

Trip Report: HBYC Kayak Trip to 3 Sister's Spring, Crystal River



On January 11, 2025, twelve members of the HBYC embarked on an outing to the beautiful 3 Sister's Spring in Crystal River, Florida. However, due to an unexpected cold front that brought unusually chilly weather to the area, the group had to alter the original kayaking plan. Instead, the decision was made to visit the 3 Sister Spring Wildlife Refuge.

Nine members enjoyed breakfast together at the Beacon Woods Café, while three additional members joined the group at the Wildlife Refuge. Despite the cold and windy conditions, the weather encouraged the manatees to seek shelter in the warm waters of 3 Sister Springs. Volunteers at the refuge were on hand, eagerly sharing information about the manatees' behavior and habits.

The refuge has a parking lot near the shelter office, and admission includes a shuttle ride to the viewing area. The 3 Sister Springs Center is part of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge. Admission is \$12.50 per person, with discounts for seniors and National Park Pass holders.

Most of the group took a scenic hike through the refuge, exploring the boardwalk that surrounds 3 Sister Springs. The manatee viewing was outstanding, and the cold weather didn't dampen the excitement of seeing these gentle creatures up close in their natural habitat.

James Wasson

Kayak Director