

Events

FIRST DAY HIKE AND SCAVENGER HUNT

Start your New Year on the right foot with a hike in the park! Find the hidden signs as you hike our trails. Take a photo of each sign and get a prize at the Nature Center Hunt table. Information available the morning of event at 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 | Wednesday 9:00am—1:00pm |

25th 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 and habitat restoration. No pets on course please. Separate courses: 5K hardtop and mostly hard packed trails; 10K "Scramble" will be a challenging trail course. Visit FriendsOfOscarScherer.com or RunSignUp.com to register. Pre-packet pickup (park entry fee applies) on Friday, January 24 from 4–6 PM at the Nature Center

Location: Meet at Lake Osprey Picnic Area.

Fees: Rates will change as race date approaches but will not exceed adults-\$50, youth 14 & under-\$15, youth ages 15 to 18-\$20
Virtual Option: Virtually Anywhere & Almost Anytime \$47.

| DATE | DAY/TIME |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| January 25 | Saturday 5K & 10K start time—8:00am |

TOM FALING MEMORIAL KWANIS KID'S FISH-A-THON

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. Please call the park to register one month prior to event (941) 483-5956.

Location: Lake Osprey

Fee: Park entry fees apply. Event is FREE (with registration)

| DATE | DAY/TIME |
|---------|-------------------------|
| April 5 | Saturday 8:00am—12:00pm |

36th 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, a photo contest, guided hikes, and more! Contact park for more info.

Location: Lake Osprey Picnic Area

Fee: Park entry fees apply. Event is FREE

| DATE | DAY/TIME |
|----------|-------------------------|
| April 19 | Saturday 10:00am—3:00pm |

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

- 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: *Northern Bobwhite Quail*, courtesy of park volunteer Daniel Olson

Large
Print

Available

Oscar Scherer State Park

Programs & Events

December 2024 - April 2025




Park Hours:

8:00am to Sunset


365 Days a Year

1843 S. Tamiami Tr
Osprey, FL 34229
Phone: (941) 483-5956

Visit Us Online!

 Friends of Oscar Scherer Park

 @OscarSchererSP

 Oscar.scherer.state.park

<http://friendsofoscarscherer.com/>

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



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 |
|---------|----------------------|
| Jan—Mar | Monday 9:00am—9:45am |

Tuesday

COFFEE SOCIAL

Start your day with tea or coffee, assorted pastries, and conversation with park visitors, campers, and volunteers.

Location: Nature Center

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

| DATES | DAY/TIME |
|---------|-------------------------|
| Jan—Mar | Tuesdays 8:00am—10:00am |

CAMPFIRE PROGRAM — MONTHLY

Join park staff or a special guest around the campfire to learn about a variety of park-related topics. Program is limited to registered campers only; topic posted in campground kiosks and Ranger Station the Friday prior to program. **Location:** Campfire Circle (between sites 35 & 36)

Fee: Free for registered campers.

| DATES | DAY/TIME |
|---------|----------------------------|
| Jan—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 repetitive 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 and hand weights (if desired).

Location: Nature Center Screen Room

Fee: Park entrance fees apply

| DATES | DAY/TIME |
|---------|--------------------------|
| Jan—Mar | Wednesdays 9:00am—9:45am |

GET INVOLVED!!!

- 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.

Adopt a Florida Scrub-Jay



Take nothing but pictures, Leave nothing but footprints



Looking for camping reservations? You can visit www.reserve.floridastateparks.org or call 1-800-326-3521 to reserve a campsite at Oscar Scherer and other Florida State Parks!

COMING THIS WINTER! Whenever Watersports will be providing Kayak and Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) rentals at Oscar Scherer. Look for the self-serve rental kiosk at the South Creek picnic area.



Have you tried glamping? Our campground is now home to four glamping sites with services provided by Timberline Glamping. Visit sarasota.tlglamping.com or call 1-941-777-3114 for more information or to reserve a site.

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. Cash preferred.

Location: Nature Center

Fee: \$8.00 /adult; \$3.00/child (12 years & under). Park entry fees apply.

| DATES | DAY/TIME |
|---------|--------------------------|
| Jan—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 |
|---------|--------------------------|
| Dec—Mar | Thursdays 8:30am—10:00am |

OPEN MUSIC JAM

Grab your instrument and join volunteers and visitors for a laid-back music jam session. Don't play? Spectators are also welcome!

Location: Meets outside Nature Center

Fee: Park entrance fees apply

| DATES | DAY/TIME |
|---------|-------------------------|
| Dec—Mar | Thursdays 3:00pm—5:00pm |

Friday

RANGER HIKE OF THE WEEK

Explore the park with a ranger on a guided walk. You'll learn about park history, the flora and fauna that can be found at Oscar Scherer, and what makes the park 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 |

Coming to the park? Don't forget:

A reuseable water bottle (fill it at Ranger Station & Nature Center), sunblock, insect repellent, a leash and poop bags for your dog, a camera, a trail map, and sunglasses!

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! Activities change weekly. **Location:** Nature Center

Fee: Park entrance fees apply.

| DATES | DAY/TIME |
|------------|--------------------------|
| Dec 14—Mar | Saturdays 9:00am—11:00pm |

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 |
|---------|-------------------------|
| Jan—Mar | Saturdays 1:30pm—2:30pm |

GUIDED NIGHT PADDLE—MONTHLY

Paddle South Creek under the moonlight. Experienced paddlers only. Bring your own vessel or rent one from our concession. 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) + rental (card only). Contact park for dates.

| DATES | DAY/TIME |
|---------|--|
| Jan—Apr | Saturdays - monthly at Sunset (March and April paddles will return to dock at approx. 10:00pm) |

Sunday

EAGLE VIEWING

Join us to see how our pair of nesting bald eagles are doing. A high-powered scope will be 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 |
|---------|------------------------|
| Jan—Mar | Sundays 9:00am—11:00am |



WINTER 2024 – 2025

PARK ENTRANCE FEES APPLY TO ALL DAY USE VISITORS

PROGRAMS ARE FIRST-COME, FIRST SERVED

WINTER 2024 – 2025

