

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Battle on the Blueway event set for Crescent Beach Family Park

Fort Myers, FL, June 4, 2018 – The fourth annual Battle on the Blueway returns June 9 to Crescent Beach Family Park, 1100 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach. The Battle on the Blueway is a competitive race event for paddling enthusiasts and includes competitive events for standup paddleboarders (SUPs) as well as kayaks, outrigger canoes and surf skis.

The event is part of the Fastest in Florida and Paddle League race series as well as a World Paddle Association Region 5 sanctioned points race that will include 7-mile and 2-mile races, sprints, a free Calusa Kids Race and a Special Olympics Fun Race. More than 120 paddlers from Southwest Florida, Mexico, Hawaii, Canada, and the U.S. attended the 2016 race. The 2017 race was canceled due to weather.

The event is free for spectators, who can see the races from the beach or the pier at Lynn Hall Park. This year, Battle on the Blueway organizers hope to attract even more local participants and spectators.

All non-motorized vessels are welcome. There will be a demonstration and vendor area for those who wish to try out a paddleboard or surfski.

Pre-registration is required for racers. There will not be an opportunity to register the day of the event. Race entries are \$45 to \$55. After June 5, the entry fee will increase to \$55 to \$65. There will be a fee to park at the beach. All proceeds from the Battle on the Blueway will benefit Special Olympics Florida - Lee County SUP Team.

For event information, call Lee County Parks & Recreation's Mike Hammond at 239-707-7981 or 239-533-7275.

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Additional information:

Find Calusa Blueway on Facebook. Trail information is at www.calusablueway.com or www.leeparks.org/blueway. Visit the iTunes store or Google Play to download the free smart-phone app. Visitors can find information at www.fortmyers-sanibel.com.

Stay tuned for an upcoming Facing Waves episode set to be released June 26 featuring The Great Calusa Blueway. Facing Waves is an exciting and inspiring TV series that follows top paddlers as they explore the people, places and adventures of the world's top paddling destinations.

Schedule Highlights:

June 8 - pre-race event at Point Ybel Brewing Company

June 9 - racers' meetings in the morning. Race start times range from 9 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Awards ceremonies follow lunch. An after-party at Pete's Time Out.

Full Event Schedule: <https://paddleguru.com/races/BattleontheBlueway2018>

Sponsors: Best Western Plus Beach Resort, Ron Jon Surf Shop, Body Glove, Holiday Water Sports, Point Ybel Brewing, SWFL SUP Club, Pete's Time Out, Planet Fitness, Hoo-Rag, YOLO Board Adventures, YOLO Boards, Kalb Ironworks, Futures Fins, Hornet Watersports, MTI Actionwear, Estero River Outfitters, Gulf to Bay Standup Paddleboards, CGT Kayaks and Lee County Sports Development.

Lodging: Out-of-area paddlers and spectators can book lodging at a discounted rate at the [Best Western Plus Beach Resort](#). Call 239-463-6000 to make a reservation and be sure to mention the Battle on the Blueway to receive the discounted rate. Additional lodging can be found at the Lee County Sports Housing website, <http://leecountysportshousing.org> or by calling 1-888-529-6588.

Photos: Images available upon request. Contact Communications Specialist Tim Engstrom at 239-271-7387 or tengstrom@leegov.com

Media: Below is the full schedule:

June 8

- 6:30 - 9 p.m. Packet Pickup / Social at [Point Ybel Brewing](#).
- Racers will receive on free Paddle Hard Pale Ale brewed for race.
- Please pick up your packet, shirt, and swag bag tonight. We will start on time on Saturday.

June 9 (Saturday)

- 7:30 a.m. - 8 a.m. Check in
- 8:30 a.m. - Racer's Meeting
- 9 a.m. - Ron Jon Pro 7 Mile Race and Open Class - (Kayaks, OC's, surf-skis, prone) Start
- 9:05 a.m. - Body Glove 2 Mile Race and Open Class - (Kayaks, OC's, surf-skis, prone) Start
- 9 a.m. -2 p.m. Demos
- 10:45 a.m.- Special Olympic / Calusa Kids Races
- 11 a.m. – Lunch
- 1 p.m. - Awards (On-Site)
- * Raffle Prizes throughout the Day (Benefiting Special Olympics)
- 6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. After party at [Pete's Time Out](#)- Live music and free drink and discounted food for racers and volunteers.