



FRIENDS OF DE SOTO NATIONAL MEMORIAL, INC.

Nota De Soto



FALL 2018



Who are Friends of De Soto?

Friends 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.

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 De Soto National Memorial. Thank you for your support!

Friends of the Friends

Captain Sherman, Paradise Boat Tours
Porges, Hamlin, Knowles & Hawk

“De Soto at the Depot” Sunday, November 4, 2018

The Friends of De Soto National Memorial invite you to join us for a one-of-a-kind vintage train excursion on **November 4, 2018** from **5:00 pm to 8:00 pm** to support our beautiful De Soto National Memorial park. We will meet at the **Florida Railroad Museum in Parrish**, where we'll board a beautifully restored vintage train (which we are unofficially calling the De Soto Express) and take a leisurely scenic ride to historic Willow, Florida. Upon arrival, we will have live music featuring blues musician Steve Arvey and his fabulous band. Award winning **Chef Robert** will prepare a fantastic BBQ dinner featuring pulled pork, collard greens, baked beans and more! Beer, wine and soft drinks will be available for purchase. After dinner we will return by train to the Parrish depot.

ALL PROCEEDS
BENEFIT THE DE SOTO
NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Your National Park!



Tickets are just \$38 for members of the Friends of De Soto; and \$45 for non-members. Groups of 10 or more who sign up as a group through the website will receive the member price.

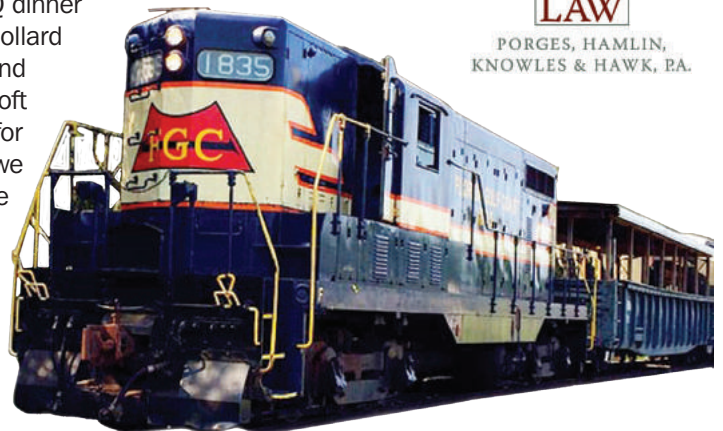
Visit our website to buy tickets online: friendsofdesoto.org/train/ or call **(941) 704-6825**

The Florida Railroad Museum is located at 12210 83rd St. East, Parrish, FL 34219.

Sponsored by



PORGES, HAMLIN,
KNOWLES & HAWK, P.A.



SAVE the DATES

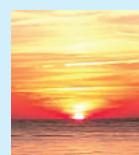
November 4 Desoto at the Depot • 5-8 pm

Meet at the Florida Railroad Museum in Parrish, board a restored vintage train and take a leisurely scenic ride to historic Willow, Florida. Live music with blues artist Steve Arvey, BBQ dinner.



Return by train to the Parrish depot.
\$38 members;
\$45 non-members

December 8 Sunset Cruise with Paradise Boat Tours • 4:30 p.m.



Depart from the historic Bradenton Beach Pier on Bridge Street for a leisurely 90-minute cruise. Bring your friends and enjoy a beautiful gulfcoast sunset. Dolphins are often seen nearby or up close.
\$30 members; \$35 non-members.

Friends Seek Volunteers

Friends of DeSoto National Memorial Inc. is looking for volunteers from its membership to help with upcoming events and to help create some additional upcoming events for our members.

If interested in taking more of an active role and supporting the Friends and DeSoto National Memorial, please contact Margo Belaga (Friends president) at **941-704-6825**.



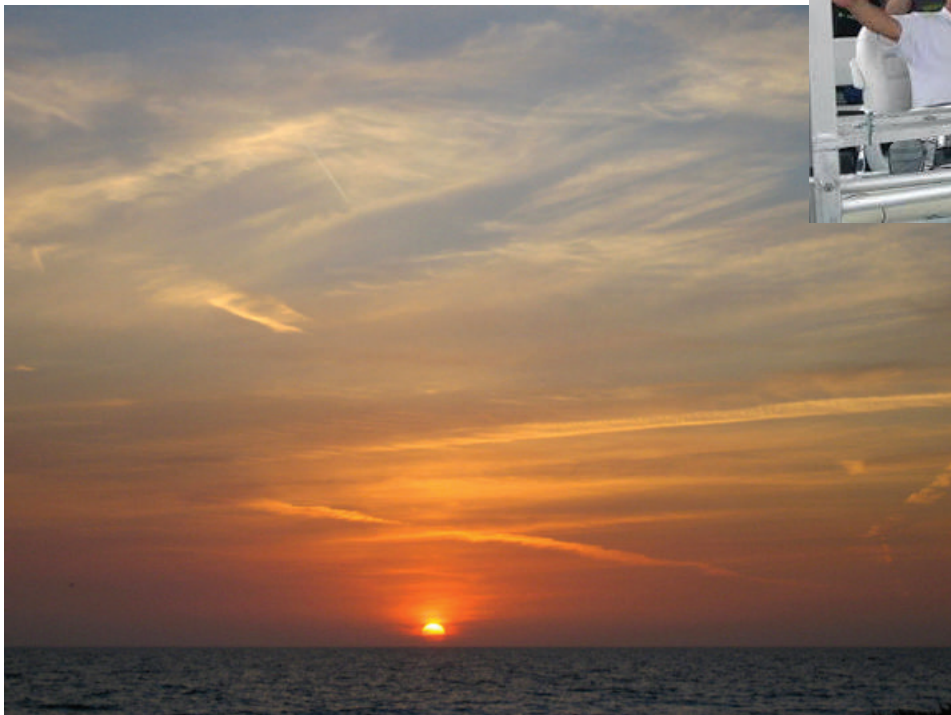
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FRIENDS OF DE SOTO
NATIONAL MEMORIAL, INC.

Fundraiser Sunset Cruise for Friends of De Soto Benefitting De Soto National Memorial

Saturday, December 8, 2018
4:30 pm



for its dolphin-sighting prowess, boasting a 95 percent success rate in up-close dolphin viewing.

Tickets are \$30.00 per person for Friends members, \$35 for non-members.

To make reservations, go to the Friends of DeSoto website at: www.friendsofdesoto.org. For more information, call **941-704-6825**.

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

Join the Friends of De Soto for a sunset cruise on **Paradise Boat Tours** on **Saturday, December 8, 2018**. The boat sails at 4:30 p.m. from the historic Bradenton Beach Pier on Bridge Street for a leisurely 90-minute cruise.

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.

Capt. Sherman Baldwin and Paradise Boat Tours play a major role in helping the Friends of DeSoto National Memorial Inc. keep its heads above water when it comes to raising money for events at the local national park facility.

Paradise Boat Tours is renowned



Dolphins are sighted on 95 percent of Paradise Boat Tours cruises.



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.

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.

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

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 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 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.

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Joan Dowling, Vice-President
Randy Miller, Treasurer
Susan Johnson, Secretary
Bob Milligan, Director
Sharry Lueck, Director



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FRIENDS OF DE SOTO NATIONAL MEMORIAL, INC.

De 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: Friendsodesoto.org)