



PRESS RELEASE

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Florida Springs Institute to Host Second Give Springs a Break Event for College Students, April 10-12, 2015, in High Springs

GAINESVILLE, FL – The Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute in partnership with the UF chapter of the American Water Resources Association will host its second Give Springs a Break event from Friday, April 10, 2015, through Sunday, April 12, 2015, at Ginnie Springs Outdoors, 5000 NE 60th Avenue, High Springs, Florida.

Registration options for the event include \$65 for overnight weekend camping; \$50 for Friday or Saturday overnight camping; and \$35 for all-day access on Saturday only. Students can register for the event online at:

www.floridaspringsinstitute.org/events

“As with all parts of the formerly untainted environment we share with nature, springs are also being harmed and are losing their pristine water quality, their life-nourishing flows and the plants and wildlife that were once so abundant,” explained FSI Executive Director Dr. Robert Knight. “It is for this reason that the UF chapter of the American Water Resources Association is partnering with the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute to raise the awareness of college students about the challenges facing healthy springs. There is still time enough to turn the tide of the loss of water quality and quantity at North Florida’s springs”.

Last year, over 50 students from nine different colleges and universities attended the Institute's first Give Springs a Break event, which featured educational speakers on springs ecology, cave diving, and student advocacy.

"Give Springs a Break is such an incredibly unique experience that allows Florida students the opportunity to interact with some of the most well respected scientists, explorers, advocates, and policy makers in springs related fields," said University of Florida student Emily Taylor. "Meeting other students from around the state who share similar interests and passions for our environment, but are involved in different fields of study, and seeing how those diverse fields can work together for our Florida springs was truly inspiring. The education intertwined with the beauty and recreation of the springs has easily made Give Springs a Break one of my favorite college experiences thus far."

The list of speakers for this year's event includes hydrogeologist and groundwater modeler, Dr. Todd Kincaid, systems ecologist, Dr. Bob Knight, and cave diver Jill Heinerth. Environmental scientist, Debbie Segal, will cover basic springs ecology, and James Taylor of the UNF Environmental Center will discuss the importance of environmental advocacy and how students can take steps at their schools to promote sustainability. Additional speakers are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

Students will also have plenty of opportunity to explore the nearby Santa Fe River and surrounding springs on Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday afternoon representatives from Swamp Head Brewery will be on hand to release the local brewery's new Blonde Ale, Eternal, that was brewed in collaboration with the Florida Springs Institute. Swamp Head will talk about the beer and their efforts to protect Florida's springs, and students over age twenty-one will be the first Floridians to taste this new beer.

For more information about *Give Springs a Break*, contact Heather Culp at 386-462-1003.

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