



## 2018 Annual CT Reunion

The 2018 [Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail](#) ("CT") Reunion and Gathering is rapidly approaching! The annual event is sponsored by the [Florida Paddling Trails Association](#) (FPTA) in cooperation with the [Office of Greenways and Trails](#). The weekend offers CT paddlers and supporters an opportunity to reunite, share stories, and learn more about the trail.

**WHEN:** April 20-22, 2018

**WHERE:** Beautiful [Hillsborough River State Park](#) just east of Tampa. FPTA covers fees for weekend camping in the Youth Camp area, dinner Friday night, and breakfast Saturday and Sunday. You will have to pay admission to get in the park. Bring your own camping gear and food for lunches.

### WHO IS INVITED:

- Paddlers who have completed the entire 1,515-mile CT or who are currently in the process of doing so
- FPTA volunteers – regional directors, trail keepers, and CT trail angels
- Managers of trails that overlay the CT such as the Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail, Paddle Manatee, Great Calusa Blueway, Charlotte County Blueway Trails, Paradise Coast Blueway, Jupiter Waterway Trail and others
- Experienced paddlers who are considering paddling the CT and who want to learn from the experts
- Paddlesports training participants
- **Participants must be FPTA members.**

## WEEKEND SCHEDULE:

### Friday

- 2-4PM: FPTA board meeting at the park's recreation hall
- 6:30PM: Pizza party at the park's recreation hall, compliments of FPTA
- 7:30PM: Featured speaker: [Adventure Aaron](#) (Aaron Carotta) will present a documentary film of his CT adventures last year, part of a solo 5,000-mile canoe trip.

### Saturday

- 7:30AM: Continental breakfast provided by FPTA
- 9AM-2PM: Paddle 8.5 miles of the [Hillsborough River](#) from Sargeant Park to Trout Creek Park (8.5 miles). Shorter and longer trip lengths are available. Kayak/canoe rentals are available from the [Canoe Escape](#) at Sargeant Park. We will coordinate shuttles at breakfast and begin shuttling by 9AM.
- 4PM: "Tales from the Trail" at the park's recreation hall. Members of the general public are welcome to attend at no charge except for park admission fee. The program will feature our current class of CT paddlers, those who have recently completed the trail, and the FPTA volunteers who support them. Thru-paddlers who didn't speak at previous reunions are also welcome to share their adventures. Please be ready to share up to 20 of your best photos for 5-10 minute presentations to increase awareness of the trail and advise prospective thru-paddlers. Send slides in advance to [doug.alderson@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:doug.alderson@dep.state.fl.us) or bring your own PowerPoint on flash drive.
- 6:30PM: Dinner on your own or as a group in nearby restaurants or at camp

### Sunday

- 7:30AM: Continental breakfast provided by FPTA
- 11AM: Paddlers check out of Youth Camp

## INTERESTED?

Email [doug.alderson@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:doug.alderson@dep.state.fl.us) if you plan on coming for all or part of the CT Reunion weekend so that we can gauge camping space and food preparations.

We look forward to meeting new friends and supporters of the CT this April 20-22!

