

Proclamation



NATIONAL WATER SAFETY MONTH

WHEREAS May 2025, is National Water Safety Month, and the goal is to educate the public, policymakers and public health professionals about safer water practices; and

WHEREAS, drowning incidents occur due to several reasons, including: lack of swimming skills, lack of first aid skills, lack of barriers to prevent unsupervised water access, lack of close supervision, failure to maintain pool equipment leading to entrapment, failure to wear life jackets, failure to drink alcohol responsibly, and failure to recognize potential hazards such as rain-filled buckets, toilets, bath tubs, water coolers, retention ponds, canals, and neighboring pools; and

WHEREAS, drowning is the second leading cause of death in children under 5 in Polk County. Fatal and non-fatal drownings are silent events, occurring in as little as 2 inches of water. The loss of a child is heartbreaking and has rippling, long-lasting effects on the lives touched by it; and

WHEREAS, water safety education plays a vital role in the prevention of drowning and recreational water-related injuries; and

WHEREAS, it is of vital importance to communicate water safety rules and programs to families and individuals of all ages, including owners of private pools, users of public swimming facilities, or visitors of water parks; and

WHEREAS, local and national agencies such as Coalition on Injury Prevention of Polk County, Safe Kids Suncoast Coalition, City of Haines City Parks and Rec, and their partnering agencies educate Haines City residents on pool and open water safety; and

WHEREAS, the City of Haines City recognizes the important role that swimming and aquatic-related activities play in supporting good physical and mental health and enhancing the quality of life for all residents; and recognizes the ongoing efforts of the public and private sector to support water safety initiatives;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City Commission of Haines City, Florida do hereby proclaim the month of May 2025, as National Water Safety Month and extend their continued support for the efforts of local agencies to promote water safety in the City of Haines City.

Omar Arroyo, Mayor