

Paradise Sunset Cruise Benefitting De Soto National Memorial

A leisurely and informative 90 minute sunset cruise of Sarasota Bay. More information will be available at www.friendsofdesoto.org.



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**FRIENDS OF DESOTO
NATIONAL MEMORIAL, INC.**

Walk the Nature Trails

The Nature Trail winds along the shoreline and through several Florida ecosystems, including a mangrove forest like the one that DeSoto's men would have encountered when they landed. Trails include interpretive signage and waysides that tell the story of the DeSoto Expedition and the natural history of the area. Bicycling is allowed in the parking lot, but not on the sidewalks or trails.

Forty-five minute guided Trail Walks are offered by Park Rangers daily at 11 a.m., staff availability and weather permitting. Inquire at the Visitor Center. For tour availability, call 941-792-0458, ext. 105.

Picnic Area: A ten table picnic area is located adjacent to the parking lot and is available for visitors on a first come basis. Large groups and schools should call ahead to reserve seating. Grills and alcohol are not allowed within the park.

Bird Watching: The seasonal migration of birds brings many bird watchers to the park in the fall and early spring. The exact timing of migration is dependent upon weather. Come to our visitor center and inquire what new and rare birds have been sighted recently at DeSoto National Memorial.

Camping: DeSoto National Memorial has no facilities for camping. The park grounds are closed from sunset to sunrise.

Beach: Several small beaches are located within the park. The DeSoto Point Beach is located west of DeSoto Point and northwest of the Visitor Center. This beach is exposed to the current of the Manatee River and the waves of Tampa Bay. The Cove Beach located on the south side of DeSoto Point and is more popular because it is sheltered from most current and waves. No life guards are on duty. Swimmers use park beaches at their own risk.

Fishing: Fishing with rod and reel is allowed within the park with a valid Florida drivers license and valid State of Florida fishing license. Fishermen are not allowed to stand on rip rap or to clear brush from any area in order to gain access to the water. For questions of licensure and eligibility please visit <http://myfwc.com/license/>

Boating: The Cove is a popular temporary anchorage for small pleasure boats. Canoes and kayaks may be launched and carried to the water by hand. They can be launched from the park beaches provided that vegetation, terrain, and wildlife is not disturbed. Loud motors and the creation of excessive wave action is prohibited.

Dogs: Dogs are permitted within the park only when on a hand held leash. For all of our dog walkers and four legged friends make sure to come to our Dog Days at DeSoto event held annually in March.

Exhibits: The Visitor Center includes stunning displays of historic armor, weapons, and related period items. Helmets and armor are available to try on.

Theater: Our newly re-modeled theater and museum features a wide array of exhibits of Spanish and Native American artifacts. The new museum exhibits are designed to be rotating with new items and art that will be displayed periodically. Our theater shows our parks film Hernando DeSoto in America throughout the year. During season the film is shown on a time schedule to coincide with scheduled living history programs.

Bookstore: The bookstore features an excellent selection of books about the DeSoto Expedition and the Native American cultures encountered, as well as keepsakes to remember your visit by. Some items may be ordered on-line.

Other Amenities: Modern restrooms and a drinking fountain and a dog drinking fountain are available in the Visitor Center.

There are no entry fees for the park or the Visitor Center.

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Friends of DeSoto National Memorial, Inc.
P.O. Box 14422, Bradenton, FL 34280-4422

Email: info@friendsofdesoto.org

Website: FriendsofDeSoto.org

Donations: How to Support Your National Parks

The National Park Service appreciates your support in the form of visitation and donations. Your donations directly contribute to the services and features you enjoy at DeSoto National Memorial. Donation money supports the maintenance of our nature trails and boardwalk, they fund many of our special events like our living history programs and holiday events, and they support many of our youth programs like Junior Ranger Summer Camp.

There are several ways you and your family can make a donation to DeSoto National Memorial or the National Park Service. These options include: on-line giving through our friends group and cooperating associations, Memorial gifts for living or deceased family or friends, Wedding party favors or gifts, holiday gift, and wills and bequests.

Your donation and gifts will be greatly appreciated and be given direct recognition if you and your family desires. You have the option to give anonymously as well. Recognition of your donation can be used to inspire others to give to DeSoto National Memorial or to the National Park Service.

You can make a gift to benefit our park either directly to the National Park Service or to our primary non-profit tax exempt support organization the Friends of DeSoto National Memorial. If you make the gift directly to the park, the entire gift will be used for the purpose you identify. No administrative costs are deducted from your gift to the National Park Service. Your check will be deposited in a government account and the full amount will be spent as you intended. Most parks have separate donation accounts for park-specific projects and programs for which you can earmark your gift. Government accounts are non-interest bearing and cannot generate interest between the time it is deposited and the time it is spent.

The advantage of making your gift check to the Friends of DeSoto National Memorial, our parks Friends Group, is that the amount will be deposited in an interest bearing account to assist park-prioritized requested projects and programs.

To make a donation, go to www.friendsofdesoto.org or mail your check to:
Friends of DeSoto National Memorial • PO Box 14422 • Bradenton, FL 34280-4422

Shop at **AmazonSmile**
and Amazon.com will
make a donation to
**Friends of DeSoto
National Memorial Inc.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**FRIENDS OF DESOTO
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DeSoto National Memorial adds \$22 million annually to our local economy, according to a federal study of tourism dollars spend by visitors to our National Park. Help the Park maintain the programs that bring over 350,000 visitors to DeSoto each year. With federal funding cuts, the best way to maintain these programs is to join Friends of DeSoto National Memorial. Our Friends group raises money to support important programs such as concerts, educational programs, and maintenance of our Park's facilities. **Join today!**

Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make a donation to Friends of DeSoto National Memorial, Inc.

Become a Member

Yes, I would like to support my National Park by becoming a member. Memberships are tax deductible.

(Check one)

Individual Adult \$25.00 _____

Family \$40.00 _____

Youth/Student \$10.00 _____

Business \$75.00 _____

Senior Citizen 65 and over \$20.00 _____

Active Military \$20.00 _____

Additional donation to help save the Gumbo Limbo trees is enclosed in the amount of \$ _____

My check for \$ _____, (membership renewal plus an additional donation if desired) made out to "Friends of DeSoto NM" is enclosed. Please send membership materials to the name and address below:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

I would like to help! (Check all that apply)

_____ Membership Committee

_____ Publicity Committee

_____ Fundraising/Special Event Committee

Print out and mail to:

P.O. Box 14422, Bradenton, FL 34280-4422

(Renewals and donations can also be completed on our website using PayPal at www.paypal.com)