



Mission and Overview

The mission of the museum is “to preserve, protect and exhibit the history of Southwest Florida.”

SWFL Museum of History

The Southwest Florida Museum of History is located at 2300 Peck Street just one block north of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in historic downtown Ft. Myers. Housed in the former Atlantic Coastline Railroad depot, the Museum is home to the history of Southwest Florida. Paleo Indians, the Calusa, the Seminoles, Spanish explorers, and early settlers are just a few of the people you will meet as you view our exhibits. An authentic replica of a pioneer "cracker" house, a 1926 La France fire pumper, and a 1929 private Pullman rail car are also part of the tour.

In addition, the museum also houses an extensive artifacts collection detailing early civilization, the Fort, the first settlers, the cattlemen, turn of the century, the military and agriculture, boating and fishing industries in Fort Myers are highlighted and visitors will also be treated to a lovely stroll in front of the museum thanks to a new park planted by the city and a memorial to fallen comrades in arms by the Combat Infantryman's Association.

Downtown Historic Walking Tours are offered January—April each year, Escorted Day Trips to cultural and historic sites in South Florida offered annually December—April.

Monthly programs, special events and an annual traveling exhibit are part of this unique museum experience.

Parking for 60 vehicles, bus slots alongside museum and 3 handicap spaces.

Administration



The SWFL Museum of History is administered under the City of Fort Myers Department of Cultural Attractions and Historic Sites (CAHS), a partnership with the Imaginarium and the historic Burroughs and Langford-Kingston homes. A staff of 17 full and part time employees are shared between the venues, and the museum has volunteers to support special programs and exhibits.

The museum also receives support from a 6 member, 501c(3) (not-for-profit) Foundation, The SWFL Museum of History Foundation, Inc.

Exhibits

Special Exhibits:

Rotating

New Permanent Exhibits:

“Land of Giants: Paleo Florida” depicts animals, such as Mammoths, Mastodons, Giant Ground Sloths, Audio Tours available Winter 2008

Current Exhibit: *through Oct. 31, 2008: Clyde Butcher—Award-winning Black & White Landscape Photographer*

Special Events

Night at the Museum: monthly meet and greet and munch with authors

USO Show Extravaganza — January 10th fundraising event sponsored by SWFL Museum of History Foundation includes food, drinks and several auctions

Annual Veteran’s Day Golf Tournament —golf tournament in November

Meet Your Museum —Open House in Spring

Outreach Activity/Educational Programs

History Homeschool Day—Monthly History Education Programs

Fun at the Fort! Camp —Summer Camp Programs

Night at the Museum: An Author’s Evening. Meet & Greet Sept.—April

Site Utilization

The historical museum has a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces that are available for facility rentals, including an education room for up to 70, an exhibit room, a private Pullman rail car or the entire museum and grounds can be rented for special events.

Hours of Operation

Tuesdays thru Saturdays 10am-5pm

Admission Rates

Students with ID	\$5.00
Seniors (Age 65 & Up)	\$8.50
Adults	\$9.50
Group Rates (for 10 or more WITH reservations)	\$7.50
AAA Discount/Lee County resident	\$1.00 off reg. admission

Annual Memberships

Family (2 Adults & up to 4 Children) \$45

Individual \$25

Admission to museum, events and Walking Tours all free. Discounts offered on day trips and museum store merchandise.

Affiliations

AAM (American Association of Museums), FAM (Florida Association of Museums), FAA (Florida Attractions Association), SWFAA (SWFL Attractions Association), Local and State Chambers