



**Florida Department of Environmental Protection
CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2021 LEGISLATIVE REPORT
(pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes)**

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: Friends of Fort Cooper State Park

Mailing Address: 3100 S. Old Floral City Rd. Inverness, FL 34450

Telephone Number: 352-726-0315

Website Address (*required if applicable*): [The Friends of Fort Cooper | Florida State Parks](#)

Check to confirm your Code of Ethics is posted conspicuously on your website.

Statutory Authority:

Section 20.2551, F.S., Citizen support organizations; use of property; audit; public records; partnerships. In summary, the statute specifies the organizational requirements, operational parameters, duties of a CSO to support the Department of Environmental Protection (Department), or individual units of the Department, use of Department property, audit requirements, public records requirements, and authorizes public-private partnerships to enhance lands managed by the Department.

Section 258.015, F.S., Citizen support organizations; use of property; audit. In summary, the statute defines a CSO, requires authorization by the Division of Recreation and Parks, and specifies the use of property. This statute authorizes the Partnerships in Parks (PIP) program for state parks, the program's operational parameters, CSO's operational parameters, and donor recognition.

YOUR MISSION AND LAST CALENDAR YEAR'S PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

CSO's Mission: The *Friends* are organized to operate exclusively for educational and charitable purposes and to function as a support group for Fort Cooper State Park. The *Friends* will work to increase public awareness about the Park and its local heritage and will provide volunteer service for the advancement of Park programs. The *Friends* will assist the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection with the preservation and conservation of Park property including structures, grounds, recreational facilities, and Lake Holathlikaha. The *Friends* may raise funds through donations, gifts, contributions, product sales and grants.

Describe Last Calendar Year's Results Obtained:

- Repaired the Shed Roof at the Shop Area.
- Bought new hood and other plastic pieces to repair the John Deere Tractor.
- Installed concrete around the Rec Hall to make it more ADA compliant and fixed the buckling sidewalk next to the Rec Hall.
- Repaired and repainted the tram.
- Repaired ez-go UTV.

Describe the CSO's Plans for the Next Three Calendar Years:

- **Replace the current Fort Wall to make it more historically correct and safe.**
- **Continue to keep the lake front open and accessible for the canoes and kayaks.**
- **Replace aging playground with a new one and make it ADA compliant.**
- **Install sod along the edges of the sidewalks as need to stop erosion and prevent slips, trips and falls.**

CSO's LAST CALENDAR YEAR STATISTICS:

Total Number of CSO General Membership: 16
Total Number of Board of Directors: 7
Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors: 220

PARK & CSO RELATIONSHIP:

Park Manager's Comments on the CSO & Park Relationship and Support:

- Everything has stayed the same from the previous year at the park.
- The FFCSP has always been a big support to Fort Cooper State Park and has never said no to a request from the Park Manager to help the park out in any way they can.
- With last Years Pandemic and no revenue coming in nothing on the Annual Program Plan was accomplished. The CSO has made progress on some of the lower cost items in 2021. It will take time and fundraising to complete some the larger projects.
- The contribution of time, commitment and finances by the Friends are recognized by our staff and greatly appreciated. We look forward to another successful year working with the Friends of Fort Cooper.

CSO President's Comments on the CSO & Park Relationship and Support:

The CSO and the park have a good relationship and work together well. We continue to look forward to working with the staff to help support the needs of the park.

SUMMARIZE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR LAST CALENDAR YEAR, SPECIFIC PARK(S) SUPPORT:

Program Service Expenses are costs related to providing your organization's programs or services in accordance with your mission. For CSO's provide expenses that directly support the park(s). For established nonprofit organizations, program service expenses generally represent most of the overall expense of the organization. For the last calendar year provide totals \$ for each that apply.

Building improvement, construction or renovations	\$80.00
Cultural resources (e.g., historic structure restoration/ renovation)	\$
Natural resources (e.g., native plants, natural lands restoration)	\$
Maintenance equipment (e.g., mowers, chippers, blowers, chainsaws)	\$584.99
Other facilities and landscape maintenance	\$2100.00
Vehicles (e.g., trucks/cars, UTVs, golf carts, accessible devices, etc.)	\$61.88
Amenities (e.g., water fountains, benches, picnic tables, recreational equipment, kiosks etc.)	\$
Park employees or volunteers support (e.g., interns, training, uniforms, awards, or recognition)	\$
Big ticket visitor center exhibits or interpretation updates	\$
Park exhibits, displays, signage	\$
Park publications, brochures, maps, etc.	\$11.00
Programing/interpretation support material purchases	\$606.22
Other program services	\$
Total Program Service Expenses	\$3444.09

Total Operating Expenses (Overhead including fees, memberships, postage, rent, utilities, etc.) **\$4862**

Visitor Services Revenue

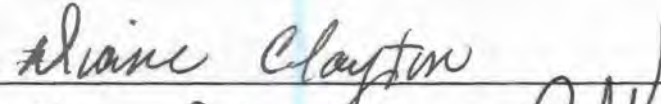
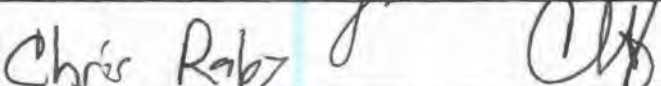
Park gift shops, craft stores and concession sales	\$
Merchandise sales (e.g., plants, firewood, ice, t-shirts, hats, etc.)	\$

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Programs and Special Events (e.g., fundraising workshops, seasonal events, concerts, etc.)	\$
Vending (e.g., drink machines, penny press, laundry, Wifi, etc.)	\$
Rentals (e.g., bikes, canoe, kayak , SUPs, etc.)	\$
In-park donation boxes	\$
Other visitor services revenue	\$2837
Total Visitor Services Revenue	\$2837
Net Assets	\$20,841

CSOAUDIT:

Total of Last Calendar Year's Expenses (including grants) \$4862

Section 215.981(2), Florida Statute requires an independent CPA audit using Government Audit Standards (U.S. GAO Yellow Book) when the CSOs annual expenses are \$300,000 including grants. The audit is **due by September 1** (9 months after the CSO's calendar year ends) to the Florida Auditor General and to the Department.

This information is complete to the best of my knowledge pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes			
Title	Name	Signature	Date
CSO President			5/24/2021
Park Manager			5-24-21

CSO's Code of Ethics is attached

CSO has attached the most recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N Receipt. All IRS Form 990's must be **complete** with Part III Program Service and **all** appropriate Schedules (A, 0 and others as appropriate). If filing an IRS extension, attach the IRS 8868 receipt and the most recent 990 and schedules.

The Friends of Fort Cooper, Inc.

CODE OF ETHICS

PREAMBLE

(1) It is essential to the proper conduct and operation of The Friends of Fort Cooper, Inc. (herein "CSO") that its board members, officers, and employees be independent and impartial and that their position not be used for private gain. Therefore, the Florida Legislature in Section 112.3251, Florida Statute (Fla. Stat.), requires that the law protect against any conflict of interest and establish standards for the conduct of CSO board members, officers, and employees in situations where conflicts may exist.

(2) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state that no CSO board member, officer, or employee shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or incur any obligation of any nature which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his or her duties for the CSO. To implement this policy and strengthen the faith and confidence of the people in Citizen Support Organizations, there is enacted a code of ethics setting forth standards of conduct required of The Friends of Fort Cooper, Inc. board members, officers, and employees in the performance of their official duties.

STANDARDS

The following standards of conduct are enumerated in Chapter 112, Fla. Stat., and are required by Section 112.3251, Fla. Stat., to be observed by CSO board members, officers, and employees.

1. Prohibition of Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts

No CSO board member, officer, or employee shall solicit or accept anything of value to the recipient, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, based upon any understanding that the vote, official action, or judgment of the CSO board member, officer, or employee would be influenced thereby.

2. Prohibition of Accepting Compensation Given to Influence a Vote

No CSO board member, officer, or employee shall accept any compensation, payment, or thing of value when the person knows, or, with reasonable care, should know that it was given to influence a vote or other action in which the CSO board member, officer, or employee was expected to participate in his or her official capacity.

3. Salary and Expenses

No CSO board member or officer shall be prohibited from voting on a matter affecting his or her salary, expenses, or other compensation as a CSO board member or officer, as provided by law.

4. Prohibition of Misuse of Position

A CSO board member, officer, or employee shall not corruptly use or attempt to use one's official position or any property or resource which may be within one's trust, or perform official duties, to secure a special privilege, benefit, or exemption.

5. Prohibition of Misuse of Privileged Information

No CSO board member, officer, or employee shall disclose or use information not available to members of the general public and gained by reason of one's official position for one's own personal gain or benefit or for the personal gain or benefit of any other person or business entity.

6. Post-Office/Employment Restrictions

A person who has been elected to any CSO board or office or who is employed by a CSO may not personally represent another person or entity for compensation before the governing body of the CSO of which he or she was a board member, officer, or employee for a period of two years after he or she vacates that office or employment position.

7. Prohibition of Employees Holding Office

No person may be, at one time, both a CSO employee and a CSO board member at the same time.

8. Requirements to Abstain From Voting

A CSO board member or officer shall not vote in official capacity upon any measure which would affect his or her special private gain or loss, or which he or she knows would affect the special gain or any principal by whom the board member or officer is retained. When abstaining, the CSO board member or officer, prior to the vote being taken, shall make every reasonable effort to disclose the nature of his or her interest as a public record in a memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who shall incorporate the memorandum in the minutes. If it is not possible for the CSO board member or officer to file a memorandum before the vote, the memorandum must be filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting no later than 15 days after the vote.

9. Failure to Observe CSO Code of Ethics

Failure of a CSO board member, officer, or employee to observe the Code of Ethics may result in the removal of that person from their position. Further, failure of the CSO to observe the Code of Ethics may result in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection terminating its Agreement with the CSO.

Adopted at The Friends of Fort Cooper board meeting July 22, 2014

Congratulations! The IRS has Accepted Your e-Postcard!

The Form 990-N (e-Postcard) of your **THE FRIENDS OF FORT COOPER INC** is accepted by the IRS.

Tax Year	Return Number	IRS Status
2020	4G000152143379-3	Accepted by the IRS

We have sent an acceptance letter to your email address, dcarson22@hotmail.com. You can also download the acceptance letter by logging into www.expresstaxexempt.com using your email and password.

Documents for Review and Records

Summary of your Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

Tax Year 2020: (Return No: 4G000152143379-3)   

Receipt for your payment

Tax Year 2020: (Return No: 4G000152143379-3)  

Tell Your Friends

Our company has grown tremendously over the past few years because of fantastic referrals from clients like you! Please take a moment to tell your friends.
Thank you.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

Feedback

We appreciate your feedback.
Thank you!

LEAVE FEEDBACK

