

Policy on Non-Admission of Criminal Gang Members

The Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair and events held at and upon the grounds of the Fairgrounds and Lee Civic Center are family events held for the citizens of the State of Florida. Hundreds of thousands of citizens visit the Southwest Florida & Lee County Fairgrounds during the Annual Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair each year to see exhibits of Florida's abundant agricultural, industrial, and social achievements. The purpose of this policy is to give notice of the Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair Association, Inc. security policies that ensure the safety, well-being and enjoyment of persons visiting the Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair and all other events held at or on the Fairgrounds and Lee Civic Center.

Lee County Sheriff's Deputies, both uniformed and plain clothed, will be on duty at the Lee Civic Center and the Southwest Florida & Lee County Fairgrounds during the Fair and other events.

The Florida Legislature has recognized that the State of Florida has a compelling interest in preventing criminal gang activity and has enacted Chapter 874, Florida Statutes, known as the Criminal Gang Prevention Act. The Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair Association, Inc., as a public body corporate and politic of the State of Florida, has a policy that no criminal gang members be admitted to and Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair Association Inc.'s licensed event.

Lee County Sheriff's Deputies will assist Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair Association, Inc. representatives with the identification of known criminal gang members as they enter the grounds of the Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair Association, Inc. This will be accomplished through investigators' personal knowledge and experience with individuals and group criminal gang members and corroborated with specific behaviors and actions of known criminal gang members, i.e., wearing gang clothing, flashing gang signs and/or attempting entry with a group (two or more) of known criminal gang members, as described in Chapter 874, Florida Statutes.

Identified criminal gang members (meeting the criteria established above) will be stopped as they attempt to enter the grounds of the Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair Association, Inc., advised they are not allowed to attend the licensed event, issued a trespass notice and escorted off the property.

The same process will occur if known criminal gang members are identified within the grounds of the Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair Association, Inc., and meet the standards established above.

Any individuals who engage in criminal gang activity or criminal gang-related activity as described in Chapter 874, Florida Statutes, while on the grounds of the Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair Association, Inc., Fairgrounds will be asked to leave the property. They will also be issued trespass notices and may be subject to criminal charges, as well as civil causes of action under F.S. §874.