

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: Enjoy discounts on a kayaking tour and rentals on National Public Lands Day.

Free Wildlife Drive admission, activities celebrate National Public Lands Day at the Refuge

J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island will celebrate National Public Lands Day on Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018, on Sanibel Island with free admission to Wildlife Drive, discounts at Tarpon Bay Explorers, and special activities.

Wildlife Drive opens at 7 a.m. for free touring and closes at 7 p.m. Narrated tram tours will run at normal cost and schedule – 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 3 p.m. The always admission-free “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center opens at 9 a.m.

In the Refuge Nature Store, the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) is giving away a free bottle of Just Water with a purchase of \$10 or more, upon request. This year’s National Public Lands Day celebrates the seventh anniversary of the Kick the Bottle campaign to rid the refuge of the disposable plastic bottles that are a scourge to the environment. Just Water comes in a reusable container that consists of 82 percent renewable resources -- primarily paperboard sourced from forests where new trees replace those harvested.

Special free and discounted activities take place at the refuge from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.:

8 a.m. All day long, Tarpon Bay Explorers offers a 25 percent discount on all bike, kayak, and paddleboard rentals.

8:30 a.m. 25 percent off Guided Kayak Tour at Tarpon Bay Explorers. Reservations are recommended at 239-472-8900.

8:30-9:30 a.m. Guided Tour and Clean-up along Indigo Trail to the Wildlife Education Boardwalk. Meet at the parking lot flagpole, and bring water, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

9:30 -11 a.m. “Hidden Treasures of “Ding”” Caravan. Follow a naturalist along Wildlife Drive and stop for up-close and personal viewings. Meet at the parking lot flagpole, and bring water, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Make-and-take recycled crafts in the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center Classroom.

“Ding” Darling Refuge presents National Public Lands Day with support from DDWS and Tarpon Bay Explorers (www.tarponbayexplorers.com, 239-472-8900). For more information about the event, contact Ranger Monica Scroggin at 239-472-1100 ext. 237.

ABOUT DDWS

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, DDWS works to support J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge’s mission of conservation, wildlife and habitat protection, research, and public education through charitable donations and Refuge Nature Shop proceeds.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit dingdarlingsociety.org or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

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