



# FLORIDA CRIME PREVENTION ASSOCIATION



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## ARE YOU READY? 2025 Southern States Crime Prevention Conference

This year’s conference will be held at the Drury Plaza Hotel in the Disney Springs area. This is always a popular location so start making plans now to secure your spot! The week is guaranteed to be packed with information and will feature crime prevention experts from various organizations. Come learn about the latest tips, trends, and technology in crime-fighting and share the information with your agency to grow your program and foster positive public relations and a safer community. Just a short walk from Disney Springs and a short drive from Downtown Orlando, you’ll have plenty of opportunities for evening networking and entertainment as well!



# A Message FROM the PRESIDENT



**Joe Bermudez, FCPA President**

Hello Fellow Crime Fighters,

Hope you're all doing great and staying out of trouble (the bad kind, at least)! Can you believe how fast 2025 is flying by? Blink twice and it'll be 2026! Your FCPA Board has been working their tails off to bring you the 56th Annual FCPA Crime Prevention Conference in sunny Lake Buena Vista, Florida! Yep...we're headed back to the "House of the Mouse," so pack your Mickey ears and your best crime prevention mindset.

Pulling this conference together is no small feat, it's like herding cats, if the cats were Guardians of the Guidelines, Protectors of Policy, or Crime Prevention Aficionados with day jobs. But I'm incredibly proud of the dedication from our board. These folks have been burning the midnight oil (and probably a few pots of coffee) to make this a conference to remember.

The agenda is nearly wrapped, just a few final touches and we'll be posting it online soon. And trust me, it's stacked. We've got a fantastic lineup of speakers and topics, including returning favorites Stacy Ettel and Nick Perez, who'll be bringing some fresh and powerful presentations. We're also throwing in some CPTED-specific sessions (because nothing says "fun" like Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design concepts, right?), perfect for those navigating the new requirements under F.S.S. 768.0706 for multi-family residential properties.

Our FCPA Community Training continues to be in demand. Our popular Savvy Seniors program, a free, 4-hour seminar focusing on identity theft, benefits fraud, and investment fraud is available for seniors in your community. Basically, we help Grandma and Grandpa avoid becoming scammer bait! We were just in St. Cloud a few months ago and are planning a return to Mount Dora later this year. If your agency or community organization would like to host a session, all we ask is that you provide a venue, refreshments, and of course, the attendees. We'll take care of the rest. To schedule, reach out to your Regional Director or feel free to contact me directly.

As always, I'm incredibly proud of the hard work and commitment shown by the FCPA Board. Their dedication, and the countless hours they volunteer, continues to make our association one of the best in the country. It's an honor to lead this group and to collaborate with such passionate professionals.

Crime prevention has been my focus for the past 25 years, and I remain committed to finding innovative ways to make our communities safer. If you ever have questions, ideas, or just want to connect, don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for all you do — stay safe and keep up the amazing work!

Joe

# News from Around the State

# REGION



By Patrick Frazier, Region 1 Director

Greetings from Region 1. Our crime trends in the Northwest Florida area have stayed consistent. We are continuously seeing scams that target the elderly population. They are most often contacting the victims via phone calls, text messages, or emails with different scams that range anywhere from trying to get the victim's personal information (phishing) or trying to get the victims to send them money. One new scam that started surfacing recently via text messages is the "Pay your Toll Fee" scam. These text messages are sent out to potential victims stating that they have unpaid tolls and to keep them from being fined or losing their license they need to submit a payment via a link that is included in the text message. I know numerous people, me included, who have received these types of scamming text messages.

In other crime trends, we are still seeing residential burglaries where the car keys are being taken, and the criminals are also stealing the victim's car and using the vehicle to commit other crimes. We are also still seeing a lot of cases of vehicle burglaries where the vehicles are being left unlocked. We also continue to see numerous cases of Fentanyl overdoses.

Other than that, school is about to start back, and we are gearing up for more vehicles on the road including school buses which will cause traffic back ups and delays. Everyone stay safe out there!



# News from Around the State

# REGION 2



By Cory Williams, Region 2 Director



## Tallahassee Police Department Community Relations Unit

Promoting crime prevention and community policing are the primary goals of the group of certified Crime Prevention Practitioners that make up TPD's Community Relations Unit. Officers establish partnerships with neighborhood associations and [crime watch](#) groups throughout the city and coordinate specialized programs as [Crime Stoppers](#), the [RAD](#) and [RadKIDS](#) Self-Empowerment Safety programs. Additionally, the practitioners teach crime reduction and personal safety seminars as well as target hardening strategies to citizens and community organizations.



In addition to offering business and residential security surveys, Community Relations officers conduct CPTED studies. [CPTED \(Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design\)](#) is a comprehensive review of pre-construction projects and existing structures to identify environmental improvements that would serve to reduce crime victimization. Environmental enhancements may include alterations to lighting, landscaping, window configurations or entry-way designs.



## RISE - Leon County Sheriff's Office

RISE is LCSO's continuum of care initiative, created to serve citizens being released from the Leon County Detention Facility, Department of Corrections, Department of Juvenile Justice and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. RISE is a one-stop resource center with case managers focused on serving returning citizens.

Services offered include: identification documents, employment, education and training, housing assistance, substance abuse, mental health, legal services, financial assistance/money management, counseling, healthcare access, family reunification, video visitation.

LCSO is partnering with dozens of community organizations, educational programs and local employers to provide these much-needed services. Our goal is to equip clients with everything they need to succeed in becoming productive members of our community.

To find out more about the RISE Center, call 850-606-3172.

# News from Around the State **REGION**



By Shawn Strickland, Region 3 Director

Meet the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office International Affairs Unit

The JSO International Affairs Unit provides support to all JSO divisions and units with a variety of situations that would involve non-English speaking communities. The unit assists preparing multi-language crime prevention materials and brochures to distribute to the non-English-speaking community.

The unit serves as a resource to the community advisory boards and provides crime prevention training to non-English speaking ethnic groups and businesses. The officers coordinate with walk-in citizens at the police memorial building who cannot communicate in English. The staff determines what resources are necessary to communicate and refers them accordingly to the appropriate division or unit.

The unit conducts community outreach programs in the non-English speaking communities to ensure JSO establishes rapport with non-English speaking community, encourages it members to report criminal activity in their neighborhoods, and establishes trust with community members who may be afraid to report crimes due to the fear of being deported or inability to speak English. The unit also assist detectives with cases that involve non-English speaking victims, suspects, and witnesses.



# News from Around the State

# REGION 4



## By Susan Pratt, Region 4 Director

Region 4 has been active with many programs already this summer. Most of the programs are centered around the children in the community. Alachua County has hosted four (4) radKIDS summer camps. The summer camps were hosted by the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and garnered assistance from several agencies in the area. The agencies that assisted with the radKIDS Summer Camps included the University of Florida Police Department, the Santa Fe College Police Department, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office and the Alachua County Sheriff's Office. There were a handful of new instructors that came out and fantastic group of young mentors. A total of 77 kids attended the radKIDS summer camps and now are empowered and have the ability to defend themselves, if necessary! Congratulations to all of the new radKIDS in Alachua County!



# News from Around the State **REGION**



By Linda Thompson, Region 5 Director

Lake County Sheriff's Charities Inc. hosted Project Kid Connect 2025 on July 12, 2025. We gave out approximately 800 backpacks that were stuffed with school supplies. We had vendors from all over South Lake County attend, and they also handed out supplies and goodies to the children. We had dunk a deputy for a donut, face painting, Star Wars characters, Marvel characters, and Ghostbusters. Our photo op this year included our motors unit, the therapy dogs came too, which the children loved.



# News from Around the State

# REGION



By Josh Fleischer, Region 6 Director

Hello from Region 6. I hope everyone is doing good. I am Detective Josh Fleischer with the Holmes Beach Police Department and the FCPA Region 6 Director. In Region 6, we continued to see a rise in Vehicle Burglaries, Vehicle Tag Thefts, AI Scams, Romance Scams, and Construction Site Thefts. If you are in Region 6, which is Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee, and Highlands counties, I want to remind you that the Suncoast Crime Prevention Association meets every second Wednesday of the month at 0930 and we meet in a different county every month. We have a general meeting and hold a training session. The training changes every month. We also discuss what has been trending in our region. If you are in our area and would like to get on our email list about our upcoming meetings and trainings, please email Cynthia Sharp at [Cynthia.Sharp@lakelandgov.net](mailto:Cynthia.Sharp@lakelandgov.net) who is the Florida Crime Prevention Association Member-At-Large South and also the Suncoast Crime Prevention Association Secretary.

Here in Region 6, we continue to strive to bring more businesses, community, and law enforcement together with new initiatives and projects. We look forward to continuing these initiatives and providing more information at our next update.



# News from Around the State

# REGION 7



By Damian Spotts, Region 7 Director

Greetings from your Florida Crime Prevention Association (FCPA) Region 7 director.

As I wipe my face of all the sweat caused by the 32,000,000 degree summer that Florida has gifted us thus far, I would like to say, "there is hope". I recently saw a display of "fall themed" beverages at a local grocery store, signifying that the weather in Florida may eventually cool off, by at least a few degrees. Now, the real encouragement of fall's impending arrival is the widespread advertising of "pumpkin spiced" everything.

Summer has been a busy time for many agencies in Region 7. Many organizations had activities that engage our youth such as traditional summer camps and many of them invite their local law enforcement to speak or engage with their participants at their camps. However, other ways to engage include West Palm Beach Police Department's "Pop-Up Basketball Slam" or the Fort Pierce Police Department's involvement in the Great American Raft Race where the officers raced kids in homemade rafts. Lets just say nobody drowned or was washed out to sea.

School did start for most in the beginning of August and a lot of activity revolved around "Back to School" bashes along with safety awareness relating to the student's return to school. All that activity was mixed in with the annual National Night Out events. There were events of all scales in cities and counties across Florida. However, one such event was done in a slightly different way. Jupiter Police Department organized a city-wide National Night Out first responders vehicle parade which ended at a local baseball stadium with a free baseball game and other free activities and fireworks.

Planning for fall and the upcoming holiday season has also begun, as evidenced by Vero Beach Police Department's social media post regarding a Halloween event in the Sebastian area. It may sound like it's still a while out but trust me, the holiday season will be in full swing before you know it. Planning is key to making all activities fun and enjoyable but more importantly, safe and this is where you all come in to collectively make it all safe.

In the meantime, continue to do what you do best. Engage, educate, network and make your community a safer and more enjoyable place to live, work and play in. I hope to see many of you at our annual conference in October. Our FCPA Board of Directors are beginning to put the final touches on the conference's planning. We will be back in Orlando Florida this year and there is still time to sign up. We hope to see you or your team members at this year's conference.



Florida Crime Prevention Association



# News from Around the State

# REGION



By Peter Judge, Region 8 Director

In Region 8, during the fall months the leaves don't change colors, the temperature doesn't start to drop, the palm trees remain green, the water is warm and Americans in the northern states plan their vacations to come visit us to avoid the cold.

Fall also means the start of Hurricane Season, with many crime prevention units attending hurricane preparedness meetings and conducting readiness drills. Many police agencies will be participating in National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, giving them an opportunity to meet the public. School will also be back in session for Region 8, which means it's time to dust off your Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) curriculum and get back in the classroom.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) also held a DARE Officer certification class in Miami, with several new officers from Region 8, becoming certified.

Agencies in Region 8 also held gun buy back events, bike safety events and attended neighborhood watch meetings. School supplies were collected with the anticipation of backpack giveaway events occurring just prior to the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

The Southeast Florida Crime Prevention Association (SFCPA) held a Stop The Bleed (STB) class at the Plantation Police Department and certified nine new STB instructors.

It's not always about hurricanes and crime prevention in Region 8. A few other things to look forward to during the fall months are the start of Florida Lobster Season on August 6<sup>th</sup>, and the start of Florida Stone Crab Season on October 15<sup>th</sup>.



# News from Around the State

# REGION



By James Klewicki, Region 9 Director

Across Region 9, law enforcement agencies remain steadfast in their commitment to building safer communities through proactive policing, public education, and strong community partnerships. A wide range of programs are in place to empower residents, protect vulnerable populations, and reduce crime through early intervention and awareness.

Community engagement remains a top priority. Agencies offer Neighborhood Watch programs, Citizens' Police Academies, and crime prevention workshops covering topics such as scam awareness, identity theft prevention, residential security, and active-shooter response. Officers regularly provide presentations on gun safety, encouraging secure storage and responsible ownership to prevent accidental injury or misuse.

Youth-focused efforts include the Crash Free Program, aimed at promoting teen driver safety, and the Laced and Lethal Program, which educates students and families about the dangers of counterfeit pills and fentanyl-laced narcotics. These are complemented by School Resource Officers who foster safe learning environments, and by youth mentorship initiatives like Law Enforcement Explorers and Youth Activities Leagues, which provide leadership training and promote career development in public safety.

In the area of traffic enforcement, agencies participate in high-visibility operations such as Operation Southern Slowdown and Excessive Speed Enforcement details. These campaigns are designed to reduce speed-related crashes and reinforce safe driving behavior across all roadways in Region 9. In addition, bicycle safety is supported through public awareness events and e-bike registration programs, which help deter theft and promote responsible riding.

Waterways are also patrolled with a focus on boating safety, ensuring compliance with state regulations and educating the public on the importance of life jackets, sober operation, and navigation rules. Officers are trained to respond to marine-related emergencies while promoting safety during peak boating seasons.

Law enforcement in Region 9 also prioritizes inclusion and support for individuals with unique needs. The Autism Support Project provides deputies with specialized training and resources to ensure compassionate and informed responses during encounters with individuals on the autism spectrum. This initiative strengthens trust and improves communication with affected families throughout our communities.

Technological advancements and interagency coordination enhance our capabilities to respond swiftly and effectively. Programs such as ReUnite use drones, bloodhounds, and aviation units to help locate missing or endangered individuals. Meanwhile, construction site watch efforts, targeted patrols, and real-time intelligence are used to prevent theft and unauthorized activity in vulnerable areas.

Whether through youth outreach, safety education, or focused enforcement, Region 9's law enforcement professionals are united in their mission to safeguard the communities they serve. These comprehensive efforts reflect a shared belief: that prevention, visibility, and community trust are key to long-term public safety.



Are You Ready?

# CONFERENCE '25

In today's changing environment, it is more important than ever for crime prevention professionals to educate themselves and stay on top of new laws, trends and technology to map their path to success. The FCPA Crime Prevention Conference makes it possible to accomplish all of that in one place. We have all the experts and tools to help you map the future. Make your plans now to attend!

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Crime Prevention Officers & staff
- Homeland Security Analyst
- DARE Officers
- School Resource Officers
- Law Enforcement Administration
- Security Officers
- Community Police Officers
- Community Liaison Officers
- Loss Prevention Managers
- Government Officials
- American Society for Industrial Security Members
- Business owners
- Security personnel
- Law Enforcement personnel

Attendees, Exhibitors and Sponsors can register online at:  
<https://conference.floridacrimeprevention.org/registration2.html>

# Southern States Crime Prevention ANNUAL CONFERENCE **CALL FOR SPEAKERS**



The Florida Crime Prevention Association is looking for dynamic presentations for our 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference that provides how-to content, best practices, and thought-provoking ideas. All with a focus on how to reach new levels of performance and motivate the pursuit of excellence in Crime Prevention.

2025 Conference Dates: October 20 – 24, 2025  
Drury Plaza Hotel Orlando, Lake Buena Vista, FL

<http://Conference.FloridaCrimePrevention.org>

We are especially interested in train-the-trainer programs that are ready to roll out to the community. Attendees express a strong desire for presentations that are engaging, enjoyable, and applicable in the “real world” of crime prevention. Other desirable features:

- Leading-edge information and emerging trends in the field of crime prevention.
- Practical strategies for improvement and innovative, non-traditional approaches.
- Tangible implementation tool(s) such as PowerPoints and handouts.

All classes must be train-the-trainer. Our attendees should be able to take what has been presented and institute it in their communities. Speakers can create two PowerPoints – one for the train-the-trainer and one for our members to take back and use in their community.

Here are a few topic ideas:

- Building Bridges between Law Enforcement and the Community
- Cybercrime
- Youth Crime Prevention
- Human Trafficking Education
- Crime Prevention for College Students
- Internet Safety
- Outstanding Agency Prevention Programs
- Social Media
- Auto Theft Prevention
- Latest in alarms, cameras and other Crime Prevention Technology
- Health & Fitness for Crime Prevention Officers “Eating and Staying Healthy on the Run”
- CPTED for Houses of Worship and Schools



# Southern States Crime Prevention ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

## **BE A WINNER!**

### **Submit your 2025 Award Nominations**

Awards packets for the 2025 Annual Southern States Crime Prevention Conference are now available online at <https://conference.floridacrimeprevention.org/awards2.html>.

Final submissions are due by 5pm no later than  
September 19, 2025.

Categories include the following:

- Outstanding Crime Prevention Program
- Crime Prevention Volunteer of the Year
- Crime Prevention Unit of the Year - Large Agency
- Crime Prevention Unit of the Year - Small Agency
- Crime Prevention Practitioner of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Award - the Lifetime Achievement Award is presented solely at the discretion of the FCPA Board of Directors to a person who has spent at least 10 years in the Crime Prevention field and has proven their dedication to the area of Crime Prevention.

