

Events

FIRST DAY HIKE AND SCAVENGER HUNT

Start your New Year on the right foot with a hike in the park! Hike park trails and find the hidden signs, take a photo of each sign and get a prize at the Nature Center Hunt table. Information available the morning of event from the Ranger Station or the Nature Center . All ages welcome to participate. Easy & accessible trail also available.

Location: Various park trails.

Fee: Park fees apply. Event is free.

DATE	DAY/TIME
January 1	Monday 9:00am—1:00pm

24th ANNUAL SCRUB JAY 5K/10K RACE

Registration required for the race. Event presented by Friends of Oscar Scherer Park. **ALL** proceeds support Florida Scrub-Jay conservation, habitat restoration. (No pets on course please). Separate courses. 5K hardtop and mostly hard packed trails. New -10K "Scramble" will be a challenging trail course. Visit FriendsOfOscarScherer.com or RunSignUp.com to register.

Location: Meet at Lake Osprey Picnic Area. Pre-packet pickup on Friday 4—6 PM at the Nature Center

Fees: Before 12/2/23 5K & 10K—\$40, Adult; // After 12/2/23 5K & 10K—\$43, Adult; // \$15 Youth 18 & under // Everyone—After 1/14/24 \$45 per person. Virtual Option: Virtually Anywhere & Almost Anytime \$49.

DATE	DAY/TIME
January 20	Saturday 5K & 10K start time—8:00am

TOM FALING MEMORIAL KIWANIS KID'S FISHATHON

In cooperation with the Kiwanis Club of Venice and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, come out and catch some fish with us! Open to the first 50 kids, ages 5 to 12 and their guardian. Fishing poles, bait, tackle, and lunch are provided. Prizes will be given in several "fishy" categories. Park entrance fees will be waived for registered participants. Please call the park to register one month prior to event (941) 483-5956.

Location: Lake Osprey

Fee: FREE (with registration)

DATE	DAY/TIME
April 6	Saturday 8:00am—12:00am

35th ANNUAL EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

Celebrate Earth Day at Oscar Scherer State Park with live music, fun-filled activities for kids, various environmental and informational booths, environmental speakers, juried photo contest, guided hikes and more! Photo entries accepted. Contact park for more info.

Park entrance fees will be waived for event participants. **Location:** Lake Osprey Picnic Area

Fee: FREE

DATE	DAY/TIME
April 20	Saturday 10:00am—3:00pm

Additional Information (Applies to all programs and events unless otherwise noted):

- Well behaved dogs on leashes are permitted. Please be sure to clean up after your dogs.
- All children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult
- Equal access to all: Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the Ranger Station in advance.
- Essential Eligibility Criteria information available at www.floridastateparks.org/things-to-do/events

Front cover photo credits: Daniel Olson, volunteer

Large
Print

Available

Oscar Scherer State Park

Programs & Events

December 2023 - April 2024




Park Hours:

8:00am to Sunset


365 Days a Year

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Osprey, FL 34229
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Visit Us Online!

 Friends of Oscar Scherer Park

 @OscarSchererSP

 Oscar.scherer.state.park

<http://friendsofoscarscherer.com/>

<https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Oscar-Scherer>



Saturday

CRITTER CRAFTS FOR KIDS

Learn about the plants and animals at Oscar Scherer. Materials are provided. **Location:** Nature Center

Fee: Park entrance fees apply.

DATES	DAY/TIME
Year-round	Saturdays 10:00am—11:00am

JUNIOR RANGER

Become a Junior Ranger and work on your Junior Ranger core packet or passport activities! **Location:** Nature Center

Fee: Park entrance fees apply.

DATES	DAY/TIME
Dec 9—Mar 30	Saturdays 9:00am—12:00pm

TRAM TOUR

Join one of our rangers for a tram ride through the park and down the Green Trail. Learn about the plants and animals that call Oscar Scherer State Park “home.” **Location:** Departs from Nature Center. Tickets sold at Nature Center. No pets, please.

Fee: \$5.00/adult, free for age 5 and under. Park entry fees apply.

DATES	DAY/TIME
Dec—Mar	Saturdays 1:30pm—2:30pm

WATERCOLOR FELLOWSHIP—1st Saturday

Learn new tips and tricks or just paint with fellow enthusiasts. Space is limited. Materials provided. **Location:** Nature Center

Fee: Park entrance fees apply.

DATES	DAY/TIME
Dec 9—Mar 2	1st Saturdays 10:00am—12:00pm

GUIDED NIGHT PADDLE—MONTHLY

Paddle South Creek under the moonlight. Experienced paddlers only. Bring your own vessel or rent one from the park.

Preregister in person, up to 1 month in advance. Arrival and start times vary monthly. **Location:** South Creek Canoe Launch

Fee: \$20 / Person (cash only). Contact park for dates.

DATES	DAY/TIME
Dec—Apr	Saturdays - monthly at Sunset



WINTER 2023 – 2024

PARK ENTRANCE FEES WILL APPLY TO ALL DAY USE VISITORS

Sunday

EAGLE VIEWING

Join us to see how our pair of nesting bald eagles are doing. High-powered scope set up. Comfortable shoes, camera and binoculars are suggested.

Location: Green Trail. Self-Guided 20-minute walk to eagle viewing station.

Fee: Park entrance fees apply

DATES	DAY/TIME
Dec—Mar	Sundays 9:00am—11:00am

941-483-5956 | www.floridastateparks.org

Monday

CO-ED EXERCISE / LOW IMPACT

Wear comfortable shoes and wake up with a morning exercise session led by our talented volunteers! Exercises do not require participants to sit or lay down and program is considered accessible.

Location: Nature Center Screen Room

Fee: Park entrance fees apply

DATES	DAY/TIME
Dec—Mar	Monday 8:30am—9:15am

Tuesday

CAMPER COFFEE

Start your day with tea or coffee, assorted pastries and meeting fellow campers.

Location: Nature Center

Fee: Free with camping or standard park entrance fee, donations are appreciated.

DATES	DAY/TIME
Dec—Mar	Tuesdays 8:00am –10:00am

CAMPFIRE PROGRAM

Join park rangers or a special guest around the campfire to learn about specific park topics. Programs will be posted. Program is limited to registered campers only. **Location:** Camp Fire Circle (between sites 35 & 36)

Fee: Free for registered campers.

DATES	DAY/TIME
Dec—Mar	2nd Tuesdays 7:00pm –8:00pm

Wednesday

CO-ED EXERCISE / FOLK FIT

Wake up with a morning of low impact aerobic exercise adding bits of fun and variety with folk dance steps. These easy repetitious steps help improve cognitive ability and blast away Brain Fog. Exercises do not require participants to sit or lay down and program is considered accessible. Wear comfortable shoes, bring water. Hand weights (if desired).

Location: Nature Center Screen Room

Fee: Park entrance fees apply

DATES	DAY/TIME
Dec—Mar	Wednesdays 8:30am—9:15am

The Nature Center

- The Nature Center offers interpretive displays, kids activities, souvenirs, park information and more.
- Please note that programs inside the Nature Center are limited to space available.
- **If inclement weather, outdoor programs will be moved to Nature Center or cancelled.
- While the park is pet friendly, dogs are not allowed inside the Nature Center.
- Help us keep the Nature Center open. It is staffed by park volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the park.
- Become a member of The Friends of Oscar Scherer Park. Membership information available at the Nature Center.



PROGRAMS ARE FIRST-COME, FIRST SERVED

Thursday

PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH A RANGER

Enjoy a breakfast consisting of pancakes, sausage, tea, coffee, and juice. Park Ranger will be available 8:30am—9:00am for questions, information or just a chat.

Location: Nature Center

Fee: \$7.00 /person; \$3.00/child (12 years and younger)

DATES	DAY/TIME
Dec—Mar	Thursdays 8:00am—10:00am

AUDUBON SOCIETY GUIDED BIRD WALK

Walk led by the local Audubon Society (Sarasota or Venice Chapter). Comfortable footwear, camera, binoculars, and bird guide recommended. No pets please.

Location: Meets outside Nature Center

Fee: Park entrance fees apply

DATES	DAY/TIME
Nov 2—Mar 28	Thursdays 8:30am—10:00am

*No walk on Thanksgiving Day Nov. 24

941-483-5956 | www.floridastateparks.org

Friday

RANGER HIKE OF THE WEEK

Explore the park with a ranger on a guided walk. A chance to learn about park history, the flora & fauna that can be found and what makes Oscar Scherer a special place. Comfortable hiking shoes, water, & sunscreen recommended.

Location: Meet outside Nature Center

Fee: Park entrance fees apply

DATES	DAY/TIME
Dec—Mar	Fridays 8:30am—9:30am

Take Nothing but Pictures, Leave Nothing but Footprints

Reduce Single Use Plastics, Water fill Stations Available

Leave the road and hike the trails to immerse in nature

Find that 1 thing in nature and help to preserve it

WINTER 2023 – 2024

