

August 2026

Dear CATS-

Happy August!

ANNOUNCEMENT: After pioneering the CATS Program our Education Coordinator, Savannah Rudolph, will be moving on to a new chapter. She will be leaving the Visit Central Florida team. August 16th will be her last day at the Welcome Center. We appreciate all she has done. We are excited for the CATS next paw (or step)! Stay tuned to meet our new Education Coordinator. Tours will resume in October.



"We hosted the very first CATS Tour in November of 2018. As I look back on the program, I am so proud of how much we've grown! Over 800 people are involved with the CATS Program! It has been a privilege to create this community of local brand ambassadors."

"I've had so much fun learning alongside you! I won't be far. I will be Polk County's new Cultural Resource Coordinator. Come say hi and explore the History Center!"

"I'm looking forward to my new role and becoming a Purr-Fessional! Maybe I can host a CATS Exclusive Tour at the History Center."

"Thank you, CATS!"

-Savannah



CERTIFIED AMBASSADORS OF TOURISM AND SPORTS

CATS can be anyone* passionate about Central Florida: whether you're a longtime resident, new resident, or a snowbird. We aim to assist all visitors to Polk County!

CATS are eligible for CATS Exclusive Tours 🚌, CATS Shirts 🧕, and CATS Stickers 🍷. All CATS swag must be picked up at the Welcome Center in Davenport.

Click here to sign up and complete the CATS Online Course to become a Certified Ambassador of Tourism and Sports!



CATS Purr-fessionals

Are you a Certified Ambassador of Tourism and Sports AND working in Polk County's Hospitality Industry? Make sure to let our Education Coordinator know! You may be eligible for Purr-fessional exclusives!

[Click here to email our Education Coordinator to confirm you are the Purr-fessional list!](#)

Purr-fessionals are eligible for CATS Exclusive Tours 🚌, CATS Shirts 🧢, CATS Pins 📌, CATS Stickers 📄, Purr-fessional Industry Tours 🚌, and Industry Awards 🏆. Purr-fessionals are also eligible for CATS shirt and CATS sticker delivery.

🐱📧 PURR-FESSIONAL UPDATE: Our Exclusive CATS Purr-fessional Tour on June 19th was canceled; however, those who signed up will be automatically enrolled into the CATS Exclusive Tour on July 10th.



EduCATS

Are you a Certified Ambassador of Tourism and Sports AND earning a degree in Hospitality and Tourism? Make sure to let our Education Coordinator know! You may be eligible for EduCATS exclusives!

[Click here to email our Education Coordinator to confirm you are the EduCATS list!](#)

EduCATS are eligible for CATS Exclusive Tours 🚌, CATS Shirts 🧢, CATS Pins 📌, CATS Stickers 📄, and EduCATS Industry Tours 🚌.



Kittens

Polk County Public School students will soon be able to earn their Certified Ambassadors of Tourism and Sports Certificate to begin their journey in Polk County's Hospitality and Tourism industry!

We are hoping to get students at Ridge Community High School and Davenport High School onboarded this Fall!

Kittens are eligible for CATS pins 📌, stickers 📄, and a graduation ceremony 🎓.



Only CATS who have completed the CATS Online Course are eligible for tours.
All CATS Exclusive Tour invitations will be emailed to those who have completed the course.

Last Month...



The CATS had an exclusive tour with **Winter Haven Food Tours** in July!

This was the CATS 🐱 very first food tour! The tour was an amazing way to introduce the CATS to local businesses in Downtown Winter Haven. 😊

We visited:

- ☕ Richard's Coffee ☕ to enjoy a drink of our choice and a pistachio muffin.
- 🏛️ Greater Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce building 🏛️ to witness Gene Leedy architecture.
- 🎵 Gram Parsons Derry Down 🎵 to learn about Winter Haven lore.
- 🍔 Adler's 🍔 to sample iconic burgers & The Smokin' Ox's fried green tomatoes.
- 🍷 Lucille's 🍷 for a 'Key West State of Mind' mocktail.
- 🍷 Sauvage 🍷 for Kilauea Nachos.
- 🍷 The Treasured Olive 🍷 for samples and gelato.
- 🛒 & the first Publix. 🛒

The CATS are excited to share these local businesses with Polk County visitors! 🎉

If you'd like to go on a food tour with our excellent guide, please reach out to Amada and visit the **Winter Haven Food Tours website**. 🖥️

NOTICE:

CATS Tours will return in October with the new Visit Central Florida Education Coordinator.



Welcome Center

📍 101 Adventure Court, Davenport, FL 33837

Find all the fun **information** about Polk County here! Sample fresh squeezed Florida **orange juice**. Purchase **discount tickets** from Central Florida's amazing attractions. Explore the USA Water Ski and Wake Sports Hall of Fame **Museum**. Relax at our **fish pond**. Enjoy our **WELCOME mural**. Check out our **library** vending machines. Send a **FREE postcard**. And browse our Purely Polk Marketplace **giftshop**.

Events at the Welcome Center



Water Ski & Water Sports Hall of Fame Tours at the Welcome Center Every second Tuesday | 10AM

Explore the last century of water skiing and wake sports with an expert from the field! See highlights from the nine disciplines, starting with the skis that started it all in the Water Ski Capital of the World! [Click here for more info!](#)



Back to School Bash

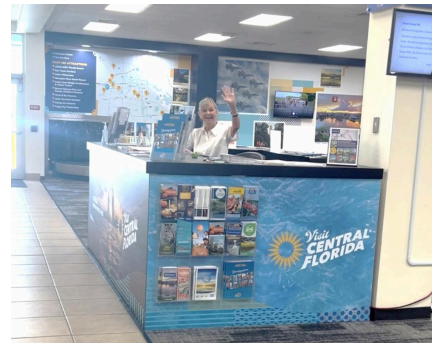
August 1 | 9AM-12PM

Start the year with the Welcome Center Back to School Bash! It's that time of year again, as kids and parents get ready for the new school year. We'll be giving away backpacks, school supplies, and the chance to have your picture drawn by a caricature artist! Free Backpacks for the first 500 students (child must be present to receive the backpack). School Supplies: Vendors will be on site giving away additional school supplies and other kid-friendly items. [Click here for more info!](#)



Welcome Workshop

📍 LEGOLAND Florida Resort



Welcome Desk

📍 Lakeland Linder International Airport



Welcome Lounge

📍 RP Funding Center



Welcome on Wheels

📍 Coming to an event near you!



Visit Central Florida's Visitor Experience Team and the Welcome Center is excited to announce the launch of its official Instagram and Facebook pages!

Now, visitors and locals alike can stay connected and up-to-date with the latest events, attractions, travel tips, and exciting happenings throughout the county. By following these social media platforms, you'll get insider information, special offers, and a closer look at everything Central Florida and the Visitor Experience Team has to offer. Be sure to follow them today to explore the best of Central Florida and make the most of your visit!

**Follow Visit Central Florida's
Visitor Experience Team on
Instagram**

**Follow Visit Central Florida's
Visitor Experience Team on
Facebook**

🐱👁️ **CLODGER CONFIDENTIAL:** Come to the Welcome Center and show staff that you are following either the Visit Central Florida Visitor Experience Instagram or Facebook pages to receive a **CATS STICKER!**

Passes

DISCOVER, SIP, SAVOR & EXPLORE POLK COUNTY

From colorful murals to mouthwatering BBQ and refreshing craft brews, our free Visit Central Florida Passes help you experience the best of Polk County like a local.



Sunshine Savings Pass

Enjoy exclusive deals and discounts from local attractions, restaurants, and shops — perfect for exploring more for less!



Adventure on Tap: Central Florida Craft Beer Pass

Discover local breweries and sip your way through Polk County. Enjoy exclusive discounts and earn prizes when you check in.



Fire & Flavor BBQ

Trail Pass

Follow the scent of smoky perfection and taste your way through Polk County's best BBQ joints while saving along the way.

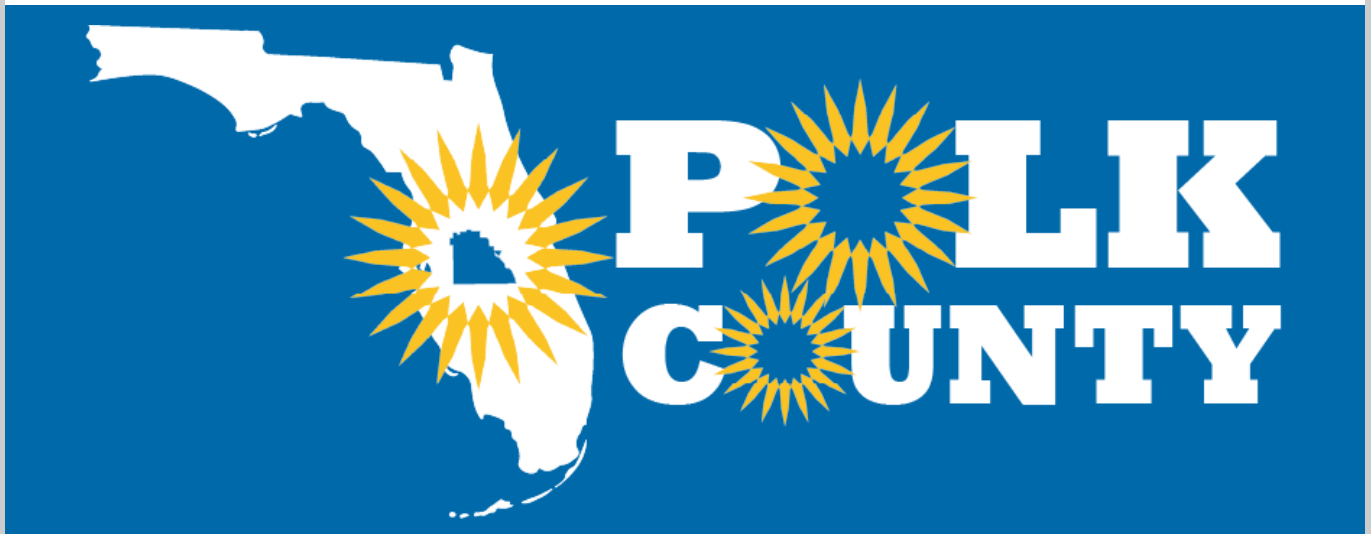


Mural Magic Pass

Explore the art that brings our communities to life. Visit stunning murals across the county, snap photos, check in, and earn rewards along the way.

[Sign up for passes here](#)

🐱👁️ CLODDER CONFIDENTIAL: New passes may be coming soon! 🍊🍷



[Check out our Visit Central Florida Event Page for more fun!](#)

[Download the 'What's Happening in Polk County' Flyer here.](#)

View digital guides from Visit Central Florida



Avelo Air & Lakeland International Airport

[Learn more about flying out of LAL here.](#)

ANY QUESTIONS?

[Email our Education Coordinator](#)

Thank you, CATS!



Visit Central Florida | 101 Adventure Court | Davenport, FL 33837 US

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