



St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Johns County Presents Proclamation Recognizing Water Safety Month

ST. JOHNS COUNTY, Florida, May 16, 2023 – The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners presented a proclamation recognizing May as Water Safety Month at the May 16, 2023, Board meeting. St. Johns County boasts 42 miles of coastline along the Atlantic Ocean and 216 square miles of inland waterways that are utilized by residents and tourists each year. Nationally, it is estimated that 10 people die each day from unintentional drowning, making water safety vitally important to the St. Johns County community. St. Johns County works in coordination with agencies at the local, state, and federal governments to promote the importance of water safety in May and year-round.

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A Proclamation

By the
Board of County Commissioners
St. Johns County, Florida

WHEREAS, both residents and visitors alike are drawn to St. Johns County's 42 ocean front miles, as well as the 216 square miles of inland waterways each year for boating and beach activities, and for these reasons public safety professionals provide an annual reminder of the joys and hazards associated with the ocean, inland waterways, pools, and the many other bodies of water throughout St. Johns County, and;

WHEREAS, water safety education plays a crucial part in preventing drownings and recreational water-related injuries, nationally an estimated 10 people die each day from unintentional drowning, and on average two of them are under age 14; and this aquatic environment has many dangers, through public awareness campaigning for rip current awareness, hazardous weather awareness, boating safety, and the importance of life jackets; are appropriate at the commencement of the busy summer beach season, and;

WHEREAS, public safety professionals from St. Johns County Fire Rescue, St. Johns County Marine Rescue, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, St. Augustine Fire Department, Florida Fish and Wildlife St. Augustine Beach Police Department, National Park Service, and the US Coast Guard will promote the importance of water safety and water dangers through national public awareness campaigns, and

WHEREAS, Along with National Water Safety Month; St. Johns County recognizes National "Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day", National Boating Safety Week and National Beach Safety Week, within the month of May. St. Johns County recognizes the important role that swimming and aquatic-related activities play in supporting good physical and mental health and enhancing the quality of life for all residents and visitors to our area; and encouraging individuals and organizations throughout St. Johns County to support these initiatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, that the month of May be designated as

Water Safety Month

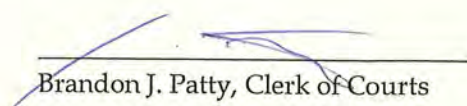
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida this 16th day of May, 2023.

Board of County Commissioners
of St. Johns County, Florida


Christian Whitehurst, Chairman



Attest:


Brandon J. Patty, Clerk of Courts