



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

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: **Natural Bridge Historical Society, Inc.**

Mailing Address: **815 East 7th Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32303**

Telephone Number: **850-728-3099**

Website Address (*required if applicable*): **www.nbhscso.com**

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*

The Natural Bridge Historical Society, Inc. (NBHS) is a nonprofit Citizen Support Organization (CSO) established in 1999 to preserve and promote the historical, cultural, and recreational value of the Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park in cooperation with the Florida Park Service.

During calendar year 2020, the CSO's program accomplishments included:

- **Hosted the 155th anniversary and 43rd annual reenactment of the Battle of Natural Bridge which educates the public on the historical battle and Florida's role during the Civil War.**
- **Obtained a Leon County Tourism Grant (Visit Tallahassee) to advertise and promote the reenactment and the Park.**
- **Conducted fundraising activities at the reenactment to support CSO Park improvement projects.**
- **Clearing, grading, and landscaping of expanded public and reenactor parking areas and reenactor camps.**
- **Conducted interpretive programs and tours of the battlefield.**
- **Initiated planning for the construction of a new pavilion in the picnic area of the Park.**

- **Initiated plans for additional archaeological metal detecting surveys of the battlefield.**

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.

In the face of the COVID crisis, 2020 was a challenging year for the CSO. Fortunately, we were able to host the 155th anniversary and 53rd annual reenactment of the Battle of Natural Bridge on March 6-8 prior to the restrictions that were implemented latter in the month. While attendance by living history volunteers and the public was less than normal, those that did attend were respectful of distancing and other precautions. The annual reenactment is the major fundraising event for the CSO. So, while public attendance was down, an earlier recommendation by the Board of Directors at their August 2019 meeting to increase the suggested visitor donation from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per adult resulted in the event staying in the black. There were no complaints about the increase and, based on a random survey taken during the event, those that did attend enjoyed the program and were grateful for the opportunity to attend and participate in the event.

At the annual CSO meeting held at the event, the members voted to pursue two major projects during the remainder of the year:

- 1. Continue with earlier archaeological work to define the battlefield by conducting a metal detector survey of the area encompassing what is believed to be the Confederate right flank, and**
- 2. Construction of a new large covered open-air pavilion in the picnic area of the Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park to provide additional shelter for public use for larger gatherings, such as, family reunions, social functions, and the annual reenactment.**

Work continues on both projects despite setbacks due to the Covid 19 Pandemic.

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

- **Large Picnic Pavilion**
- **Facilitate a metal detector survey of the remaining section of what is believed to be the confederate line.**
- **Facilitate ADA improvements to the Rakestraw house.**
- **Continue to assist Park staff in their efforts to introduce fire into the Horn Springs addition of Natural Bridge.**
- **Continue to maintain stump grinder and tractor operation**
- **Continue to assist Park staff with landscape maintenance around the Battle of Natural Bridge Monument.**

- **Develop interpretive kiosk materials for living history efforts.**
- **Continue to host the annual reenactment of the Battle of Natural Bridge and seek marketing grants to advertise and promote the Park. However, in the COVID era, efforts will continue in non-standard ways. The CSO will continue to strive to interpret the Park while looking for alternatives to in-person interpretation.**

CSO's LAST CALENDAR YEAR STATISTICS:

Total Number of CSO General Membership: 47

Total Number of Board of Directors: 7

Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors (*Hours from VSys. Work with your parks' volunteer manager*):

Board of Directors: 877 hours

Living History Volunteers: 3,888 hours

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:

Provide your perspective on

- *Changing developments of the park provided by the CSO.*
- *Effectiveness of the organization in fulfilling their purpose to support the park(s).*
- *Effectiveness of the Board of Directors in completing their Annual Program Plan.*
- *The relationship between the park and CSO What went well? Are there areas of improvement?*

The relationship between the Natural Bridge Historic Society and the Park is healthy. 2020 provided some unique challenges for both organizations but I feel we have worked together well to get through them while staying on mission. The CSO has voiced some frustrations, however they are based in a willingness to push through some challenging projects that I support. I truly appreciate their commitment to the addition of a new large shelter and the continuation of the archeological exploration of the battlefield.

The Natural Bridge Historic Society is highly effective in telling the story of the Battle of Natural Bridge through their annual reenactment weekend. The weekend is full of demonstrations and educational opportunities and the board has worked well with Park Management to promote the event not only in the local markets but in several larger markets in the state. The Sunday battle of the 2020 reenactment was the best battle reenactment that I had ever attended, very well organized and a hell of a show.

The board is effective in meeting the goals set in the annual program plan, there inability to meet goals set in the plan in 2020 were as a result of the impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic and the parks response to the Pandemic. I look forward to another productive year in our partnership.

If there is one thing that I would like to see improved upon it's the recruitment of a younger set of volunteers to join the team, the board is a highly committed group of professionals who will not be able to shoulder the load by themselves forever. The task of requiring younger committed volunteers is more challenging than ever in the current times we live in.

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

Provide your perspective on the relationship between the park and CSO. What went well? Are there areas of improvement?

The CSO and local park staff have a friendly working relationship and support each other on projects within the park and at times the CSO supports other parks in the area. The park rangers and CSO work together giving tours to local residents, passing tourist, ROTC units, schools, and support local community events. We also readily work together on many maintenance projects from mowing grass, land clearing, cutting trails, and repairing equipment. The district staff also seem to be easy to work with. In the past the CSO has volunteered to remodel the Rakestraw house but has never been given permission from the state office to proceed, we would like to revisit this project. The five-year plan that was modified with the addition of the Horn Spring property includes a pavilion which the CSO has volunteered to assist with.

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.

See Attachment 1

Building improvement, construction or renovations	\$
Cultural resources (e.g., historic structure restoration/ renovation)	\$
Natural resources (e.g., native plants, natural lands restoration)	\$3,520.00
Maintenance equipment (e.g., mowers, chippers, blowers, chainsaws)	\$599.71
Other facilities and landscape maintenance	\$651.78
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.	\$4251.34
Programing/interpretation support material purchases	\$
Other program services	\$282.58
Total Program Service Expenses	\$9,305.41

Total Operating Expenses (Overhead including fees, memberships, postage, rent, utilities, etc.) \$1459.04

Visitor Services Revenue

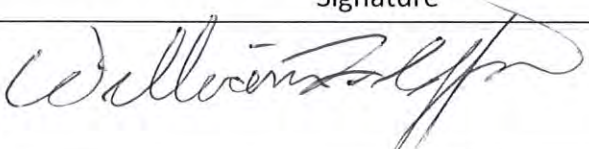
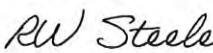
Park gift shops, craft stores and concession sales	\$
Merchandise sales (e.g., plants, firewood, ice, t-shirts, hats, etc.)	\$
Programs and Special Events (e.g., fundraising workshops, seasonal events, concerts, etc.)	\$7,447.47
Vending (e.g., drink machines, penny press, laundry, Wifi, etc.)	\$
Rentals (e.g., bikes, canoe, kayak, SUPs, etc.)	\$
In-park donation boxes	\$190.61

Other visitor services revenue \$
Total Visitor Services Revenue \$ 7,638.08
 Net Assets \$ - 3,126.37

CSO AUDIT:

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

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	William "Buzz" Gifford		6/1/2021
Park Manager	Robert Steele		6/1/2021

- 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.

NATURAL BRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

CODE OF ETHICS

PREAMBLE

- (1) It is essential to the proper conduct and operation of THE Natural Bridge Historical Society, 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 Natural Bridge Historical Society, 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.



Confirmation

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Your Form 990-N(e-Postcard) has been submitted to the IRS

- **Organization Name:** NATURAL BRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
- **EIN:** 593583214
- **Tax Year:** 2020
- **Tax Year Start Date:** 01-01-2020
- **Tax Year End Date:** 12-31-2020
- **Submission ID:** 10065520210374309056
- **Filing Status Date:** 02-06-2021
- **Filing Status:** Pending

Note: [Print](#) a copy of this filing for your records. Once you leave this page, you will not be able to do so.

MANAGE FORM 990-N SUBMISSIONS