

Society for Ethical Ecotourism in Southwest Florida

A non-profit educational organization incorporated to establish and maintain a professional code of ecotourism ethics in order to encourage an awareness and stewardship of Southwest Florida's natural history.

Society for Ethical Ecotourism in SW Florida
P.O. Box 62203
Fort Myers, FL 33906

WWW.SSESWFLA.ORG

S.E.E. SW FLA Business Members:

| | |
|---|--|
| Around the Bend Nature Tours | Lee County Parks & Recreation |
| Babcock Wilderness Adventures | Lee County Sea Grant |
| Backwater Outfitters | Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau |
| Banana Bay Tour Company | Lover's Key Resort |
| Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium | Mason Dixon Marketing & Design |
| Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife | Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium |
| Carefree Birding | Mound House - Town of Ft Myers Beach |
| Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Prgm | Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention & Visitors Bureau |
| Charlotte Harbor Visitor's Bureau | Paddle Creek Outfitters |
| Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife | Pine Island Chamber of Commerce |
| Circle of Community Leadership | Pink Shell Beach Resort & Spa |
| Conservancy of Southwest Florida | Randell Archaeology Research Center |
| C.R.E.W. Land & Water Trust | Rookery Bay N. E. R. R. |
| Dragonfly Expeditions | Sea Excursions - Dolphin Project |
| Esterio River Outfitters | South Florida Water Management Dist. |
| Everglades Adventure Tours | South Seas Island Resort |
| Everglades Area Tours | Southwest Florida Eco Tours |
| Everglades Day Safari | SW Florida Marine Industries Association |
| Florida Dept of Environmental Protection | Tarpon Lodge |
| Fort Myers Computers | The Sun and Moon Inn |
| Good Time Charters & Tours | Tropic Star of Pine Island |
| Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail | You and a Kayak |
| Gulf Coast Backwater Paddlers | |
| Island Kayak Company | |
| Ivey House Bed & Breakfast | |
| Kayak Excursions | |

S.E.E. SW FLA Certified Members:

Captiva Cruises
Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park
Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary
Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge
Everglades/Floridays Charters
GAEA Guides
Grande Tours
Gulf Coast Kayak
Saint Johns River Cruises
Stop's Marine Charters
Sweet Liberty
Tarpon Bay Explorers

Society for Ethical Ecotourism in Southwest Florida

Tips for the responsible Eco-Traveler

Our good nature:

Appreciate ...
its beauty & uniqueness.

Behave ...
responsibly within it.

Contribute ...
to its continued overall health.

The health of our environment is the bottom line when it comes to sustainable ecotourism!

On Land:

- Use designated trails: off-trail excursions trample native vegetation and causes erosion.
- Dispose of all trash properly: trash of any sort is unsightly and a possible hazard to wildlife.
- Leave natural, historic, and cultural objects and artifacts where you find them for others to enjoy.
- Use existing fire pits and grills where available. Avoid burning during dry and windy conditions.
- Keep pets on leash or in designated areas.
- Do not pick flowers & plants: they may be a source of food or shelter for the wildlife.

- Avoid surprising wildlife: sneaking up or approaching with speed may cause them to become stressed and flee the area, increasing risk of injury to them & you.
- Don't feed any wildlife: besides being inappropriate nutrients for them, animals lose their fear of humans and alter their normal behavior, increasing their vulnerability to injuries and death.
- Do not handle or harass wildlife: for their safety and yours.
- Turn off or shield all lights that can be seen from the beach during turtle nesting season May-October.

On Water:

- Return ALL live shells to the water.
- Respect areas closed for nesting birds. Keep 500' away from "rookery islands."
- Never feed or attempt to swim with dolphins and manatees. Keep a safe distance of 50 yards ... it's the law.

- Check boat engines for gas or oil leaks, inspect fuel lines for cracks.
- Watch your wake: small boats or canoes may be easily over turned by large speeding vessels or cause shoreline erosion.
- Observe posted manatee speed zones.
- Avoid prop dredging: cutting the bottom in shallow waters is detrimental to dwindling sea grass habitats.

- Stash your trash : monofilament line, plastic and paper trash are deadly to wildlife.
- Practice "catch and release" fishing to protect and conserve fisheries.

Stewardship:

“You will return to enjoy what you have personally helped to preserve!”

Report dead or injured marine mammals:

- * FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Com.
1-888-404-3922
or VHF Marine Radio Channel 16

Report injured land animals:

- * Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife:
1-239-472-3644 (Lee County)
- * Peace River Wildlife Center:
1-941-637-3830 (Charlotte County)
- * The Conservancy of Southwest Florida:
1-239-262-2273 (Collier County)