



SIERRA CLUB
FLORIDA CHAPTER

Tampa Bay Group



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SPOTLIGHT

VOTE LIKE OUR FUTURE ENVIRONMENT DEPENDS ON IT!

By Gary Gibbons, Political Chair Tampa Bay Sierra Club

Primary Election: Your Tampa Bay Sierra Club Political Committee did well in the August 18th Primary! All our endorsed candidates either won their primary election or performed well enough to move

ahead to the general election on November 3.

GENERAL ELECTION VOTING INFORMATION:

- Vote by Mail: 10/1-11/3
- Early Voting: 10/19-11/1
- Election Day: 11/3 (only at your assigned location)

Find your district are & your sample ballot: <https://www.votehillsborough.gov/180/On-the-Ballot>

For up-to-date Sierra Club Tampa Bay endorsements:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/tampa-bay/political>

For up-to-date endorsements for all Florida Races:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/florida-political-program>

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE AND MAKE SURE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTERS HAVE A HUGE TURNOUT IN NOVEMBER!



For more events and updates go to the calendar on the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Home Page:

Events Calendar

Conservation Committee Meeting

Monday, September 14, 6:30-8 PM

We will discuss local environmental issues of concern. If you topics you would like to discuss, please feel free to reach out to Nancy Stevens or Mary Willa Matz.

- Water conservation and Water Wise rebate program for Hillsborough
- Deep well injection proposl for Tampa
- HC-CPA 25-37, Two Rivers Development

For more information and to register go to the [September registration page](#).

Virtual Film Screening: VS. GOLIATH: Port Arthur

Tuesday, October 6, 2026; 7:30- 9:30 PM

Location: 4101 N Florida Ave, Tampa, FL 33603, USA

Join us at Angry Chair Brewery to have a Watch Party of Sierra Club's monthly series "vs. Goliath". www.vsgoliathseries.com/

Join us for the final **showing of a free, monthly virtual screening series of *Vs. Goliath***—a powerful, award-winning new documentary series following everyday people across the United States as they stand up to the fossil fuel industry and fight for the future of their communities.

Port Arthur, Texas, is the biggest oil and petrochemical hub you've probably never heard of. John Beard Jr. worked in an oil refinery there for decades, as did his father before him, in the refinery town of Port Arthur, Texas. After retiring, John watches Port Arthur get economically hollowed out while his neighbors die from pollution-related illnesses as more dirty plants appear and expand. Experiencing the climate-driven devastation wrought by Hurricane Harvey, John is called to fight back. He becomes a leading opponent of fossil fuels in his community, as he takes on the latest extractive frontier threatening Port Arthur and the world: liquid natural gas export terminals.

Vs. Goliath tells stories of courage and resistance from the frontlines of the climate crisis.

The *Vs. Goliath* screening series is co-sponsored by Center for Biological Diversity, Climate First!, Climate Hawks Vote, Climate Reality Project Greater New Orleans, Food and Water Watch, Fossil Free Media, GreenFaith, People Vs. Fossil Fuels, Sierra Club, Third Act, Union of Concerned Scientists, Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community, 198 Methods, and 350 Local Groups Network.

We will have time in the beginning to share what our partner organizations are doing, socialize and network for 30 minutes.

RSVP to join the virtual screening and discussion on October 6. [register for the watch party](#)

Register here for VS Goliath

Holiday Party Save the Date!

Monday December 7, New World Brewery



HIKE Upper Little Manatee River



Date and

Time:

Wed, Sep 16,
2026
8:00 AM
- 12:00 PM

Location: 2510
Leonard Lee
Rd, Wimauma,
FL 33598,
USA

**Register
now!**

Join us to hike about 5 miles. This is an interpretive hike about one month after a control burn. We will learn about the habitats with pauses for quotes to help us reflect and connect with the natural world.

Usual hiking gear/apparel e.g. water, hat, sun protection, closed toe shoes, long pants recommended. Optional sunglasses, mosquito protection.

Tampa Bay - Westshore Audubon Sanctuary Clean-Up



Date and

Time: Sat, Sep
26, 2026
9:00 AM
- 11:00
AM (Eastern)
Time is
tentative.

Location: 5009
W San Jose St,
Tampa, FL
33629

**Register
now!**

Join us at Westshore Audubon Sanctuary.

Tampa Bay Sierra Club and Tampa Audubon Society volunteers will partner to clean up the Sanctuary, a

mangrove forest along Old Tampa Bay which serves as habitat for many wading birds and marine life such as horseshoe crabs.

Volunteers, please wear closed-toe shoes, hat/visor and sunglasses. Be prepared to get wet and dirty. Gloves, trash bags, water and a light snack will be provided.

Event Contact: Todd Randolph ToddRRandolph@gmail.com

Outings Information

The latest outings and outings at other nearby groups can be found on our website at <https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/tampa-bay/outings>.

Are you a member of the military? The Tampa Bay Sierra Club has entered into a partnership with Blue Star Families based out of MacDill Air Force Base to establish Tampa Bay Military Outings. See more info and the calendar at <https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/tampa-bay/military-outings>

Registration is required for all outings. Unless otherwise noted, outings are free though there may be site entry fees. Liability waivers are required, and anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a legal guardian. No pets.



PROTEST THE LOSS OF 7 TREES

The purpose of these planned protests is to create public awareness in Tampa about 7 Right Of Way live oaks that are destined to be cut down for a high rise construction. Despite the fact that this loss could easily be avoided!

COME & (hold a sign)
PROTEST



Corner of Kennedy Ave / Parker St in Tampa

Saturday 9/12/2026 8-10am

Sunday 9/13/ 2026 5-7pm

Come when you can during these times

For more info email Donna ddatesmith@gmail.com

Tampa Bay Water Wise

GET REBATES, SAVE MONEY

Tampa Bay Water Wise is a regional water conservation program offered by Tampa Bay Water, its participating utilities and the Southwest Florida Water Management District to help homeowners and business owners save more. Get rewarded for doing your part to save water with the Tampa Bay Water Wise program.

For more info go to <https://tampabaywaterwise.org/en/>.

One more time, wetlands development is rejected

For a second time, a proposal to put over 40 townhouses and houses on 4.2 acres of environmental sensitive land on the Hillsborough River at 6111 Rome Ave was denied by Tampa City Council. Neighbors led the fight with a coalition that included the Tampa Bay Sierra Club, against the dense development, which proposed up to 12 feet of fill to raise the townhouses above the flood plain. Speakers raised concerns that this fill would cause flooding in nearby properties and negatively impact the Hillsborough River.

For more info, see the Tampa Bay Times

Article https://enewspaper.tampabay.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=4f0df9ff-7734-4a92-8466-e0962948b354&share=true

Tampa Recycling Plant Tour



What really happens after you put your recyclables in the bin?

The Tampa Bay Sierra Club took a behind-the-scenes tour of a Waste Management recycling facility, led by Cyndee Woolley of C2 Communications LLC.

See the video of the tour: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_2IWp6DOaM

The tour takes viewers inside the recycling process to see how recyclable materials are handled and learn more about the challenges and opportunities involved in recycling.

The program also features conversations about recycling, sustainability, and the importance of making informed choices about what we put into our recycling bins.

Whether you're a longtime recycler or just want to better understand what happens to your recycling after it leaves the curb, this tour offers an inside look at the process and why recycling right matters.

Video presented by Tampa Bay Community Network (TBCN)



The first outing of the year is coming up! Tampa Bay ICO is an outreach arm of the Sierra Club that exposes youth from underserved populations in and around Tampa Bay to the wonders of the natural environment. We promote awareness of and interest in conservation and preservation efforts in the Tampa Bay area. This is one of about 50 such programs nationwide. We run 15-20 trips per year with the fifth-grade classes of two partner schools. Outings are fully staffed and organized by dedicated volunteers, including volunteer “certified leaders” who are also certified in basic First Aid and CPR. Destinations are usually day trips within an hour from the host location that include hiking, birding, canoeing, kayaking, snorkeling, and service projects.

If you want more details, contact emiliejoyce17@gmail.com. Here's the link to register for the first outing: [ICO September outing](#)

If you wish to donate directly to Tampa Bay ICO, [Click Here](#) to go to our PayPal account.

Florida Chapter

**SAVE THE DATE: Spare a Bear, Bag a Tag
Lottery Sept. 11-21**



For the second year in a row, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is set to hold a bear hunt this December with 215 bear hunting permits issued through a lottery system. The lottery opens Friday, Sept. 11 at 10 am. for 10 days.

Florida Sierra Club considers this a needless culling of black bears with no updated scientific data to justify it.

In an effort to protect Florida's bears, we are encouraging supporters to enter the lottery and purchase tickets, thereby increasing the chances of keeping them out of the hands of hunters

First, you will need to purchase a hunting license (free to Florida residents 65+).
More details at <https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/spareourbears>



Executive Committee Elections

The Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group has 4 positions up for election for the 2027-2028 period. The Committee has a total of 9 members, each serving two-year terms. Candidates must be Sierra Club members, passionate about protecting our local environment, willing to help promote the Sierra Club mission and group goals, and attend monthly meetings.

We are accepting nominations until September 15, and hope that you (or a friend) will step up to run in the election. A short biography telling other Sierra Club members about yourself and why you want to serve on the Executive Committee, with a limit of 200 words, should be submitted to the nominating committee at the following email addresses:

Shirley Denton: ShirleyDenton@tampabaysierraclub.org

Committee Meetings

Executive Committee

1st Wednesday of every month, 6:30 pm. Virtual.

Meetings are open to every member. To get the virtual link please contact chair@tampabaysierraclub.

Conservation Committee

We meet the 2nd Monday, every other month.

To get the next meeting date go to the events calendar on our [web page](#).

Contact [Mary Willa Matz](#), if you have a topic you would like to discuss.



Volunteers Needed!

Social media - help us reach out to more people! Assist our Social Media coordinator with postings to Instagram, LinkedIn, MeetUp, Facebook. Contact [Carl Bailey](#).

Would you like to see more events? We need more volunteers!!!

Programs chair - organize our General Meetings, including getting the speakers and logistics. Contact [Janet Stanko](#).

Outings leaders - will be trained to lead outings. This includes a 2-year certification (free) in basic first aid. Contact [Ed Shindle](#).

ICO leaders will be trained to lead ICO trips. This includes a 2-year certification (free) in basic first aid. Contact [Emilie Joyce](#).

About our Events

All events are free unless otherwise noted. Unless otherwise noted, events are open to the public. Registration is required for many events, and some events are limited to members.

For more events and updates go to the calendar on the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Home Page:

Tampa Bay Sierra Club Web Page and Events

About Us

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