

**Friendship Force International
Open World Program
Final Program Schedule
Sarasota, Florida
Environment
July 24 – August 1, 2003**

Thursday, July 24

1:22 PM: Guests arrive Sarasota-Bradenton Airport, meet hosts, drive to homes, enjoy lunch with families

4:00 PM: Beach Party - Whispering Sands Beach – swimming & games

6:00 PM: All-American Barbecue -Whispering Sands Gazebo

Friday, July 25

Morning free with hosts for activities such as visiting the beach, shopping, or sleeping

Lunch with host families

12:30 PM: Artisans' World Marketplace, a faith-based organization that attempts to respond to global problems of poverty, hunger and our environment

1:30 PM: Overview of Florida and Sarasota County Environmental Issues and Government Organizations and their role. Presented by Ms. Jodi John, Manager, Sustainable Sarasota. Meet at Selby Library, Environmental Library Conference Room

2:30 PM: How Do Private and Non-profit Organizations Fit Into the Picture?
Presentation by Mr. Ed Freeman, Field Director, Nature Conservancy

3:30 PM: Overview and tour of the Special Collection Environmental Library and the Mote Marine Aquarium in the Selby Library

6:30 PM: Dinner at Marco Polo Chinese Buffet

7:30 PM: Turtle Conservation Project

Observation, tagging, measuring and protecting turtles as they nest and perhaps hatch at Caspersen Beach, Venice. Howard Berna, Environmental Specialist, Resource Protection, Sarasota County

Saturday, July 26

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Shopping at Ellenton Outlet Stores

12:00 PM: Lunch at Linger Lodge, a famous Florida fish camp restaurant specializing in alligator. The walls are covered with snakes, alligators and other animals caught in the local environment.

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM: Sarasota Trolley Ride – Tour of local sites.

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM: Free time at Siesta Beach and Siesta Village

Sunday, July 27

Morning: free time with hosts

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM: Visit The John and Mable Ringling Museums – the Art Museum, Circus Museum and their castle, Ca d’Zan. The world-renowned Art Museum was built in 1930 specifically to hold the art collection that the famous circus owner, John Ringling, had collected in Europe. It is internationally recognized for its Baroque paintings, including many by Peter Paul Rubens. The Circus Museum holds many original costumes and memorabilia from the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey circuses. The Ca d’Zan is one of the great American castles, which has recently been renovated at a cost of over \$15 million. The grounds are currently being restored to their original plantings of the 1920’s.

6:00 PM: Progressive Dinner with guests and hosts

Monday, July 28

9:00 AM: Visit to Myakka River State Park. This is Florida’s largest state park, some 45 square miles. Nearly 70 kilometers of trails go through a variety of natural communities, including pine flatwoods, dry prairies, an oak-palm hammock and freshwater marshes. Over 250 species of birds have been observed there. A canopy walk has been constructed using volunteer and state employee labor. We might take a canoe trip with biologists to experience the lake and river flora and fauna or ride the largest airboat around the lake. Paula Benshoff, Myakka Park Naturalist, will host the group either in the marsh environment, lake/river environment, managed burn planning or other areas to be determined.

12:00 PM: Lunch at Italian Buffet

1:30 PM: Tour of Household Chemical Collection Center, Solid Waste, Environmental Services Business Center. A new high technology plant to sort and process household wastes. Scott Gresham, Environmental Specialist, Sarasota County.

3:00 PM: Discussion on Water Issues and How Sarasota Plans to Manage Water in the Future with Ben Quartermaine, Professional Engineer, Water Resources, Public Works Business Center, Sarasota County.

4:30 PM: Discussion on Sarasota 2050, the county-wide plan for future development of housing, roads, and the environment, led by Ms Olga Ronay, Sarasota County Growth Management.

Tuesday, July 29

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM: Mote Marine Laboratory, a world-class nonprofit marine research laboratory founded in 1955 and dedicated to excellence in marine science, research and education. Areas of research include Aquatic Toxicology, Benthic Ecology, Chemical Ecology, Chemical Fate and Effects, Coastal Resources, Coral Reef Biology, Elasmobranch Behavioral Ecology, Elasmobranch Fisheries, Conservation, Physiology and Environmental Biology, Fisheries Enhancement and Aquaculture, Human and Ecological Health, Landscape Ecology, Marine Biomedical and Immunology Research, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation and Research, Microbiology, Phytoplankton Ecology, Sensory and Behavior Biology, Shark Biology.

9:00 AM: Dr. Bill Tavalga, Senior Scientist, Overview of Mote Marine

10:00 AM: Lab tour and tour of the Aquaculture facility at the Marine Mammal Center

12:30 PM: Lunch at the Chickee

1:30 PM: Sarasota Bay Explorers Boat tour

3:30 PM: Pelican Man Bird Rehabilitation Center

7:00 PM: Meet for hors d'oeuvres at a member's home

Wednesday, July 30

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM: Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. These bay front gardens host over 6,000 orchids as well as over 20,000 colorful plants, many collected in the wild on more than 150 scientific expeditions to tropical rain forests by the Gardens' Staff and Associates. Seven greenhouses are the heart of botanical research, propagation and plant identification. There are 20 distinct garden areas including a Tropical Display House. Selby Gardens boasts beautiful grounds, fascinating plants and even more fascinating stories about plants. In addition, Selby has an active educational program for schools and people of all ages, which includes an international intern program. In addition to a world-class professional staff, hundreds of volunteers donate countless hours to the Gardens.

10:00 AM: Tour of the Gardens with Volunteer Program Coordinator, Pam Eisele and Director of Global Education, Dr. David Jarzen

12:00 PM: Lunch at historic Selby House

1:00 PM: Tour of Research Facilities with Dr. Bruce Rinker, Director of Research and Conservation

2:00 PM: Discussion on global educational outreach program with Dr. David Jarzen

3:00 PM – 7:00 PM: Environmental Education, Tourism and Ethics, Selby Library Conference Room

- Highlights of Global Tourism Impacts, Katherine Summers, Sarasota County Staff
- Principles of Eco-Tourism, Dr. Allan Worms, Retired Professor Dept. of Forestry and Environmental Education Consultant
- Environmental Education in the Public Schools, Jeff Jackson, Sarasota High School; Susan Puchalla, Sarasota County School Board, Science Specialist
- Environmental Ethics, Barbara Lausche, Executive Director of the Science & Environment Council of Sarasota County

7:30 PM: Ice Cream Social

Thursday, July 31

7:30 AM: Breakfast at Barbara and Babe Baptist's house

9:00 AM: Tour of Spanish Point, which is operated by a private, nonprofit organization. The organization connects people of today with 5,000 years of human history in southwest coastal Florida by collecting, preserving and interpreting object and traditions significant to our region's past. The thirty-acre site is bordered by mangroves to the west and pine flatwoods to the east. Areas of interest include prehistoric life, early pioneer homesteaders and the Palmer Era.

11:30 AM: Florida House Learning Center, a model Florida home and yard featuring environmentally friendly building and landscaping materials and methods. This sustainability project shows many ways citizens can conserve resources; learn about energy efficiency; understand water conservation; implement healthy house concepts; and appreciate the use of recycled products. The landscape is a model Florida Yard, demonstrating the use of native and drought tolerant plants, micro-irrigation, composting, edible landscaping, Xeriscaping, and ways to reduce detrimental run-off into Florida's estuaries, bays and the Gulf of Mexico. Mark Shelby, Urban Horticulture Extension Agent, Sarasota County and Betty Alpaugh, Education Specialist, Sarasota County.

1:00 PM: Lunch, Sweet Tomato Salad and Soup Buffet

2:30 PM: Twin Lakes Office Park, High Performance Building Tour

A "green" building using the latest technology in recycled products, solar energy, architectural design and environmental planning. Tour and discussion with the High Performance Building Architect; Community Services Executive Director, Shirley Amore; Cooperative Extension Service Agricultural Agent, Mark Shelby; County Construction Services, Paula Swartz; and General Manager Sarasota County Cooperative Extension Services.

7:00 PM: Farewell Dinner - Turtles Restaurant

Friday, August 1

Departure