



Florida Trail Association
5415 SW 13th Street
Gainesville, FL 32608

Adventurous by Nature

Florida Trail Association



Hike Florida!

877-HIKE-FLA
www.floridatrail.org

The Florida Trail

Florida's Footpath Forever



First blazed in 1966 and designated as one of eight National Scenic Trails in the United States in 1983, the Florida Trail (FT) meanders from Big Cypress National Preserve near Miami to Gulf Islands National Seashore near Pensacola. Providing more than 1,400 miles of hiking, it traverses Florida's vast array of unique ecosystems. The FT is managed in partnership by the Florida Trail Association, a non-profit volunteer organization which builds and maintains the trail, the USDA Forest Service, its federal administrator, and more than two dozen land managers whose lands the trail crosses. The FT is officially recognized as Florida's statewide trail and as the state's official non-motorized trail connecting its culture, heritage, and communities.

With more than 1,800 miles of hiking opportunities, the entire Florida Trail System includes the Florida Trail and numerous linear and loop hiking trails located throughout the state in Florida State Parks, state forests, county preserves, and other public lands.



Follow the Orange Blazes....

A soft morning fog stretches across the horizon of pine flatwoods as you arise from your tent, ready for today's hike. You hear the haunting call of a barred owl, inhale the fragrant aroma of damp pine needles. Sitting to stir a cup of coffee, you see a fox squirrel scamper up a sand live oak. It's another perfect January day on the Florida Trail.

The Florida Trail provides a window into Florida's long history, from the Timucua of 3,000 years ago to the waves of European settlers to the state—Spanish and French explorers in the 1500s, British in the 1700s. Varied landscapes and interesting trail towns are part of the appeal. Take a dip in a crystal-clear trailside spring, or stop at a 1890s general store for ice cream. Walk along the undulating bluffs of the historic Suwannee River, or wander through plantations reclaimed by pine flatwoods. Watch sugar cane harvests along the edge of the Everglades, and tangle with the swampy Bradwell Bay Wilderness, a haven of botanical wonders.

Development of the Florida Trail began with volunteers of the Florida Trail Association in 1966. Today, bordered by rivers and lakes, and surrounded by forests of palms, pine, cypress, and moss-draped live oaks, the trail offers a unique hiking experience. Utilizing public lands where possible and developed under agreements with private landowners elsewhere, the Trail threads its way through the state. The winter and spring months, when the air is crisp and the dry season is upon the land, are best for hiking in Florida. Expect to see abundant wildlife as you hike the quiet wilderness areas of Florida.

In South Florida, just an hour's drive west of Miami, the Florida Trail starts its northern journey in the Big Cypress Preserve, a semi-tropical ecosystem featuring cypress trees draped with orchids and bromeliads. Central Florida terrain has rolling pinelands, palm hammocks, and lakes. North Florida is known for its rivers, deep woods, unsurpassed scenery and solitude.



The Florida Trail needs your help. With a goal of protecting the 1,400 mile footpath, volunteers and state and federal agencies are working to fill the gaps and maintain more than 1,000 miles of trail, its gaps connected by roadwalks. The future of the Florida Trail depends on the continuing support and contributions from FTA members. **Your membership is an important step towards its completion.**

YOUR BENEFITS FOR JOINING THE FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

- ▶ Membership in a local chapter, with frequent group hikes and other activities.
- ▶ Our bimonthly publication, the *Footprint*, packed with articles and information about Florida's outdoors.
- ▶ Hundreds of FTA-sponsored outings and adventures each year.
- ▶ Chapter newsletters with local events and information.
- ▶ State and regional conferences teaching trail skills, nature appreciation, and wilderness ethics.
- ▶ Free participation in F-Troop, our volunteer vacation program.
- ▶ Free trail maintenance training workshops.
- ▶ FTA window decal and FTA logo patch.

OUR MISSION

The Florida Trail Association mission is to develop, maintain, promote, and protect a continuous public hiking trail the length of the State of Florida called the Florida National Scenic Trail and other side and loop trails, together called the Florida Trail System; to educate the public by teaching appreciation for and conservation of the natural beauty of Florida; and to provide opportunities to hike and camp.

JOIN TODAY... ENJOY HIKING FLORIDA'S GREAT OUTDOORS!

Florida Trail Association Member's Code:

I understand that I am entitled to all rights and privileges of a dues-paying member, and that **only members** may hike the Trail across private property. **When on the Trail, I agree to** protect wildlife; hike only marked routes; not carry firearms; leave gates as found; use crossings on fences when possible; where permitted, keep fires small, then drench and obliterate; carry out all refuse; report irregularities to property owners; pick up after those who have gone before; leave only footprints. I understand that hiking the Trail is a privilege and that I do so at my own risk. Neither the Association nor landowners are in any way liable for any injury or accident I might sustain while hiking the Florida Trail.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State: _____
 Zip: _____ County: _____
 Phone: H () _____ W () _____
 Fax: () _____
 E-mail: _____

Employer/Occupation: _____

Family Memberships:

Spouse's Name: _____

Number of Children (18 or younger): _____

- \$30 Individual \$25 Senior 65 or older
 \$35 Family* \$25 Full Time Student (ages 18-23)
 \$50 Sustaining* \$30 Senior or Student couple

- \$100 Contributing* \$250 Supporting*
 \$600 IndividualLife \$750 Family Life*

*Includes spouse and children 18 or younger

Check here if you DO NOT want your address shared with FTA-affiliated organizations

Additional Contribution:

Capital Improvement \$ _____
 Endowment \$ _____
 Trail Protection \$ _____
 Annual Fund \$ _____
 Total Enclosed \$ _____

Bill my MC VISA

Account # _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

I learned about the Florida Trail from: _____

Make checks payable to FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION and mail to: FTA, 5415 SW 13th St., Gainesville, FL 32608