

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



De Soto National Memorial
Bradenton, Florida

De Soto National Memorial 2011/2012 Events Calendar



Dog Days at De Soto celebrates and educates about our best friends

Camp Uzita: Every Day from December 10th through April 21st

Visitors get a unique look into Spanish and Native American life in the 16th Century. Park staff offer talks and demonstrations on the lasting impact De Soto had on the history of America and the native people.

Winter Luminary Walk: Saturday, December 17th 6:30pm-8:30pm

For the holidays, park visitors are treated to an outdoor winter event featuring music and a historical luminary walk along the parks nature trails.

Concerts on the Lawn: Amernet String Quartet Saturday, February 25th Concert starts promptly at 5:30pm

Enjoy the Amernet String Quartet, ensemble-in-residence at Florida International University, is one of the most acclaimed ensembles of this generation. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets for a night of great music under the stars.

Concerts on the Lawn: The Kruger Brothers Sunday, March 4th Concert starts promptly at 5:30pm

Enjoy the award winning Kruger Brothers, masters of acoustic performance, this trio offers a powerful artistic statement that empowers and enlightens. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets for a night of great music under the stars.

Dog Days at De Soto: Saturday, March 10th 10:00am-3:00pm

Join us as we celebrate our best friends. The day is full of activities, demonstrations and information promoting safe and healthy dog visits to the park

Five Centuries of Florida History: Saturday March 31st 10:00am-3:00pm

Every March De Soto Memorial brings together re-enactor groups from all over Florida for a timeline spanning 500 years.

De Soto Landing: Saturday, April 21st 10:00am- 3:00pm

Be here as Conquistador Hernando De Soto comes ashore and claims Florida. Stay all day as we provide talks and demonstrations about De Soto's expedition and its lasting impact on the Native American people of the Southeast.

Daily Programs, exhibitions, and demonstrations:

Ranger led trail walks along the parks nature trails, living history talks and weapon demonstrations, Native American dugout canoe, the "Ana Mendez" Spanish long boat, new museum exhibits, the Award Winning Junior Ranger Program, and the park movie [Hernando de Soto in America](#).

Upcoming Summer Activities: De Soto National Memorial has many opportunities for family fun throughout the summer. Starting in April and running through October during the weekends we offer Ranger led kayak tours. For kids ages 6-12 we have a Junior Ranger Summer Camp from June through August on Thursday and Fridays. Please call for details and availability.

Park entrance, events, and activities are free. For events, dates, times and availability please contact De Soto National Memorial at (941) 792-0458 or check our website at www.nps.gov/deso

Driving Directions: We are located at 8300 De Soto Memorial Hwy, Bradenton, FL 34209.

From I- 75, take exit 220 west SR 64/ Manatee Ave. Travel 12 miles to 75th Street West. Turn right and travel to its terminus to the park's entrance.

From I-275, take exit 5 follow US-19 into Bradenton. Turn West onto SR-64/ Manatee Ave 5 miles to 75th Street West. Turn right onto 75th Street West, and proceed 2.5 miles to its terminus at the park's entrance.

De Soto National Memorial is open seven days a week only closing for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years day. Park grounds are open from sun up to sun down. Visitor Center hours are from 9:00 am- 5:00 pm