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## **44<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Scholastic Rowing Association State Championships come to Sarasota County**

The calm waters of the lake at Nathan Benderson Park, formerly Cooper Creek Park, 2500 North Honore Ave., in Sarasota will come alive this weekend as Sarasota County Parks and Recreation welcomes the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Scholastic Rowing Association State Championships, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m., April 25-26.

The event at Benderson Park will feature 37 high school teams from across the state competing in 26 different categories. In total, Benderson Park will host more than 1,600 athletes and 273 boats. This will be the first year the event is held in Sarasota County.

"We are very excited to be hosting this event," said Sarasota County Commissioner Joe Barbetta. "Besides being one of the only freshwater lakes in the country with ideal environmental conditions for this sport, Benderson Park is a natural park and a recreational park that serves the entire community all at the same time. When you factor in the hotels, restaurants and retail venues available to residents and visitors, I believe we are sitting on a gold mine."

Parking for the event will be accessible from North Cattlemen Road. Event shuttles will provide transportation from the parking areas to the event for the duration of the competition. To get to the parking area from Interstate 75, take Exit 213 and drive about one-half mile west on University Parkway to North Cattlemen Road.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Scholastic Rowing Association State Championships.

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