

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Battle on the Blueway event set for Crescent Beach Family Park

Fort Myers, FL, May 16, 2019 – The fifth annual Battle on the Blueway returns June 8 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 will include 7-mile and 2-mile races and a Special Olympics Unified Fun Race. More than 100 paddlers from around Florida and the Southeast attended the 2018 race.

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 paddlecraft are welcome. There will be a demonstration and vendor area for those who wish to try out a variety of paddlecraft including the giant Body Glove inflatable iSUP.

Pre-registration is required for racers at <https://paddleguru.com/races/BattleontheBlueway2019>. There will not be an opportunity to register the day of the event. Race entries are \$45 to \$55. 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.

Schedule Highlights:

June 7 - Pre-race event at Point Ybel Brewing Company

June 8 - Racers' meetings in the morning. Race start times begin at 9 a.m. Special Olympic Unified Relay will begin around 10:45 a.m. Awards ceremonies follow lunch. An after-party will be held at Pete's Time Out.

Full Event Schedule: <https://paddleguru.com/races/BattleontheBlueway2019>

Sponsors: Body Glove, Best Western Plus Beach Resort, Ron Jon Surf Shop, Gulf Coast Kayak, Holiday Water Sports, Point Ybel Brewing, SWFL SUP Club, Pete's Time Out, Planet Fitness, Hoo-Rag, YOLO Board Adventures, YOLO Boards, Keep Lee County Beautiful, Futures Fins, MTI Lifejackets, Estero River Outfitters, Gulf to Bay Standup Paddleboards, 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 7 (Friday)

6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Packet Pickup / Social at [Point Ybel Brewing](#).

- Racers will receive one free Paddle Hard Pale Ale brewed for race.

- Please pick up your packet, shirt, and swag bag tonight. Paddlers will start on time on Saturday.

June 8 (Saturday)

7:30 - 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 Unified Relay Race – Will include teams paddling large inflatable SUPs together.

11 a.m.: Lunch

1 p.m.: Awards (on site)

* Raffle Prizes throughout the Day (Benefiting Special Olympics)

6:30 - 10 p.m.: After-party at [Pete's Time Out](#)- Live music and free drink and discounted food for racers and volunteers.