

## **FAQ SHEET FOR THE CAMINO DE SANIBEL**

**What is the Camino de Sanibel?** The Camino de Sanibel is a first-time event on Sanibel, based on the ancient Camino de Santiago in Spain. The Camino is an intentional walk the entire length of Sanibel Island in a day. It is NOT a race, but an invitation to walk the island with thoughtfulness.

**Where will we walk?** Our walk will be almost entirely on the shared-use path. We will begin in the parking lot of Lighthouse Beach and will continue along the shared use path, until we walk onto the beach near Blind Pass for the completion of our Camino.

**Where will we park?** Please do not leave a car at either Lighthouse Beach or Blind Pass. You may park at St. Michael's church and ride a shuttle. We have limited seating on the shuttles, so we'll ask for your patience in waiting. We'll also ask for \$10 for the shuttle, to help defer the cost. The best and easiest option would be to arrange for someone to drop you off at the Lighthouse and pick you up at Blind Pass.

**Will there be restrooms and water along the way?** Yes, we've arranged for 6 stops along the way, approximately every 2 miles. Every stop except for one will have restrooms, and they will all have water available. We will also offer a light breakfast at St. Michael's and a light lunch at Ding Darling.

**I'm not sure I can walk that far. Are there shorter options?** Yes! You can begin at St. Michael's, 2304 Periwinkle and walk 7.8 miles, or begin at Ding Darling Refuge, 1 Wildlife Drive, and walk 5.1 miles.

**Is there a time limit?** Yes, we ask that you walk a 30-minute mile at a minimum.

**What happens if I can't keep up, or if I have trouble completing the Camino?** In addition to a "tail" at the back of the group, we will also have support people along the way. If you experience distress or feel unable to go further, people will be there to assist you.

**How many people will be walking the Camino?** Our registration this year is capped at 100, per City Council direction. We may also have an additional 25 people join us at each of two, shorter starting options.

**Why is there a mandatory meeting on Saturday, February 20 at 10 a.m.?** Because of the unique nature of this walk, we want you to understand why and how you're walking. In many ways, the Camino itself will begin with this meeting. The meeting will be at St. Michael's, with Zoom available. If you cannot be either in person or on Zoom, please contact the Camino Director, Sally Haynes, at [revsal@gmail.com](mailto:revsal@gmail.com) to make other arrangements.

**What does a "staggered start" mean, and how will we know what time we will begin?** The City has asked us to have a staggered start to minimize the impact on the Shared Use Path. We believe much of that timing will happen naturally, with shuttles and different arrival times. We will discuss your starting time in detail at the planning meeting. All times will be between 6:55 and 7:30 a.m.

**Why do I have to pay to walk the Camino de Sanibel?** This walk is NOT a fundraiser, so we are only asking you to help cover the cost of this event. Your registration fee helps pay the cost of your Camino materials, plus food along the way. If you ride the shuttle, we ask you to pay an additional \$10 to help cover the cost of the vehicle.

**I'm not a religious person. Am I still welcome to join the Camino?** Yes, this walk is for everyone, no matter your faith background. We will provide a guide for reflections along the way, which you may use or not as you see fit. We ask that everyone join the spirit of the Camino, which is to walk the length of the island with a spirit of intentionality.

**Can I volunteer, if I don't want to do the walk?** Yes! We need lots of volunteers to support this walk. Possible volunteer options might include helping with registration at the beginning of the walk, assisting at one of the stops, monitoring a crosswalk (you'll stop people, NOT cars), or walking a short portion of the walk as the "tail," making sure that no one is left behind.

**I want to travel to Sanibel to participate! How do I get there?** The closest airports are Ft. Myers (RSW) or Punta Gorda (PGD). Please be aware that Uber/Lyft to the island can be difficult to obtain late at night, so you might want to schedule a ride with a local taxi, such as Sanibel Taxi, Island Taxi, or DDD Taxi.

**Additional questions?** Contact Sally Haynes, Pilgrimage Director ([revsal@gmail.com](mailto:revsal@gmail.com)) or Sue Van Oss, Logistics Director ([communications@saintmichaels-sanibel.org](mailto:communications@saintmichaels-sanibel.org)).