



# Nota De Soto

◆ SPRING 2018 ◆

## Who are Friends of De Soto?

**F**riends of De Soto National Memorial, Inc. was created for the purpose of supporting the National Park Service's De Soto 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 De Soto National Memorial.*

Please visit [www.friendsofdesoto.org](http://www.friendsofdesoto.org).

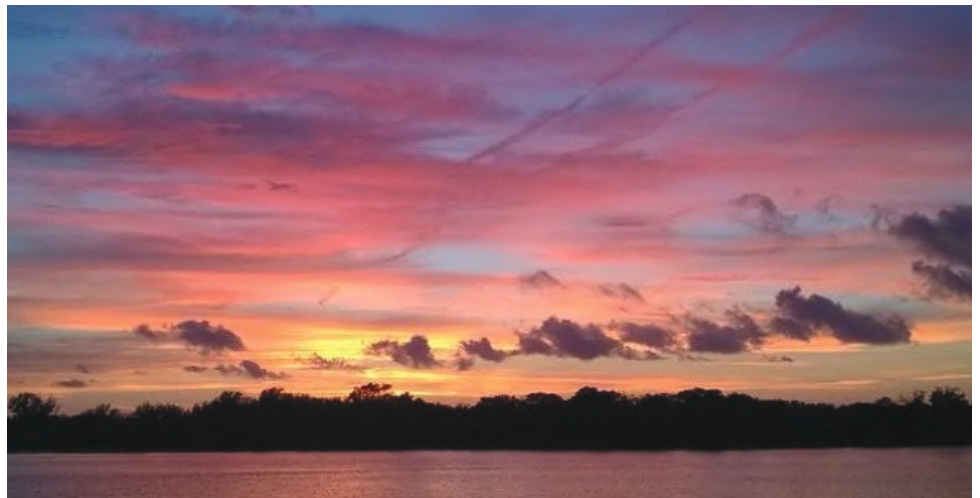
## Friends Seek New Friends — Membership Opportunity

**P**lease 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 De Soto 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

## Sail with Friends on Sunset Cruise



Share a colorful end of the day with Friends on a popular sunset cruise in May.

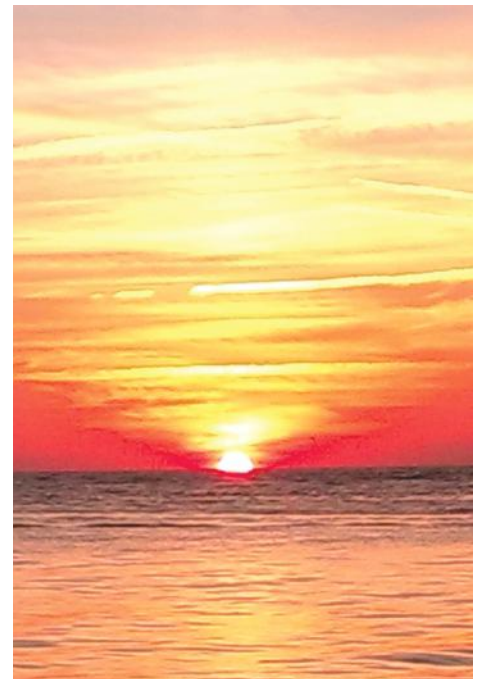
**J**oin Friends of De Soto Saturday, May 12, for a sunset cruise of beautiful Sarasota Bay with Paradise Boat Tours.

The popular cruise will start from Bradenton Beach's Historical Bridge Street Pier – boarding at 6:30 p.m. and sailing at 7 p.m. – for a leisurely, informative 90-minute cruise. Tickets are \$30 per person for paid Friends of De Soto Members and \$35 for non-members.

Beverages are available for purchase and complimentary snacks will be provided. There will also be raffle tickets that can be purchased on board for great raffle prizes.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://friendsofdesoto.org>. Access the events menu.

All proceeds benefit the De Soto National Memorial through the Friends of De Soto, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



A sunset cruise provides passengers with a postcard setting.

## SAVE the DATES

### April 14

**10:00 a.m. & 1 p.m.**

Be at the park as conquistador Hernando de Soto comes ashore and claims Florida. Stay all day as park staff and volunteers provide talks and demonstrations about De Soto's expedition and its lasting impact on early American history, and the native people of the Southeast.

### May 11- Oct. 28

**9 a.m.-noon; Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays**

Free ranger-led kayak tours! We provide kayaks, gear, and safety equipment. Tours are limited to 10 visitors per trip. Inquire in the visitor center for details and signup. The signup this year begins April 1.



## Five Centuries Brings History to Life in March

The popular Five Centuries of Florida History weekend is March 25-25 at De Soto National Memorial.

Visitors can experience 500 years of Florida history as more than 30 re-enactors open windows into the Sunshine State's rich and varied past. Representatives of all time periods set up camps and displays in addition to formal and informal programs in which re-enactors share their knowledge and love of Florida history.

Each year the park fills with visitors who spend hours touring the camps, chatting with the re-enactors and basking in the natural beauty of the park. The Five Centuries event provides an enjoyable and educational early spring outing.

Hours for Five Centuries are 10 a.m.-3 p.m. each day of the event.



Re-enactors help bring Florida history to life during the annual Five Centuries event at the park.

## Camp Uzita Opens Door to Florida's Past



De Soto rangers and volunteers wear period clothing during their talks and demonstrations in Camp Uzita. The camp program brings history to life for park visitors.

De Soto National Memorial visitors will get a unique look into Spanish and American Indian life in the 16th Century at Camp Uzita.

Park staff members don period clothing and offer talks and demonstrations inside the palisades on the lasting impact of the De Soto expedition on the American Southeast. These interesting and informative programs bring history to life each year for thousands of park visitors.

Camp Uzita is open Thursday through Sunday, with programs at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. Topics vary from program to program and all demonstrations are subject to change due to weather. The camp will remain in operation until April 13.





### Walk the Nature Trails

The Nature Trail winds along the shoreline and through several Florida ecosystems, including a mangrove forest like the one that De Soto's men would have encountered when they landed. Trails include interpretive signage and waysides that tell the story of the De Soto 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 De Soto National Memorial.

**Camping:** De Soto 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 De Soto Point Beach is located west of De Soto 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 De Soto 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 De Soto 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 De Soto 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 De Soto 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 De Soto National Memorial, Inc.  
P.O. Box 14422, Bradenton, FL 34280-4422

**Email:** [info@friendsofdesoto.org](mailto:info@friendsofdesoto.org)

**Website:** [Friendsofdesoto.org](http://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 De Soto 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 De Soto 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 De Soto 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 De Soto 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 De Soto 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](http://www.friendsofdesoto.org) or mail your check to:

Friends of De Soto National Memorial • PO Box 14422 • Bradenton, FL 34280-4422

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Margo Belaga, President**  
**Joan Dowling, Vice-President**  
**Randy Miller, Treasurer**  
**Susan Johnson, Secretary**  
**Bob Milligan, Director**  
**Mary Hawk, Director**



# Nota De Soto



## FRIENDS OF DE SOTO NATIONAL MEMORIAL, INC.

**D**e Soto 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 De Soto each year. With federal funding cuts, the best way to maintain these programs is to join Friends of De Soto 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 De Soto 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 De Soto 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: [Friendsofdesoto.org](http://Friendsofdesoto.org))