



**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 Ichetucknee Springs State Park

Mailing Address: 6732 SW County Road 240 Lake City, FL 32024

Telephone Number: 386 984 0068

Website Address (*required if applicable*): N/A

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:** *Consistent with your Articles and Bylaws*

To conduct programs and activities; raise funds; request and receive grants, gifts and bequests of money; acquire, receive, hold, invest and administer, in its own name, securities, funds, objects of value or other property, real or personal; and make expenditures to or for the direct or indirect benefit of the Ichetucknee Springs State Park or the Florida State Park system. Accomplishments include continuing to enhance our Facebook page for promotion and publicity of functions and activities, as well as, exploring PayPal on SSL PayPal account for memberships and online donations through various means. Supporting members who would be willing to invest some of their time to pursue grants for the Park to generate needed funds for designated Park improvements.

Invited community businesses to volunteer participation in Park projects to widen the volunteer base and increase memberships. Sought out community/business sponsors for designated functions, like Iche Nippy Dip Day held on the 1st Saturday of the new year. Supported and participated in our annual January Iche-Nippy-Dip Day at the North Entrance Head Springs, offering giveaways, memberships & park information. Supported and promoted the Fort White High School/ISSP LIFE educational program and related activities Provided Recognition Awards for the ISSP Program as well as, assisted in nature-related projects, like the kestrel box program and water lettuce removal. Assisted the Park Manager and Park Staff, when called upon for maintenance needs or Park improvement.

**Describe Last Calendar Year's Results Obtained:** *Brag!* List or discuss the past calendar year's accomplishments and contributions. Cite specific support from last calendar year's Annual Program Plan.

Successfully sponsored the annual Iche Nippy Dip Day event and increased membership base and revenue. Enhanced the CSO Facebook page. Provided much needed equipment to the park. Provided volunteer support for resource management projects such as tree and wire grass plantings resulting in 200 volunteer hours and completion of a major resource zone restoration. Provided materials for the reconstruction of the south alternate entrance booth (APP Item).

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

- Seek grant to upgrade displays in Education Center - \$5K
- Seek donations for trail enhancements - \$1K
- Seek donations, fundraising activities or donation of Buffalo Blower - \$5K
- Seek donations, fundraising activities or donations for Pest maintenance for park buildings -\$300
- Seek fundraising opportunities to fund park equipment repairs - \$2K
- Seek fundraising opportunities to fund trail signs and improvements - \$2K
- Fund purchase of recognition apparel for committed volunteers - \$500
- Fund construction of Informational Kiosk - \$500
- Continue to seek grants for park improvements.
- Continue to support and promote park programs and events.
- Continue to provide equipment needed by the park.
- Continue to support and provide volunteer labor for resource management and maintenance projects.
- Continue to seek innovative ways to increase membership base and revenue.

**CSO's LAST CALENDAR YEAR STATISTICS:**

**Total Number of CSO General Membership: 33**

**Total Number of Board of Directors: 6**

**Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors: 89**

**PARK & CSO RELATIONSHIP:**

*Keep the summary simple. Save time. Don't duplicate by describing accomplishments and contributions in the summary. Brag in the above Results Obtained. Describe the relationship here.*

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

With the difficult task of managing park operations during the COVID-19 event, the CSO changed their operations and adapted to policies. Their focus shifted to generating revenue through donations, social media membership drives and providing volunteer labor hours to assist the park in resource management projects. The CSO remains effective in fulfilling their mission to support the park. The Board of Directors remain effective in developing their annual program plan with obtainable goals. The relationship between the CSO and the park remains strong. The CSO was very effective at supporting the park and in spite of significant restrictions posed by COVID-19, the CSO adapted to changes and provided much needed support.

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

The friends group has a strong relationship with the park. The Group is dedicated to continuing and increasing support to the park and its missions. COVID-19 posed many challenges to the friend's group both in conducting regular CSO business and support for the park. However, the friend's group was successful in providing volunteer hours and purchasing equipment for 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	\$
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)	\$
Other facilities and landscape maintenance	\$568.82
Vehicles (e.g., trucks/cars, UTVs, golf carts, accessible devices, etc.)	\$
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.	\$
Programing/interpretation support material purchases	\$
Other program services	\$

**Total Program Service Expenses \$568.82**

**Total Operating Expenses (Overhead including fees, memberships, postage, rent, utilities, etc.) \$1006.61**

**Visitor Services Revenue**

Park gift shops, craft stores and concession sales	\$
Merchandise sales (e.g., plants, firewood, ice, t-shirts, hats, etc.)	\$80.00
Programs and Special Events (e.g., fundraising workshops, seasonal events, concerts, etc.)	\$350.00
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	\$
<b>Total Visitor Services Revenue</b>	<b>\$430.00</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2832.01</b>

**CSO AUDIT:**

**Total of Last Calendar Year's Expenses (including grants) \$2725.00**

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.

<b>This information is complete to the best of my knowledge pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes</b>			
Title	Name	Signature	Date
CSO President	<b>Irene Johannesen</b>	<i>Irene Johannesen</i>	<b>5/17/20</b>
Park Manager	<b>Robert Soderholm</b>	<i>Robert Soderholm</i>	<b>5/17/20</b>

- 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, O and others as appropriate). If filing an IRS extension, attach the IRS 8868 receipt and the most recent 990 and schedules.

# Friends of Ichetucknee Springs CSO Code of Ethics – July 2014

## FRIENDS OF ICHETUCKNEE SPRINGS STATE PARK CODE OF ETHICS

### PREAMBLE

- (1) It is essential to the proper conduct and operation of Friends of Ichetucknee Springs State Park (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 Friends of Ichetucknee Springs State Park 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.

# **Friends of Ichetucknee Springs CSO Code of Ethics – July 2014**

## **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.

*Draft July 15, 2014 | To be adopted at next regularly scheduled board meeting 7/31/2014*

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

for Tax-Exempt Organization not Required to File Form 990 or 990-EZ

2020

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2020 Calendar year, or tax year beginning 2020-01-01 and ending 2020-12-31

## B Check if available

 Terminated for Business Gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or lessC Name of Organization: FRIENDS OF ICHETUCKNEE  
SPRINGS12087 SW US Highway 27,Fort White, FL, US, 32038D Employee Identification  
Number 59-3480044

## E Website:

F Name of Principal Officer: Irene Johannsen12087 SW US Highway 27,Fort White, FL, US, 32038

**Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice:** We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to give us the information. We need it to ensure that you are complying with these laws.

The organization is not required to provide information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. The rules governing the confidentiality of the Form 990-N is covered in code section 6104.

The time needed to complete and file this form and related schedules will vary depending on the individual circumstances. The estimated average times is 15 minutes.

**Note:** This image is provided for your records only. Do Not mail this page to the IRS. The IRS will not accept this filing via paper. You must file your Form 990-N (e-Postcard) electronically.