

How The Friends Help The Park

Many Friends of Oscar Scherer do hands-on work to maintain trails, remove invasive exotic plants, provide firewood for campers, and monitor Florida scrub jays. Other Friends volunteer their time administratively. Either way, a huge benefit of being a member of the Friends is getting to see the park in ways that no visitor can. Here are some of the contributions the Friends have made to the park:

- We publish maps, fact sheets, trail guides, and newsletters to help visitors experience the park more fully.
- We lead bird walks and nature strolls to provide a deeper understanding of the park's natural systems.
- We present nature programs, outreach programs, and musical programs for the general public.
- We renovated the old recreation hall into a nature center with first-class informational displays, built an observation deck at Big Lake, and replaced bridges.
- We updated trail markers for more than 15 miles of trails and the butterfly gardens. And we maintain all hiking trails.
- We hold fund-raising events such as the Scrub Jay 5K, and work to obtain grants that will be used to provide amenities such as playgrounds as well as fire and maintenance equipment that are beyond the park budget.
- Our directors meet monthly with the park manager to discuss the park's needs and goals.

Our Mission Statement

- **To support the cultural and natural systems within the park;**
- **To promote interpretive programs, special events, and public awareness of the ecological importance of the park;**
- **To provide volunteer projects, services and general assistance to the park.**



Here's How To Join

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please mail check to:

Friends of Oscar Scherer Park
1843 S. Tamiami Trail
Osprey, Florida 34229

Annual Dues:

Family _____ \$25 Individual _____ \$20

Student _____ \$5 Donation \$ _____

Adopt a Scrub Jay _____ \$25
(Certificate and Location map issued)

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Registration SC-00263. Percent of each contribution retained by any professional solicitor: zero. Percent of each contribution received by our organization: 100.

How You Can Help The Friends

Oscar Scherer State Park is a 1,382 acre oasis of nature and one of our community's best friends. Here you can walk or bike on miles of marked trails, enjoy a shady lakeside picnic, swim in a lake, fish or canoe in South Creek, and commune with wildflowers and wildlife.

The park is a haven for Florida scrub jays and many other species, some threatened and endangered by loss of habitat. You may be surprised by an osprey, eagle, heron, cormorant, ibis, anhinga, gopher tortoise, or even an elusive deer or bobcat.

The park is where you can be in touch with the seasons of ...*the Real Florida*. Birds, trees, wildflowers and even grasses form a year-round parade of change and color for our residents and visitors who are so vital to our economy and who are drawn to our local businesses not only by our beaches and cultural attractions but by our park as well.

Why not let Oscar Scherer State Park be "your park." There are many different ways you can be a part of our organization. We always need volunteers but if you can't volunteer you can still be a member of the Friends.

And members and their families receive 12 free entries to the park per year.

The Fine Print About The Friends

Founded in 1991 by local residents, the Friends of Oscar Scherer, Inc. is one of over 80 Citizen Support Organizations (CSOs) serving with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection throughout the state.

Exotics removal, trail maintenance, enhancements, renovations, repairs, and construction of new facilities by the Friends is accomplished solely with volunteer hours in varying amounts and at various times throughout the week.

Operating income is mainly from dues, donations, public events, and sales of nature-related items. Major projects have been accomplished with grants from The Venice Foundation, the Selby Foundation, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, the Florida Park Service, and the Lee Wetherington Foundation, to name a few.

We are a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code. Dues and donations are tax deductible to the extent of the current law.

We are affiliated with Friends of Florida State Parks, The Venice Foundation, and the Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida.



Friends of Oscar Scherer State Park



Osprey, Florida