

The Florida Manatee Festival

The Florida Manatee Festival, a two-day event, offers visitors the opportunity to view the manatee in its own environment. The festival is hosted by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, the City of Crystal River, and the Rotary Club of Crystal River.

24th Annual Florida Manatee Festival

January 22 & 23, 2011

US Hwy 19 & Citrus Avenue in Historic

Downtown Crystal River

The Manatee Festival promises a vast array of interests for its visitors. A Fine Art show will host exhibitors from around the United States, featuring items from watercolor artwork to breathtaking photography as well as sculptures, stained glass and unique one of a kind handmade jewelry. These are just a few samples of the variety provided by the Fine Artists. Live entertainment will be provided continuously during this two-day event.

2010 Florida Manatee Festival Sponsors

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<http://citruscountychamber.com>

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St. Petersburg Times

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Copp Winery

The Port Hotel & Marina

Fine Art Hosted by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, this show is juried and cash prizes, along with ribbons are awarded to artists of outstanding merit. The show is judged in five categories: Division I: Oils, acrylics, mixed media Division II : Watercolors, graphics, drawings & pastels Division III: Photography Division IV: Three dimensional fine arts-original in sculpture, stained glass, pottery, textiles, etc. Division V : Jewelry

All work must be original productions of the exhibiting artist. No commercial reproductions or mass produces items are to be displayed. The following items are not accepted into the fine art section of the show: knitting, toys, dolls, stuffed animals, picture frames, velvet paintings, kites, windsocks, live plants, decoupage, magnets, shell craft, kaleidoscopes or instruments, pre-cast pottery, ceramics from commercial molds and anything made from kits

[Click Below for 2011 Fine Artist Application](#)

[2011 Manatee Festival Fine Artist Application](#)

Children's Activities

There is always lots of fun in the children's area! Activities run throughout the entire weekend and are hosted by Childhood Development Services. Sack races, games, crafts and lots more will fill your child's afternoon! There is also a rock climbing wall, pony rides, bounce house, face painting and much more!

Manatee Education

Posters of the endangered manatee have been made by local students and will be on display throughout the festival grounds. Continuous movies will also be on display to provide Manatee Education information to all visitors as well as Manatee Education booths designated to enhance the awareness on our endangered manatees.

Food

The aroma of mouth watering food will tempt your palate as you stroll through the food court within the festival. Take advantage of all the many items offered by seafood vendors who know how to make an inviting array of delectable seafood plates! Kettle Korn, cotton candy, elephant ears, hamburgers, hot dogs, sandwiches, tasty bakery treats and much much more will be sure to keep you from going home hungry! Over 25 food booths to choose from should guarantee you to find something you like!

Click Below for Food Vendor Application

2011 Manatee Festival Food Vendor Application

Entertainment

Various live entertainment is presented throughout the weekend and is included in the cost of admission! A "Sounds Like Buffet to Me" contest is also hosted with great prizes! Pre-Admission is required.

Crafters

Sponsored and hosted by the Rotary Club of Crystal River, over 150 craft vendors will be out all weekend to bring to you a tremendous variety of woodwork, jewelry, clothing, collectibles, country craft, crochet, children's toys, knitted work and much more! Crafters may call 417-1160 for entry information. No commercial entries will be accepted.

[Click here for an Arts & Crafts Application.](#) Or email to manateefestival@crystalriverrotary.com.

Manatee Tours

During the festival, you'll have an opportunity to take a manatee tour and see the manatee in its natural environment for a nominal fee. This year, folks will also be able to take a Manatee Helicopter tour for a fee as well.

Beer & Wine Garden

A Beer and Wine Garden will be there for our patrons 21 and over! Live entertainment will be featured at the Garden as well as large screen televisions for the sports lovers.

Location & Admission

Festival is located in the heart of downtown Crystal River. This quaint location is right off of US Hwy. 19, about an hour north of Tampa and two hours west of Orlando. Admission into the event is \$3 for adults. Boat tours are at an additional cost. Tickets for the boat rides can be purchased only at the Chamber information tent inside of the festival, during festival hours. Tickets for boat rides are limited and are sold on a first-come first-serve basis. Tickets are not sold in advance. [Click here for a map.](#) There is also a convenient shuttle service offered at the northern end of the Crystal River Mall, just blocks from the event. This provides adequate parking and the convenience of being picked up at your car and arriving directly at the festival gate. Cost for this is \$1 per person for a round-trip ride. Handicap transportation is also available!

Contact Information

For additional information or if you are interested in participating in the Florida Manatee Festival, please call the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce at 352-726-2801 or email suzanne@citruscountychamber.com

