



# News Release

*Alachua County Sheriff's Office*

*Sadie Darnell, Sheriff*

*P.O. Box 5489 Gainesville, Florida 32627*

*Office (352) 367-4050 • Fax (352) 374-1808 • <http://www.alachuasheriff.org>*

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**For Immediate Release:**

**Today's Date: March 17, 2017**

**Prepared by: Lt. Brandon Kutner**

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**Media Advisory: ACSO Deputies Assigned to St. Johns County for Operation Spring Break 2017**

Since 1995, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) has assisted the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJSO) during Alachua County's week of Spring Break. Our deputies will work in cooperation with SJSO to handle patrol duties like they would in Alachua County. School Resource Deputies will conduct high visibility patrol, in progress crime detection, and the enforcement of traffic, drug, and alcohol violations on the beaches, condominiums, and hotels. The goal for this event is to identify potential problem areas, (i.e., "keg parties," disturbances, etc.) and take the necessary steps to limit injuries and property damage. These deputies will serve as a liaison between Alachua County students, the SJSO, and local condominium and hotel managers, to ensure the students safely enjoy the beaches. School Resource Deputies will be assigned to St. Johns County from Saturday, March 18th thru Saturday, March 25th.

Parents should make sure they have the name, phone, and room number of the condo or hotel where their child will be staying. If your child is staying with friends, confirm with the other parents that a responsible adult will chaperone the kids. Feel free to stop in unannounced for the day and have lunch with your kids; this will certainly keep them on their toes.

Both the ACSO and the SJSO have a Zero Tolerance for the use of alcohol by underage persons. Underage alcohol possession and/or consumption will be strictly enforced on Spring Break. Violators under the age of 21 may be subject to arrest. If your child is arrested or detained for investigative purposes, you will be contacted. In most cases, parents have driven to St. Augustine and have taken their children home.

ACSO does not condone underage drinking and is not ignorant to the fact that it takes place. Parents should inform their teenagers about the dangers of drinking and driving. Teenagers should not leave any beverages unattended or accept any drinks from people they do not trust. Teenagers should not ride with someone who has been drinking. If they cannot find a designated driver, they should contact another friend, a taxi, a rideshare service, or a Deputy Sheriff.

If an emergency exists, concerned parents may contact a deputy working during Spring Break. The deputy will do everything in his/her power to assist the parent. In extreme cases, the parent should be prepared to meet the deputy at the beach to resolve any problems.

A hotline has been established for anyone having questions or concerns regarding Alachua County student's Spring Break activities in St. Johns County. To reach an Alachua County Sheriff's Office School Resource Deputy assigned to activities in St. John's County, please call (352) 681-0484. Parents should be sure to advise their children attending spring break that if the need arises to report any life threatening or other emergency, they should immediately call 911.

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***PIO Lt. Brandon Kutner***  
***Office: (352) 367-4041***  
***Cell: (352) 260-7681***

***PIO Art Forgey***  
***Office: (352) 367-4045***  
***Cell: (352) 538-0861***