Honoring Veterans
Inspiring Patriotism
Embracing Freedom

Patriot Plaza at Sarasota National Cemetery
Free and Open to the Public!

The Artwork & The Process

View the virtual tour experience!
Patriot Plaza at Sarasota National Cemetery

Patriot Plaza, a 2,800-seat ceremonial amphitheater, was built and donated to Sarasota National Cemetery in Florida by The Patterson Foundation, featuring commissioned art that honors veterans, inspires patriotism, and embraces freedom. The space is a place of peace and reflection and exists for our community to honor veterans through ceremonies and events for generations to come. Sarasota National Cemetery, like all 153 national cemeteries managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, is a place where all active duty or honorably discharged veterans can be buried. Some spouses and dependent children of eligible veterans can also be buried there.

Detailed eligibility requirements can be found at www.cem.va.gov

The Artwork at Patriot Plaza

Artwork can come in many forms or mediums. At Patriot Plaza, you’ll see mosaics, bronze metal, granite, marble, and photography - and each artwork tells a story about courage, endurance, valor, love, support, loss, pride and most all—mission and patriotism.

Mosaic is an art form that uses small pieces of materials placed together to create a unified whole. Mosaics are often used as floor and wall decoration and were particularly popular in the Ancient Roman world. At Patriot Plaza, artist Ellen Driscoll created two mosaics, sharing the same elements. One of a landscape, representing planet Earth, and the other, two vertical spires. The mosaics at Patriot Plaza were created from glass and ceramic pieces, but you can make your own mosaics at home! Just paint or color sheets of paper, then tear them up in approximately 1” pieces. Glue the pieces into a shape - maybe a butterfly or a planet. Let your imagination fly on what you can create! You can even cut up colorful vegetables (carrots, broccoli, red/yellow/green peppers) to make a yummy mosaic on your plate...as long as you wash your hands and eat your veggies after. :- )

Take a picture of you and your artwork and then send it along to: connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net
Metal sculpture

The “Home” and “Guardian” eagles are sculptures made out of metal called bronze. How did they do that? Metal can’t be molded with your hands, and it can’t be chipped away like stone. They used a process called lost-wax casting. It is a complicated process that definitely can’t be done at home, but we wanted to share a simplified explanation of the process.

Documentary Photography

“A picture is worth a thousand words.”

Did you know that photography is art? If you have a camera or even a phone, you can make art! Documentary photography is used to record specific events or even everyday life. You can take pictures that tell stories. Pictures can make us feel happy, sad, proud, and even make us laugh. The pictures on the stone tablets and plinths are the first time that documentary photography has been used at a national cemetery. When you visit Patriot Plaza, look at the pictures and see if you can tell what is happening.

Find your favorite photograph at Patriot Plaza, take a picture of you and the photograph and tell us how it made you feel. Then send it along to: connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net
Cut out the pictures of the artwork and glue them into their matching shapes on the Patriot Plaza Art Site Map.
When you complete your artwork, take a picture of you and your artwork, include your mailing address and send it along to: connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net. We will send a prize for the first 15 photographs we receive.
You can make art with anything. In fact, you probably have everything you need at home. Use this recipe for salt dough and you can be a sculptor. Try and make an eagle or even a spire that you can paint when it is dried. The possibilities are endless! We look forward to seeing what you can create.

**Salt Dough**

You will need:
- 2 cups of flour
- 2 cups of salt
- 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
- ¾ cup of water
- Food coloring (optional)

1. Mix together flour and salt
2. Add oil
3. Slowly add water (and food coloring if desired)
4. Knead the dough until it has the consistency of Playdoh and be able to model it
5. Create your art piece
6. Bake at 250F - time varies based on thickness OR air dry for 48-72 hours
7. Once it cools down, or after it air dries, you can paint it!

When you complete your artwork, take a picture of you and your artwork, including your mailing address and send it along to: connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net We will send a prize for the first 15 photos we receive.
A Patriot Plaza word search puzzle with a hidden message!!!

First find all the words in the list. Words can go in any direction and share letters, as well as cross over each other.

Once you find all the words, copy the unused letters starting in the top left corner into the blanks below to reveal the hidden message!

Patriot Plaza Activity
To learn more about Patriot Plaza at Sarasota National Cemetery, visit:

thepattersonfoundation.org/patriot-plaza

Twitter: #PatriotPlaza #ForAllAges

Congratulations to Shawn and Keith!
In our last Patriot Plaza Family Engagement Activity Book, we challenged our readers to find Abraham Lincoln’s quote at Patriot Plaza. Shawn and Keith found it and will receive a well-deserved prize!!

Generously funded by

Sarasota National Cemetery
9810 State Road 72
Sarasota, FL 34238

Visitation Hours: Open daily from sunrise to sunset

- Sarasota National Cemetery is located at 9810 State Road 72 in Sarasota
- Admission is free
- Please no pets or picnics
- Burials occur on weekdays, so please be respectful of those attending services.

Office hours: Monday to Friday 8:00am–4:30pm
Closed federal holidays