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FREE GUIDED KAYAK TRIPS AVAILABLE IN SARASOTA BAY

SARASOTA, FL – There are six free kayak tours available with the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP) through April. SBEP's Bay Wise Kayak Tour Program is a fun learning opportunity to discover the plants, animals, habitats, and restoration projects that distinguish Sarasota Bay. Brad Tanner, an expert kayaker and the School Programs Coordinator for Mote Marine Laboratory is the tour guide for SBEP's annual program.

Scheduled trips are planned for South Lido Mangrove Tunnels (2/5 and 2/19), Whitaker Bayou (3/5 and 3/19), and Lyons and Blackburn Bay (4/9 and 4/23). Prior kayak excursions included recent trips to Neal Preserve and Leffis and Jewfish Key. Additional information and online registration is available online at sarasotabay.org. Participants are required to bring their own kayak. Outfitters throughout the region rent kayaks and offer demonstrations and beginner classes. The Bay Wise Kayak Program is for experienced kayakers.

***The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program** is dedicated to restoring the area's greatest natural asset—Sarasota Bay. Its unique program strives to improve water quality, increase habitat and enhance the natural resources of the area for use and enjoyment by the public. Sarasota Bay is one of 28 estuaries in the United States that have been named by the U.S. Congress as an "estuary of national significance." Partners include Sarasota County, Manatee County, City of Sarasota, City of Bradenton, Town of Longboat Key, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Southwest Florida Water Management District, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.*

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