

The Discovery Series invites members to experience Crystal Cove State Park in a deeper, more intentional way. These beginner-friendly, educator-led “101” experiences are designed to help you slow down, look closer, and return with a growing sense of confidence and connection.

Through these small-group experiences, members don’t just explore the park—they become more connected to it, and to the work of protecting it.



Birding 101

Learn the basics of identifying birds and observing habitats at Crystal Cove State Park. Develop a sharper awareness of movement, sound, and seasonality, so each visit reveals more.



Tidepooling 101

Discover the rich life along the shoreline through guided, hands-on exploration. Learn to identify intertidal species while practicing responsible, low-impact exploration.



Nature Photography 101

Capture the landscape with intention. Learn foundational techniques that help you notice light, composition, and detail in new ways.



Hiking 101

Build confidence on the trails with guidance on pacing, navigation, and environmental awareness. Designed to help you explore Crystal Cove State Park more comfortably.



Backpacking 101

Get introduced to the essentials of backpacking—from gear basics to trip planning. A supportive starting point for taking your first overnight adventure.

The Discovery Series is offered exclusively for members, with advance email notifications and registration for each experience.

Membership at Crystal Cove Conservancy is about more than access. It's about experience.

In 2026, members are invited to explore Crystal Cove State Park through a curated series of events designed to help you pause, look closer, and return again and again. From seasonal traditions to our new Discovery Series, each gathering offers a way to deepen your connection to the park and see it in new ways.

Discovery Series

Small-group, educator-led experiences designed to help you build skills, ask questions, and explore the park with greater confidence.

Birding 101 APRIL 2026

Tidepooling 101 MAY 2026

Nature Photography 101 JULY 2026

Hiking 101 OCTOBER 2026

Backpacking 101 NOVEMBER 2026

Seasonal & Special Experiences

Moments throughout the year that invite you to experience the park in ways that are timely, memorable, and unique.

Grunion Run FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

**An Evening with Quin Cooney:
Painting the Cove** THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

Holiday Tree Preview Party THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2026

Paint the Park

A three-part painting experience set in distinct locations throughout the park, with an additional seasonal class to close the year.

Session 1: Historic District View THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

Session 2: Coastal View at Pelican Point THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2026

Session 3: Backcountry View in Moro Canyon FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026

Holiday Plein Air Art Class FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2026

All dates are subject to change. Members will receive email communication with registration details for each event.