



FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK

A PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tour de Fort: Archaeology and History Bicycle Tour at Fort Pickens ***In celebration of Florida Archaeology Month, the Florida Public Archaeology Network and Gulf Islands National Seashore are hosting a bicycling tour of Fort Pickens Area!***

PENSACOLA— February 13, 2017- The public is invited to peddle, hike, and climb their way through the archaeology of Gulf Islands National Seashore Fort Pickens Area with the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) and the National Park Service on Saturday, March 4 in celebration of Florida Archaeology Month. Participants will rendezvous at the auditorium at Fort Pickens at 10 AM where a park ranger and FPAN archaeologists will greet the group with a short presentation. The auditorium is located at 1400 Fort Pickens Road, Pensacola Beach, FL.

The area of the National Park Service's Gulf Islands National Seashore on Santa Rosa Island is a jewel of unspoiled natural beauty. In addition to providing habitat for a variety of wildlife, the Park protects some of Pensacola's most important archaeological sites, both on land and under water.

Following the brief presentation the *Tour de Fort* program will explore some of these sites with a guided bike ride tour. Sites highlighted will include an 18th century Spanish colonial presidio, the Civil War Battle of Santa Rosa Island site, and shipwrecks from several periods of Pensacola's history.

Total bike ride is approximately four miles in length and lasts about two hours. Participants should bring plenty of water, snacks, sunscreen, sunglasses, a bicycle and helmet. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Riders are responsible for the park entrance fee. The program is free and open to the public, but space is limited. Call 850-595-0050 ext. 105 to RSVP.

About [Florida Archaeology Month](#): Every March, statewide programs and events celebrating FAM are designed to encourage Floridians and visitors to learn more about the archaeology and history of the state, and to preserve these important parts of Florida's rich cultural heritage. A full

listing of events and programs can be found on the FAM website.

About the [Florida Public Archaeology Network](#): The Florida Public Archaeology Network is a statewide program of the University of West Florida dedicated to the protection of cultural resources, both on land and underwater, and to involving the public in the study of their past. Regional centers around Florida serve as clearinghouses for information, institutions for learning and training and headquarters for public participation in archaeology.

About the [Gulf Islands National Seashore](#): In 1971, Congress established Gulf Islands National Seashore "in order to preserve for public use and enjoyment certain areas possessing outstanding natural, historic, and recreational values." For over 40 years the National Park Service has preserved this special place in keeping with that purpose.

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