



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

**CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2019 LEGISLATIVE REPORT
(pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes)**

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

Mailing Address: 3100 S. Old Floral City Rd, Inverness, FL 34452-6913

Telephone Number: 352-726-0315 Website Address (if applicable): www.FriendsofFortCooper.com

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.

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.

Description of the CSO's Results Obtained:

We had 538 fourth grade students participating in the Annual Living History Days. We had 425 visitors attend the annual Music in the Park Bluegrass Festival. Live entertainment was added to the 2-day Fort Cooper Days reenactments. Additionally, an increase of visitors came out for the annual 3-day Nights of Lights having 4228 people attend. Over \$3,600 was spent on equipment purchases/parts/repairs for Park equipment and vehicles. The CSO paid for cypress planks to finish a fence project. They also purchased a new refrigerator for the Ranger Station. Two new public educational programs were continued specifically on bats and bird walks.

Description of the CSO's Plans for the Next Three Fiscal Years:

To continue supporting the Park by purchasing materials for improvements and enhancements. Provide funding for a boat dock/pier to improve lake access for fishing and launching kayaks and canoes. Provide funding for a new ADA playground to replace aging and non-compliant playground. Provide manpower for labor intensive activities including but not limited to power washing walkways, painting/staining picnic tables, kiosks, gazebo etc., maintaining five miles of hiking trails, and providing educational programs to the local community.

- CSO's Code of Ethics is attached, and if the CSO has a website the code of ethics is posted conspicuously.**
- CSO has attached the most recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N receipt. If filing the 990-N the Department requires the 990 or 990-EZ as a worksheet. All IRS Form 990's must be complete with Part III Program Service and all appropriate Schedules (See attached instructions).**

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



[Home](#) > [Tax Exempt Organization Search](#) > [The Friends Of Fort Cooper Inc](#)

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The Friends Of Fort Cooper Inc

EIN: 59-2978381 | Inverness, FL, United States

Publication 78 Data ⓘ

Organizations eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. Users may rely on this list in determining deductibility of their contributions.

On Publication 78 Data List: Yes

Deductibility Code: PC

Form 990-N (e-Postcard) ⓘ

Organizations who have filed a 990-N (e-Postcard) annual electronic notice. Most small organizations that receive less than \$50,000 fall into this category.

> Tax Year 2018 Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

Tax Period:

2018 (01/01/2018 - 12/31/2018)

EIN:

59-2978381

Legal Name (Doing Business as):

The Friends Of Fort Cooper Inc

Mailing Address:

3100 S Old Floral City Rd
Inverness, FL 34450

United States

Part II Balance Sheets (see the instructions for Part II)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part II

	(A) Beginning of year	(B) End of year
22 Cash, savings, and investments	26,828	24,011
23 Land and buildings		
24 Other assets (describe in Schedule O)		
25 Total assets	26,828	24,011
26 Total liabilities (describe in Schedule O)		
27 Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)	26,828	24,011

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments (see the instructions for Part III)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part III

What is the organization's primary exempt purpose? To support Fort Cooper State Park

Expenses
(Required for section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations; optional for others.)

Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. In a clear and concise manner, describe the services provided, the number of persons benefited, and other relevant information for each program title.

28 <u>Maintenance and support and improvements of five miles of hiking trails. Provide entertainment and education programs to the public. While preserving natural resources of Fort Cooper State Park. Maintaining facilities and recreation. Provide funding for purchase of new and repair to old equipment.</u> (Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	28a
29 _____ _____ (Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	29a
30 _____ _____ (Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	30a
31 Other program services (describe in Schedule O) (Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	31a
32 Total program service expenses (add lines 28a through 31a)	32

Part IV List of Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees (list each one even if not compensated—see the instructions for Part IV)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part IV

(a) Name and title	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC) (if not paid, enter -0-)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation
<u>Lesly Smith, President</u>	10			
<u>Ken Koch, Vice President</u>	2			
<u>Jeanne Messersmith, Secretary</u>	20			
<u>Lesly Smith, Treasurer</u>	10			
<u>Dennis Clevenger, Project Coordinator</u>	6			
<u>Shela Wahl, Director</u>	2			
<u>Art Nersasian, Director</u>	2			

Part V Other information (Note the Schedule A and personal benefit contract statement requirements in the instructions for Part V.) Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part V

		Yes	No
33	Did the organization engage in any significant activity not previously reported to the IRS? If "Yes," provide a detailed description of each activity in Schedule O		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
34	Were any significant changes made to the organizing or governing documents? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the amended documents if they reflect a change to the organization's name. Otherwise, explain the change on Schedule O. See instructions		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
35a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year from business activities (such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a, among others)?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b	If "Yes" to line 35a, has the organization filed a Form 990-T for the year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c	Was the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization subject to section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
36	Did the organization undergo a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or significant disposition of net assets during the year? If "Yes," complete applicable parts of Schedule N		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
37a	Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions ▶ <u>37a</u>		
b	Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
38a	Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee or were any such loans made in a prior year and still outstanding at the end of the tax year covered by this return?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b	If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II and enter the total amount involved	<u>38b</u>	
39	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:		
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9	<u>39a</u>	
b	Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities	<u>39b</u>	
40a	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under: section 4911 ▶ _____; section 4912 ▶ _____; section 4955 ▶ _____		
b	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year, or did it engage in an excess benefit transaction in a prior year that has not been reported on any of its prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958 ▶ _____		
d	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization ▶ _____		
e	All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If "Yes," complete Form 8886-T		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
41	List the states with which a copy of this return is filed ▶ <u>Florida</u>		
42a	The organization's books are in care of ▶ <u>Dottie Carson</u> Telephone no. ▶ <u>352-262-3321</u> Located at ▶ <u>5286 S. Alligator PL, Floral City, FL</u> ZIP + 4 ▶ <u>34436</u>		
b	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country ▶ _____ See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR).		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside the United States? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country ▶ _____		
43	Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041—Check here <input type="checkbox"/> and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year ▶ <u>43</u>		
44a	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b	Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the year?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d	If "Yes" to line 44c, has the organization filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
45a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b	Did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," Form 990 and Schedule R may need to be completed instead of Form 990-EZ. See instructions		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

46 Did the organization engage, directly or indirectly, in political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I

	Yes	No
46		✓

Part VI Section 501(c)(3) Organizations Only

All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 47-49b and 52, and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part VI

47 Did the organization engage in lobbying activities or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II

	Yes	No
47		✓

48 Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E

	Yes	No
48		✓

49a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?

	Yes	No
49a		✓

b If "Yes," was the related organization a section 527 organization?

	Yes	No
49b		✓

50 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees, and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and title of each employee	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation

f Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000 ▶

51 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and business address of each independent contractor	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation

d Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000 ▶

52 Did the organization complete Schedule A? Note: All section 501(c)(3) organizations must attach a completed Schedule A Yes No

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here

	5/20/19
Signature of officer	Date
Dottie Carson, Treasurer	
Type or print name and title	

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name	Preparer's signature	Date	Check <input type="checkbox"/> if self-employed	PTIN
Firm's name ▶	Firm's EIN ▶			
Firm's address ▶	Phone no. ▶			

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions Yes No

SCHEDULE O (Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2018

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization **Friends of Fort Cooper, Inc.**

Employer identification number
59-2978381

Ln 16 Donation to Bat Belfrey, Inc. \$200

Line 16 Florida Department of Revenue \$28

Line 16 Office Supplies \$15

Line 16 Web Page Development \$ 479

Line 16 Membership Fee Chamber of Commerce \$180

Line 16 Membership Fee Friends of Florida State Park \$100

Line 16 Floral City Heritage Council \$50

Line 16 Citrus County Historical Society \$30

Line 16 Cards and Flowers for Volunteers \$120

Line 16 Refreshments for programs, parties, and kitchen supplies not included in direct expense \$414

Line 16 Park Equipment , Repair, and Parts \$2430

Line 16 Pest Control \$210

Line 16 Concrete Work \$2800

Line 16 PA system parts \$402

Line 16 Donation to Little League of Citrus County \$200

Part III Ln 29 Two remaining Pedal Boats were sold for \$450. The park purchased the pedal boats for \$650. The value of boats was \$500 each last year.