



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

**CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2014 REPORT**

IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 1194

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: Friends of Silver Springs State Park, Inc.
Mailing Address: 1425 N.E. 58th Avenue, Ocala, Florida 34470
Telephone Number: 352-236-7148 Website Address (if applicable): www.thefriendsofsilversprings.org

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.

Brief Description of the CSO's Mission:

The mission of the Friends of Silver Springs State Park, Inc. is to provide support to the park, enhance public awareness and community involvement, and to protect park resources.

Brief Description of the CSO's Results Obtained:

Through fundraising we were able to donate bunk beds for Americorp volunteers; donate an EZGO Golf cart, batteries and repair other park vehicles; donate a tool cart and tools. Through volunteer efforts we represented the park at numerous events; helped in the transition from Silver River to Silver Springs State Park, formed a River Patrol to help educate boaters; maintained gardens and removed invasive plants; created a FaceBook page to disseminate information and promote the Friends and the Park activities.

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

Continue to provide ongoing support for park events, educational activities, gardens, partner with concessionaire, metal recycling, recruit new members for River Patrol and Water lettuce removal, fundraising through established events and creative new events- hold first 5 K and then evaluate and decide if we wish to continue or try something different. Expand the use of social media to promote the Park.

- X Copy of the CSO's Code of Ethics attached (*Model provided; see CSO 2014 instructions*)**
- X Certify the CSO has completed and provided to the Department the organization's most recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N/Annual Financial Statement**

FRIENDS OF SILVER SPRINGS STATE PARK, INC.
CODE OF ETHICS

PREAMBLE

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

Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

2013

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

▶ **Do not enter Social Security numbers on this form as it may be made public.**
▶ **Information about Form 990-EZ and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.**

A For the 2013 calendar year, or tax year beginning January 1, 2013, and ending December 31, 20 13

B Check if applicable: <input type="checkbox"/> Address change <input type="checkbox"/> Name change <input type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Terminated <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	C Name of organization Friends of Silver Springs State Park, Inc. Number and street (or P.O. box, if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite 1425 NE 58th Ave City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code Ocala, FL 34470-1189	D Employer identification number 56-2511929 E Telephone number 352-236-7148 F Group Exemption Number ▶
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G Accounting Method: Cash Accrual Other (specify) ▶ modified cash

H Check if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).

I Website: ▶ www.thefriendsofsilversprings.org

J Tax-exempt status (check only one) – 501(c)(3) 501(c) () ◀ (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527

K Form of organization: Corporation Trust Association Other

L Add lines 5b, 6c, and 7b, to line 9 to determine gross receipts. If gross receipts are \$200,000 or more, or if total assets (Part II, column (B) below) are \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ ▶ \$ **25644**

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (see the instructions for Part I)
Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part I

	Description	Code	Amount
Revenue	1 Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	1	844
	2 Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	2	
	3 Membership dues and assessments	3	1625
	4 Investment income	4	5
	5a Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a	19379
	b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b	10748
	c Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (Subtract line 5b from line 5a)	5c	8631
	6 Gaming and fundraising events		
	a Gross income from gaming (attach Schedule G if greater than \$15,000)	6a	
b Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ of contributions from fundraising events reported on line 1) (attach Schedule G if the sum of such gross income and contributions exceeds \$15,000)	6b	3791	
c Less: direct expenses from gaming and fundraising events	6c	1463	
d Net income or (loss) from gaming and fundraising events (add lines 6a and 6b and subtract line 6c)	6d	2328	
Revenue	7a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	7a	
	b Less: cost of goods sold	7b	
	c Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (Subtract line 7b from line 7a)	7c	
8 Other revenue (describe in Schedule O)	8		
9 Total revenue. Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6d, 7c, and 8 ▶	9	13433	
Expenses	10 Grants and similar amounts paid (list in Schedule O)	10	10905
	11 Benefits paid to or for members	11	
	12 Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	12	
	13 Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	13	357
	14 Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	14	
	15 Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	15	1839
	16 Other expenses (describe in Schedule O)	16	2443
	17 Total expenses. Add lines 10 through 16 ▶	17	15544
Net Assets	18 Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract line 17 from line 9)	18	-2111
	19 Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	19	26988
	20 Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	20	
	21 Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20 ▶	21	24877

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
 (Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2009	(b) 2010	(c) 2011	(d) 2012	(e) 2013	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	22063	18020	14566	25026	4797	84472
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3	22063	18020	14566	25026	4797	84472
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4.						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2009	(b) 2010	(c) 2011	(d) 2012	(e) 2013	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	22063	18020	14566	25026	4797	84472
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	290	12	5	5	5	317
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)	283	1085	7094	5992	8631	23085
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						107874
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	0
13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here						<input type="checkbox"/>

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2013 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	78.30 %
15 Public support percentage from 2012 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	90.73 %
16a 33 1/3% support test—2013. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b 33 1/3% support test—2012. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2013. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2012. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**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.

▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2013

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

Friends of Silver Springs State Park, Inc (FOSSSP)

Employer identification number

56-2511929

Part I. Line 10. In 2013, FOSSSP donated the Silver Springs State Park: bunk beds (\$ 1,279.80 for Americorps Volunteers; an EZGO Golf Cart (\$ 3384.90), batteries and repair of other park vehicles (\$ 1,155.67) and a tool cart and needed tools (\$ 495.90) for the park shop.

We spent an additional (\$ 1,537.21) of the remaining (\$ 2,208.65) of the Felburn Grant received last year for additional fire fighting equipment. (\$ 671.44 of the Felburn Grant for fire fighting equipment remains to be spent in 2014.)

FOSSSP donated \$ 1,100 for part of an Archeological Survey of the newly acquired lands around Silver Springs. We donated \$ 800 for an interpretive panel and frame as well as \$ 25.03 for coffee supplies for Saturday am bird talks, and \$ 20 for some fire training.

FOSSSP also purchased a display case (\$ 140) and updated our banner for new park name (\$ 30).

Additionally, we funded a new River Patrol Program by supplying radios, uniforms, hats, and ID for volunteers (\$ 936.87). Total = \$ 10905.38

Part I. Line 16. FOSSSP sponsored a reception for the new park addition of Silver Springs (\$ 500) and provided food for volunteers at two 2 day Events, Knap In and Ocali Days, (\$ 392.50). We hosted the annual Christmas party for volunteers and staff (\$ 277.55) and had a mid year picnic (\$ 99.19).

We sent 3 board members to the Friends state wide conference (\$ 571.64) and paid most of the cost for 4 board members to attend the 2014 Friends Conference in January 2014 (\$ 502 less 2 nites lodging for 2). Total = \$ 2442.88

Part II. Line 26. Liabilities of \$ 441 were for Florida state sales tax on firewood, ice, tee shirts, water bottles, and patches sold in the 4th qtr 2013, (Due to an increase in sales, we are required to file and pay state sales tax monthly in 2014.)

Part V. Line 34. On October 1st, 2013, Silver River State Park acquired the Silver Springs area and the park was renamed Silver Springs State Park. Thus, we were required to change our Friends group name as well. See attached document.