SARASOTA COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SPONSORED EVENTS 2026

Big Truck Day: Fun for the whole family, the event will include big trucks that children can sit in, honk the horns and learn about; music; crafts, hands-on activities, demonstrations and more! *Email for more information.*

Fire Fest: Fire Fest is a fun family event that looks at how prescribed burns protect our communities and property from wildfires and maintains Florida's natural ecosystems for present and future generations. Do you ever wonder why you see all those smoke columns across the horizon? Agencies from around the state come together to talk fire. Enjoy live fire demonstrations, helicopter bucket drops and nature tours. Kids will have a blast on the obstacle course and will enjoy fun games and face painting in the Kid Zone. *Email for more information.*

Sandy Claws Beach Run: The 50th Annual Sandy Claws Beach Run is back on the sand for a 5K run and a one-mile fun run. Set on the hard-packed, world-renowned Siesta Beach sand, this event is a fixture in the running community and is focused on providing athletes of all ages with the opportunity to compete. Participants can choose to compete in the chip-timed 5K race or join in the leisurely one-mile fun run! Participants are encouraged to come wearing their best costume and enjoy refreshments after the run.

With more than 700 runners participating, this event is an opportunity to bring together members of our community for a morning of fun, contests, food, and music! Sponsoring this event will showcase your commitment to health, wellness, and community support. *Email for more information.*

Brown Bag Concert series: The Brown Bag Concert series begins the first Thursday in February and continues to the last Thursday in March. New local musicians will be playing this year. Bring your lawn chair and lunch, relax and enjoy wonderful music in a delightful park setting! *Email for more information.*

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History Day in the Park: Join us for a day of history, fun and community at Phillippi Estate Park. Step back in time with this free event and experience historical societies, vendors, historic presentations, live performances, food trucks, family fun and much more! *Email for more information*.

Holly Jolly Holiday Party: You're invited to the Holly Jolly Holiday Party! Santa Claus is making a special stop at Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources, and you won't want to miss the festive fun. Enjoy holiday activities, cheerful music, and capture the magic with a photo and your holiday wishes with Santa! *Email for more information.*

Kids' Summer Beach Runs: This one-mile fun run for kids is a summer favorite and a great opportunity for families to exercise together and have fun at the beach! Weekly registration begins at 5:30 p.m. with runs starting at 6:30 p.m. Kids receive a participation ribbon at each run. Complete four runs and earn a free custom T-shirt. No runs the week of July 4. *Email for more information*.

National Public Lands Day: Join Sarasota County to celebrate National Public Land's Day (NPLD), the largest single-day volunteer event to improve and enhance America's public lands. Enjoy a morning of volunteering, connecting with nature, and family-focused fun for families and individuals of all ages. Registration required for volunteer service projects. *Email for more information.*

North Jetty Food Truck Rally: Come out to North Jetty Park for this family-friendly event series. We'll have fun yard games, live music, and of course, plenty of food trucks! This is an opportunity to showcase your commitment to supporting local recreation, community engagement and family-friendly events. *Email for more information*.

Phillippi Farmhouse Market: Sarasota's only midweek farmers market occurs every Wednesday, October through April. The Farmhouse Market features local fresh produce, including USDA-certified organic produce, food trucks, prepared foods, artisans with crafts and live music. There is

ample parking and leashed pets are welcome. Join in the fun and support local agriculture. *Email for more information*.

Say 'I Do' Again: Celebrate a renewal of wedding vows at sunset on beautiful Nokomis Beach or Siesta Beach. Event includes a commemorative certificate, a gift, a flower, music on the beach and light refreshments. Check-in begins at 4:30 p.m. and activities begin at 5 p.m. The non-denominational service begins promptly at 6 p.m. Register is required. *Email for more information*.

Spring Break Camps: When school is out, camp is in! This county program offers fun, recreational and instructional activities with daily themes for children in grades K through five during the spring break week. *Email for more information.*

Summer Camp Programs: PRNR offers 10 weeks of summer fun for children entering grades 1 through 12. These camps provide enjoyable and safe summer recreation opportunities for children, including day camp, adventure camp and specialty camp options. In 2025, more than 2,100 campers participated in PRNR's summer camps across multiple county park locations - making this one of the county's most impactful youth engagement programs.

Our camp program also offers a Counselor-In-Training program for select high school students, and summer jobs for camp staff. *Email for more information*.

Summer Kick-Off Youth Activity Fair: Come out to the Venice Community Center for this FREE event to gather all the resources you need to prepare for your family's return to school. No registration required! Event includes free swag, activities/games, vendor booths, demonstrations, entertainment, and food trucks. *Email for more information.*

Sunrise Beach Walks: Participate in this self-guided beach walk along our beautiful beach. Register at the main pavilion before your one-mile minimum walk. Complete four walks and receive an event T-shirt. Sunrise Beach Walks engages health-conscious community members and visitors seeking low-impact fitness and social connection through guided morning walks on Sarasota

County's scenic Nokomis Beach and Siesta Beach. Sponsors will gain exposure to approximately 400 participants during the nine-week program. *Email for more information.*

T-REC Costume Masquerade: Dress up in your favorite costume and be ready to dance with all your T-REC friends! Prizes will be awarded for best costumes. This free event is for all teens and adults with disabilities. Families and caregivers are invited to join in this night of fun! Light refreshments will be served. *Email for more information*.

T-REC Holiday Party: All teens and adults with disabilities are invited to celebrate the holidays at our annual holiday party. There will be music, crafts, games, refreshments and more. Families and caregivers are welcome to attend. *Email for more information.*

T-REC Prom: All teens and adults with disabilities are invited to the annual T-REC Prom, held inside the beautiful, historic Edson Keith Mansion. Caregivers and families are welcome to attend this free event, however each person must register in advance, as there is a maximum capacity for this event. Enjoy music with friends, as we dance the night away. Heavy Hors d'oeuvre will be served. All participants are encouraged to dress up in their best evening wear – as photos will be taken! *Email for more information*.

Veterans Day Camping Weekend: Specials activities planned throughout the weekend at Turtle Beach Campground to honor our veterans. Activities at the campground for our veterans and fellow campers include live music, a raffle, fishing derby, paddle sports, yoga on the beach and a catered dinner to close out the weekend. Sponsorship opportunities include sponsoring a site for veterans. *Email for more information*.

Veterans Day Rifle Competition: The Knight Trail Park annual Veterans Day Rifle Competition will be on November 8, 2025. Shooters must register online in their respective group and may register in multiple groups. The event will begin at 9:00 a.m., but shooters will be assigned a designated relay and time to shoot. Prizes will be awarded to all group winners. *Email for more information*.

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Winter Break Camps: When school is out, camp is in! This recreational program offers fun, recreational and instructional activities with daily themes for children in grades kindergarten through grade five during the winter break. *Email for more information*.

Witches Night Out: Join us for a bewitching evening at the historic (and haunted!) Edson Keith Mansion, nestled in the spooky Phillippi Estate Park. The third annual Witches Night Out will feature a lively DJ, a fun photo booth, shopping with unique vendors, a cash bar, and plenty of tasty morsels to enjoy. Dress in your best witch or wizard attire for our costume contest — let your creativity run wild! Advance tickets only, get yours before they disappear! *Email for more information.*

World Ocean Day Event: World Ocean Day is officially observed on June 8 worldwide, allowing people around the globe to celebrate and honor the shared ocean that connects us all. Make waves with Sarasota County Parks to celebrate this day by participating in a beach clean-up! Every piece of trash removed from our beaches makes a difference. Join us for a beach clean-up at 8 a.m. and stay for entertainment at 9:30 a.m. This year we are celebrating on June 6th at North Jetty Park. In addition to the beach clean-up, there will also be kayak tours, lecturers, a kid's corner, local businesses who have a hand in ocean conservation, a live band and more. *Email for more information*.

For more information, call 941-861-PARK (7275), parksonline@scgov.net, or visit online at SarasotaCountyParks.com.

IT STARTS IN PARKS

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Sarasota County