

Florida Panther Festival Held Annually Every Fall

North Collier Regional Park
Naples, Florida
FREE ADMISSION

Statement of Purpose:

The Florida Panther Festival will increase awareness of the endangered Florida panther while promoting the safe coexistence of people, pets, livestock and panthers by fostering community-wide appreciation of the Florida panther and the unique Florida ecosystems that serve as panther habitat.

Objectives for Festival:

1. To educate residents and visitors to South Florida about the management needs of the Florida panther and to heighten the awareness for the maintenance and protection of panther habitat through not only the core panther population area but practical expansion areas in Florida.
2. To conduct the Festival as a free entertaining, educational, fun-filled event, combined with field-based learning opportunities.
3. To establish the Festival with interactive educational experiences that foster a broadened understanding of living and recreating in panther country and that promotes personal safety and the protection of livestock and pets.
4. To make the Festival a self-sustaining event that not only develops public and private partnerships but empowers the private community partners to become Festival leaders.

Who's Involved: Collier County Parks and Recreation; Defenders of Wildlife; Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention and Visitor Bureau; Collier County Audubon; US Fish & Wildlife Service; Friends of Florida Panther Refuge; Big Cypress National Preserve; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; Florida Gulf Coast University's Wings of Hope Program; and CREW Land and Water Trust.

Festival Activities: Family-oriented education and entertainment activities focused on Florida panther conservation and awareness, including children's games and crafts, music, speaker presentations, trail walks, livestock enclosure displays, living with wildlife pavilion, panther and conservation exhibits, arts and craft sales, food vendors, and field trips to panther habitat and conservation areas the day before the Festival.

