Eco-Events ..... December 2026

The Natural Resources Department's Calendar of Events

Wednesday, Dec 2nd, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM – MANATEE AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRDING TOUR: EMERSON POINT – Search the skies for Florida's fabulous fliers! Our Audubon guide will lead participants on a tour through Emerson Point's coastal hammock and mangrove habitats. Check out the "locals" as well as the migratory birds that are wintering here. Program suitable for adults. *Program sponsored by Manatee County Audubon Society in partnership with Manatee County.* Reservations are required. To register please contact billielknight@yahoo.com or call (941) 592-7622. **Emerson Point Preserve – Ranger Station**

Wednesday, Dec 2nd, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM – SOAR IN 4 FAMILY NIGHT – Soar in 4 occurs the first Wednesday of each month in downtown Bradenton. Families visit demonstration tables facilitated by Manatee County teachers, non-profit organizations, and volunteers to learn how to use various materials to support the 'spotlight book,' as well as incorporate take-home items to continue to play, create, learn, and explore at home together. These monthly events provide families with the resources and information to become their child's best 'first teacher' at home. All activities are aligned to classroom learning. Program suitable for children and their families. *Program sponsored by Soar in 4 in partnership with Manatee County.* No reservations required. For more information please visit www.soarin4.org. **The Bishop Museum**

Thursday, Dec 3rd, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – GREEN EXPLORERS: CRAFTING NATURE – Does your kiddo like to create? Join us at Conservatory Park for a fun and creative crafting party. Using hands-on exploration, materials all around us, and the participants' own creativity, attendees will have a chance to play and create in nature. Green Explorers is a low structure, highly social, and experience-based activity. Program suitable for all ages, recommended for ages 5- 12. Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/green-explorers-nature-crafting-2026. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Conservatory Park – Playground Pavilion**

Friday, Dec 4th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – NATURE TALES: PROUD PINES – Does your kiddo enjoy stories and nature? Join us at Conservatory Park in Nature Tales. Meet monthly at Conservatory Park for an interactive story time, activities, and a walk in the great outdoors. This month, we will explore one of the most popular trees of the season- Pine. Program suitable for ages 8 and under. Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/nature-tales-proud-pines. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Conservatory Park – Playground Pavilion**

Friday, Dec 4th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – FRIDAY MORNING YOGA AT THE NEST – Start your weekend with intention and ease. Join us for a gentle, alignment-based Hatha yoga class designed to lengthen and strengthen the body while cultivating awareness through mindful movement and breath. This slow-flow session is beginner-friendly and open to all levels. Program suitable for adults. *Please bring mats, towels, and water. Other props are provided by the instructor.* Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/robinson-yoga. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

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Friday, Dec 4th, 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM – CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK – Celebrate a Historic Hometown Christmas at the Manatee County Agricultural Museum and Palmetto Historical Park! Enjoy festive crafts, decorations, & fun for the whole family at this FREE holiday event! This event is from 3 PM - 7:30 PM on Friday, December 4th and Saturday, December 5th. Be sure to stop by Manatee County's Natural Resource table on Friday and say hello plus make a nature ornament craft! Program suitable for adults. No reservations are required for event, meeting Santa does require a reservation. To register please visit https://www.manateecountyagmuseum.com/event-details/christmas-in-the-park-2026. For more information please contact agriculturalmuseum@manateeclerk.com. **Palmetto Historic Park**

Saturday, Dec 5th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE NEST – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

Saturday, Dec 5th, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM – HIKE WITH A LIBRARIAN – Take a hike! Join our Manatee County Librarians, as we hike through the book "Never Home Alone: by Rob Dunn. Then hike through Emerson Point Preserve. Program suitable for adults. Reservations are required. To register please visit https://manateelibrary.libcal.com/event/17134321?more. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Emerson Point Preserve – Classroom Pavilion**

Wednesday, Dec 9th, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM – ROBINSON RESTORATION – Be a part of the transformation at Robinson Preserve! Volunteers will continue clearing and mulching near the NEST parking lot and behind the boardwalk area, making room for the current and new native vegetation to thrive. Program suitable for all ages. Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/robinson-restoration-y5k26n2u. For more information please contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve NEST – Parking lot**

Wednesday, Dec 9th, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM – TEEN WILD TRAILS: ARCHERY SKILLS RYE PRESERVE – In this easy level adventure, we will learn about basic archery skills and play archery games to improve our skills at Rye Preserve in Parrish, FL. Please wear clothing appropriate for the outdoors. We recommend a water bottle, sun protection such as a hat and sunscreen and insect repellent. Program suitable for teens ages 13-17. *Program sponsored by Big Waters Land Trust in partnership with Manatee County. Teen Wild Trails is an adventure program for environmentally passionate teens, ages 13-17, to explore Manatee County's habitats and resources in partnership with Big Waters Land Trust. We will be meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of select months to explore a* Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/teen-wild-trails-december2026. For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org. **Rye Preserve – Woodstock Rd NE**

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Wednesday, Dec 9th, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM – KAYAKING FOR BEGINNERS – If you'd like to try kayaking, come on out! No prior experience necessary! Join our instructors from WayneAdventures and Manatee County Natural Resources for a 3-hour class during which we will explore the marshes and mangroves of Robinson Preserve. This will be a slow-paced paddle intended to give you time to get used to your kayak while exploring the Preserve. There will be plenty of time to try out kayaking and get some coaching, too. Program suitable for adults. *Program sponsored by WayneAdventures in partnership with Manatee County. Participants should bring a water bottle and wear clothing appropriate for the weather. We recommend sun protection, bug spray, and closed-toed shoes; no flip flops. Participants must wear a life jacket. Kayaks and gear are available to borrow.* Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/kayaking-for-beginners. For more information please contact matthew.tschirgi@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Expansion - South Kayak Launch**

Thursday, Dec 10th, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM – LIBRARY LEARNING: SCATS, TRACKS, AND SKULLS – Join Emily from the Natural Resources Department for a presentation about animal scats, tracks, and skulls with games and activities. Evidence of wildlife is all around us from tracks to scat. Join us to learn how to identify an animal's presence in the wild. Learn more about animal skulls and scavenge for clues to discover a mystery animal. Program suitable for 8 - 12 years old Reservations are required. To register please visit https://manateelibrary.libcal.com/event/17103914. For more information please contact Kaitlynn.bosley@mymanatee.org. **Palmetto Branch Library**

Friday, Dec 11th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – DOWN WITH THE CESAR WEED – In partnership with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, volunteers will remove invasive Caesar weed in Duette to give native vegetation room to flourish and create a healthier habitat for wildlife. We'll meet at Bunker Hill Park, where restrooms are available, and then carpool to the restoration site at the Keen Wetland a few miles away. If you would like to park at Robinson and ride with Natural Resources staff to the meet up site please arrive at the NEST parking lot at Robinson Preserve between 7:30 and 7:45 am to take the county van to the event and back. There are 12 seats, first come, first served. Just note on your ticket that you'd like to ride. Program suitable for all ages. Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/down-with-the-cesar-weed. For more information please contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org. **Duette Preserve – Bunker Hill Park**

Friday, Dec 11th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – FRIDAY MORNING YOGA AT THE NEST – Start your weekend with intention and ease. Join us for a gentle, alignment-based Hatha yoga class designed to lengthen and strengthen the body while cultivating awareness through mindful movement and breath. This slow-flow session is beginner-friendly and open to all levels. Program suitable for adults. *Please bring mats, towels, and water. Other props are provided by the instructor.* Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/robinson-yoga. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

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Friday, Dec 11th, 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM – WILDLIFE SPOTLIGHT: WHITE PELICANS – Join us at the Robinson Preserve Expansion to observe our migratory and resident pelicans. Discover fascinating facts about pelican behavior and their vital role in the ecosystem. Learn about conservation efforts aimed at these beautiful birds and learn how you can make a positive impact on their future. As the sun starts to go down we will be seeing the preserve come to life. Program suitable for adults. Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/wildlife-spotlight-white-pelicans. For more information please contact emily.laughlin@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve - Expansion – Screened Pavilion**

Saturday, Dec 12th, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM – SNEAK PEEK TOUR: CURIOSITY CREEK PRESERVE – Get a sneak peek at the conservation site at Curiosity Creek. This site has very limited access and no trails, so a trip here is truly "roughing it." During the tour participants will explore wetlands and oak hammock created as part of a mitigation project. This tour includes back country off trail hiking so participants should come ready to rough it. Program suitable for adults. *Please wear long pants and close-toed shoes. Due to access at the site, this program is strictly limited to 12 adult participants. Participants will meet at the Popi's Place near Port Manatee.* Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/curiosity-creek. For more information please contact ecoevents@mymanatee.org. **Curiosity Creek Preserve**

Saturday, Dec 12th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE NEST – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

Saturday, Dec 12th, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM – SALTWATER FISHING CLINIC – Join us for a special saltwater fishing clinic! Tie an improved clinch knot, practice your fish identification skills, and learn the basics of catch and release fishing in Florida. Get a chance to use our fishing equipment and cast your line into the waters of Emerson Point Preserve to see what we can catch! Program suitable for all ages. *Fishing poles, bait and tackle will be provided for the duration of the program.* Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/saltwater-fishing-clinic-dec2026. For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org. **Emerson Point Preserve – Nature Classroom**

Saturday, Dec 12th, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM – CHRISTMAS IN CORTEZ – FREE family-friendly event with bounce house, make & take holiday crafts, play lawn games and more! Visit with Santa inside the Cortez Cultural Center. There will be food available on-site for purchase but admission, parking, & ALL activities are free of charge. Event suitable for all ages *Parking available at F.I.S.H. Preserve located on Cortez Road - no parking at the museum.* No reservations are required. For more information please visit https://www.floridamaritimemuseum.org/christmas-in-cortez. **Florida Maritime Museum**

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Saturday, Dec 12th, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM – STARRY NIGHT ASTRONOMY – Join us for an astronomical extravaganza! Dozens of local astronomers will be set up in the Robinson Preserve Expansion with telescopes at the ready. Be sure to bring a sense of wonder and exploration as we view the skies through high-powered telescopes. Learn how to identify heavenly bodies, and how you can stargaze at home too. Program suitable for all ages. *Program sponsored by Suncoast Stargazers in partnership with Manatee County.* Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/robinson-astronomy. **Robinson Preserve – Expansion Parking Lot**

Monday, Dec 14th, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM – SUNSET SHELLWALK – Come out and enjoy the beach as the sun starts to set. Enjoy a peaceful sunset walk along the shore before Christmas arrives enjoy the hunt for beautiful shells along the shore. Learn how to identify common shells, discover the fascinating world of mollusks, and explore the unique adaptations that help these animals thrive along our coast. Program suitable for adults. Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/sunset-seashell-walk-g3v2v82v. For more information please contact emily.laughlin@mymanatee.org. **Coquina Beach**

Monday, Dec 14th, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM – SUNSET TAI CHI AT THE NEST – Join us for this monthly class at the NEST! At sunset on the second Monday of the month, Dr. Brian Nell, a certified Tai Chi instructor, will lead the group through the gentle movements of Tai Chi. This is a great way to shake off the stressful work week. Improve your balance, loosen your joints, and improve flexibility as you relax and breathe. This class is perfect for beginners and will include an exploration of several different styles of Tai Chi and Qigong. This class is held rain or shine. Program suitable for adults. *Program sponsored by Cypress Pillar Healing Arts in partnership with Manatee County.* Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/robinson-tai-chi. For more information please contact aedan.stockdale@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST Lawn**

Tuesday, Dec 15th, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM – VOLUNTEEN KAYAK PADDLE CLEAN-UP – Teens, join us as we paddle along the mangrove shoreline on the south side of Emerson Point and collect fishing line, trash, and debris that have washed into the mangroves. Your efforts help protect birds, fish, marine life and will count toward volunteer service hours Program suitable for teens ages 13-18 Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/volunteen-kayak-paddle-clean-up. For more information please contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org. **Emerson Point Preserve – Pavilion 3**

Wednesday, Dec 16th, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM – OYSTER SHELL DRILLING AT ROBINSON PRESERVE SOUTH – Help to give old oyster shells a new purpose! Volunteers will drill holes into recycled oyster shells and thread them onto oyster pins that will be used in an oyster restoration project in the Manatee River. Oysters filter water and provide habitat, so every shell counts. Program suitable for ages 16 + Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/oyster-shell-drilling-at-robinson-preserve-south. For more information please contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve NEST – Screened pavilion near NEST**

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Wednesday, Dec 16th, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – SOAR LAB – Our partners at Soar in 4 opened an incredible interactive museum for the youngsters in your life, called the Soar Lab. Inside is a room devoted to building complete with a giant Light Brite and Legos. A tinker room filled with kid-friendly tools and a gigantic art room packed with easels, puppets, and a stage. Open five days a week, check out soarin4.org for more detailed information. One Wednesday a month, our education staff will join the museum for some fun hands-on nature play. Program suitable for children 3rd grade and below. *Program sponsored by Soar in 4 in partnership with Manatee County. While the Soar Lab is free for most families, please consult the soarin4.org/soar-lab/ website for more information.* No reservations are required. **Soar Lab**

Thursday, Dec 17th, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM – HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB: BLACK BEAR – What can weigh 350 pounds and still climb a tall tree? A black bear! Come learn about the Florida black bear adaptations and how to make your home a bear friendly place. Program recommended for students ages 6-12. *Homeschool Science Club explores scientific and natural concepts through games, crafts, and activities encouraging students to be active outdoors. Guardians are responsible for identifying the learning maturity of their child. Please note the location of* Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/hssc-december-2026. For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org. **Rye Preserve – Pavilion**

Friday, Dec 18th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – FRIDAY MORNING YOGA AT THE NEST – Start your weekend with intention and ease. Join us for a gentle, alignment-based Hatha yoga class designed to lengthen and strengthen the body while cultivating awareness through mindful movement and breath. This slow-flow session is beginner-friendly and open to all levels. Program suitable for adults. *Please bring mats, towels, and water. Other props are provided by the instructor.* Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/robinson-yoga. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

Friday, Dec 18th, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM – HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB: BLACK BEAR – What can weigh 350 pounds and still climb a tall tree? A black bear! Come learn about the Florida black bear adaptations and how to make your home a bear friendly place. Program recommended for students ages 6-12. *Homeschool Science Club explores scientific and natural concepts through games, crafts, and activities encouraging students to be active outdoors. Guardians are responsible for identifying the learning maturity of their child. Please note the location of* Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/hssc-emerson-december2026. For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org. **Emerson Point Preserve – Pavilion**

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Friday, Dec 18th, 5:45 PM – 7:00 PM – MOVIE UNDER THE STARS: CHRISTMAS IN YELLOWSTONE – Join Us for Movie Night! And watch what happens as snow falls and Christmas lights glow in Jackson Hole, a holiday season of a different sort settles in nature. Grab your blankets or chairs and snacks for a cozy evening of films under the stars. Bring your friends and family for a night of great entertainment and fun! Don't miss it! We will provide free popcorn. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/movies-under-the-stars-christmas-in-yellowstone-y846a6fp. For more information please contact emily.laughlin@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST Lawn**

Friday, Dec 18th, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM – GAME NIGHT – What is more family than Board Game Night? Drop into the building for an evening of tabletop gaming fun! Borrow a nature-themed game from our game library or bring your favorite game from home. Meet new people and try something new. Role-playing games such as Dungeons and Dragons are welcome too. We only ask that all content and conversations remain family-friendly. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/game-night-at-the-nest-dec-2026. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

Saturday, Dec 19th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – TIDE TREKKERS KAYAK SHORELINE CLEAN-UP – Join the Tide Trekkers for a morning on the water! We'll launch the kayaks at the Robinson Preserve Expansion kayak launch and paddle through a mangrove tunnel out to Perico Bayou and onto the Tern Trail at the north end of Robinson Preserve to remove trash and debris and keep this beautiful natural area clean for wildlife and visitors. The paddle will be right at 2.5 miles round trip but we will be somewhat protected by the mangrove shoreline. Should be a fun and rewarding event! Program suitable for ages 12 + Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/tide-trekkers-kayak-shoreline-clean-up. For more information please contact shelby.reece@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve - Expansion – Kayak Launch**

Saturday, Dec 19th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE NEST – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

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Saturday, Dec 19th, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM – ROBINSON PRESERVE LIGHT FESTIVAL – Join us after sunset as we near the winter solstice for an evening of reflection and contemplation. A candlelit trail will be assembled for a single night – we invite you to walk the path in mindful meditation. Looking to send wishes into the new year or honor a loved one? Sponsor a Foxfire Lantern to build, decorate, and launch. Take some time during this busy season to slow down, observe the lights, and enjoy the beauty of Robinson Preserve at night. Program suitable for all ages. *Tickets must be purchased online in advance. This event is rain or shine, no refunds available.* Tickets are required. To register please visit https://parks.mymanatee.org/webtrac/web/search.html?display=detail&Interfaceparameter=WebTrac_NaturalResources&module=PST. For more information please contact ecoevents@mymanatee.org. **$5 Participant Fee per person to walk the trail (3 and under free). Add a Lantern Kit for $20 each. Robinson Preserve – South Entrance**

Monday, Dec 21st, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – NEST OPEN HOUSE – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

Monday, Dec 21st, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – WINTER WONDER WALK: MOODY BRANCH – Celebrate the winter solstice with a walk at Moody Branch! Gather up the family and discover all this wild preserve has to offer. Scrub jays, gopher tortoise, and butterflies of every hue call this preserve home. Who will we spot on the trail today? Program suitable for all ages. Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/winter-wonder-walk-moody-branch. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Moody Branch Preserve**

Tuesday, Dec 22nd, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – NEST OPEN HOUSE – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

Tuesday, Dec 22nd, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – TORTOISE TALK – Join us for this informal program on the lawn of the NEST as we take our education tortoise out to graze! In the wild, foraging is an integral part of a gopher tortoise's lifestyle, so we encourage it as much as possible. Stop by and say hello, get a chance to meet him up close, and ask any questions you may have. Learn all about what tortoises need to survive, how we care for our tortoise, and what efforts we can take to protect these important members of our Florida ecosystems. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. For more information please contact ecoevents@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST Lawn**

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Wednesday, Dec 23rd, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – NEST OPEN HOUSE – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

Saturday, Dec 26th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE NEST – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

Monday, Dec 28th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – NEST OPEN HOUSE – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

Tuesday, Dec 29th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – NEST OPEN HOUSE – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

Tuesday, Dec 29th, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – EXPLORE NATURE: PERICO POPUP SCAVANGER HUNT – Need a nature break! Pop in for an opportunity to meet our roving naturalist and learn about the amazing flora and fauna found all around you. If you have the time, complete a scavenger hunt to help explore the preserve, and once completed, turn it back in to collect a prize. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Perico Preserve – Pavilion**

Wednesday, Dec 30th, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM – FAMILY 3D ARCHERY SESSION 1,
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – FAMILY 3D ARCHERY SESSION 2,
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM – FAMILY 3D ARCHERY SESSION 3 – Set your sights on the exciting outdoor activity of archery! This program will provide participants with basic archery instruction, familiarization with archery equipment, and instruction in shooting techniques that create successful archers. All equipment will be provided for use. Program is suitable for ages 8 and up. *Program sponsored by the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in partnership with Manatee County. Three identical sessions are offered. Please register for only one session.* Reservations are required. To register please visit https://events.humanitix.com/3d-archery-dec2026. For more information please contact coral.bass@mymanatee.org. **Moody Branch Wildlife and Environmental Area – Pavilion**

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Wednesday, Dec 30th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – NEST OPEN HOUSE – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

Wednesday, Dec 30th, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM – TORTOISE TALK – Join us for this informal program on the lawn of the NEST as we take our education tortoise out to graze! In the wild, foraging is an integral part of a gopher tortoise's lifestyle, so we encourage it as much as possible. Stop by and say hello, get a chance to meet him up close, and ask any questions you may have. Learn all about what tortoises need to survive, how we care for our tortoise, and what efforts we can take to protect these important members of our Florida ecosystems. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. For more information please contact ecoevents@mymanatee.org. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST Lawn**

Thursday, Dec 31st, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – NEST OPEN HOUSE – Join us at the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology for a morning of discovery. Explore the canopy boardwalk among the banyans, climb to the top of the crow's nest, take in breathtaking panoramic views, and make an exciting exit from the building via slide. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations are required. **Robinson Preserve – Mosaic NEST**

Thursday, Dec 31st, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM – EXPLORE NATURE: MANATEE POP-UP PROGRAM – Stop by our education table at beautiful Portosueno Park and learn all about manatees! These gentle giants are our county's namesake and are frequent visitors of the park. Enjoy interactive activities to learn about the amazing anatomy of manatees and discover how you can help protect them in the wild. Program suitable for all ages. No reservations required. For more information please contact sara.alvarezcollazo@mymanatee.org. **Portosueno Park**