Big Sur State Parks Activities

Thursday, July 26th
Campfire Program: “The Women of Big Sur” 8:30 p.m. –One by one, they came by horse, buggy, or car to make Big Sur their home. Join the female staff members of Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park for an evening of play-acting and storytelling about the lives of Big Sur women past and present. Meet at the Campfire Center on the day-use road at 8:30 p.m.

Friday, July 27th
Nature Walk: “Picture Perfect Partington Cove” 10:00 a.m. -Join Interpretive Specialist Greg Wallace for an hour-long exploration of the natural and cultural history of Partington Cove. Meet with your car in the parking lot at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park at 10:00 a.m. and we will caravan 2 miles to the trailhead. Please note that the hike back is short but steep. Remember to bring water and your camera.

Nature Walk: “Climb to the Setting Sun” 5:00 p.m. –Join Interpretive Specialist Laura Beck for a journey from the dark redwood forest to the beautiful evening light of a woodland meadow. This is a moderate hike lasting approximately 1 _ hours; bring water and wear appropriate hiking shoes. Meet at the Buzzard’s Roost trailhead located 100 yards west of the campground entrance station at 5:00 p.m.

Campfire Program: “Big Sur Bingo” 8:30 p.m. –It’s time for everybody’s favorite group game—but this time there’s a twist! Come expand your knowledge of Big Sur area flora and fauna as Interns Lydia and Sharkey host campfire bingo—the Big Sur way! Meet at the Campfire Center on the day-use side of the park at 8:30 p.m. Bring a flashlight!

Saturday, July 28th
Nature Walk: “Pfeiffer Falls—Experiencing the Redwoods” 10:00 a.m. -Come meet the coast redwood, one of the most majestic trees on earth. Join Interpretive Specialist Greg Wallace for a one-hour stroll through the redwood forest to scenic Pfeiffer Falls. We’ll explore the forces that shape a redwood as it grows from sapling to titan and the unique community of plants and animals that call the redwood forest home. Meet at the Nature Center at 10:00 a.m.

Nature Walk: “McWay Falls—An Historical Perspective” 2:00 p.m. –Known for its beauty, McWay creek was also the site where electricity was first brought to Big Sur. Pioneer Julia Pfeiffer Burns ranched here, and Congressman Lathrop Brown built a house at this spot. Join Intern Jessica Sharkey for a fun, handicapped-accessible stroll at 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park.

Campfire Program: “Where is Big Sur and How do I Get There?” 8:30 p.m. –That’s a question almost too broad to answer, but we’re going to try! Interpretive Specialist Greg Wallace will help you learn about some of the special places that make up the stretch of coastline known as Big Sur. Meet at the Campfire Center on the day-use side of the park.
**Sunday, July 29th**
Nature Walk: “Pfeiffer Historical Tour—Who, What, When, Where and Why” 10:00 a.m. – Join Ranger Ranada Laughlin for a walking tour of some of Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park’s historical structures. Learn about the area’s past and the future plans for this special park. Meet at the softball field at the end of the day-use road at 10:00 a.m.

Nature Walk: “One Hill, Two Habitats—Pfeiffer Falls and Valley View” 4:00 p.m. – Part of what makes Big Sur so special is that many different environments exist side by side here. This walk will explore two of these plant and animal communities. Approximately 2 miles roundtrip at a moderate pace. Bring water and wear appropriate footwear and meet Interpreter Greg Wallace at the Nature Center.

Nature Walk: “Sunday Evening Stroll at Molera” 7:30 p.m. – Join Interpretive Specialist Greg Wallace for a sunset walk along the Headlands Trail at Andrew Molera State Park. The walk is at a leisurely pace, two miles roundtrip, and takes about 1 hour. Dress for possibly windy conditions and bring your camera and a flashlight. Meet in the parking lot at Andrew Molera State Park.

**Monday, July 30th**
Nature Walk: “Precipitous Pine Ridge” 2:00 p.m. – An introduction to one of the longest backcountry trails in the region. We will hike the first mile of this trail, which offers steep views down into the campground and a different perspective on the redwoods. 2 miles round trip, moderate to strenuous. Bring water and wear appropriate footwear. Meet Interpreter Greg at Big Sur Station at 2:00 p.m.

Campfire Program: “The Big Sur Book of Records” 8:30 p.m. – Big Sur is a land of extremes! From the trees to the birds to the bridges—we grow ‘em older, bigger, and prettier than just about anywhere else. Join Interpretive Specialist Laura Beck for a fun-filled survey of Big Sur’s record-breakers. Meet at the Campfire Center on the day-use side of the park at 8:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, July 31st**
Nature Walk: “East Molera Trail” 9:00 a.m. – Ranger Vaught will lead a strenuous one-mile hike up East Molera Trail. Bring water, sunscreen, and a hat and wear good hiking shoes. Expect to see beautiful sweeping views of Molera State Park, deer, wild turkeys, hawks, and other wildlife during this 1 hour hike through oak meadows. This hike is appropriate for persons over 12 years of age. See you there!

Nature Walk: “McWay Falls—An Historical Perspective” 6:00 p.m. – Known for its beauty, McWay creek was also the site where electricity was first brought to Big Sur. Pioneer Julia Pfeiffer Burns ranched here, and Congressman Lathrop Brown built a house at this spot. Join Interpretive Specialist Greg Wallace for a fun, handicapped-accessible stroll at 6:00 p.m. in the parking lot at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park.

Campfire Program: “The Old and the Bold” 8:30 p.m. - Experience the life and times of the Civilian Conservation Corps. “The Resource Army” built many of the historic structures still standing in the Big Sur area, including the famed Bixby Bridge. Join Ranger Ken Lee for a trip back in time to the exciting days when the CCC brought Big
Sur a little closer to the outside world. Meet at the Campfire Center on the day-use side of the park at 8:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, August 1st**
Nature Walk: “Exploring the Headlands Trail” **10:00 a.m.** – Join Interpretive Specialist Laura Beck for a stroll through Andrew Molera State Park to the ocean. We’ll visit Cooper Cabin—the oldest structure still standing on the Big Sur coast—on our way to the beautiful vistas offered by the bluffs at the south end of the beach. Dress for possibly windy conditions and meet at the parking lot kiosk at Andrew Molera State Park.

Nature Walk: “McWay Falls—An Historical Perspective” **2:00 p.m.** – Known for its beauty, McWay creek was also the site where electricity was first brought to Big Sur. Pioneer Julia Pfeiffer Burns ranched here, and Congressman Lathrop Brown built a house at this spot. Join Interpretive Specialist Greg Wallace for a fun, handicapped-accessible stroll at 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park.

Campfire Program: “Tales from the Trail—an Intro to Tracking” **8:00 p.m.** – Do you know with whom you are sharing the park? Signs of Big Sur’s sometimes-elusive wildlife are all around us—if you know where to look. Join Interpreter Laura Beck for a survey of some of the most common tracks and signs you may come across in the park. We’ll learn to read the animals’ stories, and maybe tell a few of our own! Meet at the Campfire Center on the day-use side of the park. **Please note: Beginning August 1st, campfire programs will begin at 8:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, August 2nd**
Nature Walk: “Food for Thought” **2:00 p.m.** – Big Sur has a long history of human occupancy—which also means it has seen a great variety of food produced and consumed. Join Intern Lydia for an hour-and-a-half hike through the history of food in the Big Sur region. Meet at the kiosk at Andrew Molera State Park at 2:00 p.m.

Nature Walk: “Evening in the Oaks” **6:30 p.m.** – As dusk falls, many of the animals of Big Sur are just starting their day! Join Interpretive Specialist Laura Beck for a hike through the redwood and oak forests to Oak Grove. Along the way we’ll keep an eye out for deer and other crepuscular (evening) animals. This hike involves some uphill, so wear appropriate footwear and bring water. Meet at the Nature Center. We’ll be back in time for the campfire, so bring a sweater and a flashlight!

Campfire Program: “The Underwater World of Big Sur” **8:00 p.m.** – The Big Sur coastline is a feast for the eyes, but have you ever wondered what lies beneath the surface of that gorgeous blue ocean? The diversity of life may surprise you! Join Ranger Brian Barton for an introduction to the living reefs off the coast of Big Sur. Meet at the Campfire Center on the day-use side of the park at 8:00 p.m. **Please note: Beginning August 1st, campfire programs will begin at 8:00 p.m.**