



Alligator Warrior Festival

Alligator Festival of Lake City Florida, Inc.
P.O. Box 1962 Lake City FL 32056-1962
851 SE CR-245A Lake City FL 32025-1978
fundraising@alligatorfest.org

In 1995, the first Alligator Festival was held in Lake City Florida. The Alligator Festival of Lake City, Inc. is a volunteer operated 501(c)(3) public charity (Federal Tax ID# 20-8580203) dedicated to bringing early 19th century Florida history to life for the education and excitement of our region's children, families and history enthusiasts, as well as our region's visitors, seasonal residents and new residents with an interest in our community's past.

Although we celebrate all of Florida's pre-1859 history, we focus on the period between 1800 and 1859, especially for our local North Central Florida region. These are Florida's final years as a European colony and its first years as a territory and state of the United States of America. These are the years when the US government tried to undo the treaty which had established Indian reservations in Florida barely a decade earlier, so that the Florida Indians could be relocated far away in a territory west of the Mississippi river. This prompted Florida's Indians to take up arms against the US armed forces. Although General William Jenkins Worth withdrew the U.S. forces on 14 August 1842, after seven years of combat, and a cease-fire agreement was finally signed during the Nixon administration, no document ending the war has been signed by both sides. Our event hosts reenactments of one of the 2nd Seminole War battles.

With the help of generous sponsors like you and of volunteers from all over the state, we are able to host the annual Alligator Warrior Festival at the beautiful O'Leno State Park. The Festival has several points of interest: the reenactment of the 2nd Seminole War Battle of San Felasco Hammock, the living history camps of the Florida Indians, US Soldiers, Militia, and Cracker settlers, the demonstrators of historic skills and arts, the music performers, the festival circle where people dance upon mother earth to the beat of the drum, the festival food vendors and the traders of handcrafts and art as well as the traders of factory-made items.

We publicize your support in a variety of ways depending on available funding, such as: inclusion in our friends list, advertizements in the annual event booklet, linked ads on our web site, mentions in our promotional fliers, display of your company banner at the festival and verbal mentions during announcements at the festival. The Festival is scheduled to take place each year, rain or shine, on the 3-day weekend (Fri-Sun) surrounding the 3rd Saturday in October. The event is only rescheduled if the park is unable to host us on the regular date for extraordinary circumstances.



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The Alligator Warrior Festival brings reenactors and other participants to our community from all over Florida and the southeast. Our publicity packets are sent to the print and broadcast media outlets within a one hundred mile radius and more people come each year as people spread the word to their friends. Florida has the 9th largest American Indian population in the county and the general public is interested in our state's Native American heritage but there are limited opportunities to experience it in our area, especially its historical context.

Joe Blewette, the editor of the Lake City Reporter in the 1970's had long proposed a celebration for the early history of Columbia County prior to 1859. In 1995, Dolly Barracca and Margaret Wuest, two women from some of Lake City's oldest pioneer families, joined together with Victor Vasco, a local tribal elder, to form the Halpatter Tustenuggee (Alligator Warrior) Society which would organize the festival. They wanted to highlight the contributions of the Native Americans of that time.

With the help of many others through the years, the festival continued to grow. Until her death, Ms. Barracca was the festival's mascot, known affectionately as "Miss Alligator". In 2007 the society was incorporated as a Florida non-profit, under the name "Alligator Festival of Lake City of FL, Inc". In 2010, the scope of the festival was expanded and the location was moved to O'Leno State Park where the reenactment of the Battle of San Felasco Hammock became an integral part of the festival. While we have lost many of the original organizers, such as Dolly Barracca, Margaret Wuest, Victor and Betty Vasco, Steve Knight and Raymond Macatee, the current board continues their vision and hard work, partnering with event volunteers and sponsors to keep the festival relevant and successful.

Thank you for considering the Alligator Warrior Festival for a donation. Please find a sponsor form attached along with copies of our event flier. Our not-for-profit credentials are available upon request. Any support that you can give is greatly appreciated by the organizers and attendees of the festival.

At your service for any additional information that you may require, we offer our most sincere gratitude for your consideration and your partnership. If you would like to get in touch with us or you need to verify that a person is working with us to develop your partnership as a sponsor, then we invite you contact us. For a current listing of the board of directors and other volunteer members, who are authorized to seek sponsorship on behalf of our organization, please visit:

<http://alligatorfest.org/Contactus.html>

With our gratitude and very best regards,