



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HICKORY POINT BEACH IN TAVARES, FL TO HOST COLLEGIATE BEACH VOLLEYBALL EVENT, FEATURING TEAMS FROM ACROSS THE US**

The Stetson Beach Invitational will be held March 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Florida's largest single-site beach volleyball complex, Hickory Point Beach. This event is free and open to the public.

**Tavares, FL – March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017** – The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is excited to host the 2017 Stetson Beach Invitational at their 21-court beach volleyball complex, Hickory Point Beach, located in Tavares, FL. This event will feature seven (7) NCAA Division I & II beach volleyball teams from across the United States. The schools include **Stetson University** (Deland, FL), **Georgia State University** (Atlanta, GA), **Jacksonville State University** (Jacksonville AL), **University of New Mexico** (Albuquerque, NM), **Florida Atlantic University** (Boca Raton, FL), **Morehead State University** (Morehead, KY) and **Lincoln Memorial University** (Harrogate, TN.)

The Stetson Beach Invitational has historically been held on the Stetson University campus. This will be the first year that it takes place at Hickory Point Beach. **Kristina Hernandez**, Stetson Volleyball Head Coach, said, "We are so excited to be partnering with the Florida Region and Hickory Point Beach to host our annual Stetson Invitational Tournament. The facility has a great layout, sits on a beautiful lake and allows us the ability to run duals on 5-6 courts to get more great competition in. We are looking forward to a great competitive event with teams from all across the country and hope to continue our relationship with the Florida Region and Hickory Point Beach for future events."

The Stetson Beach Invitational schedule is as follows:

Friday, March 17

- 9 AM: Georgia State vs. Jacksonville State
- 10 AM: New Mexico vs. FAU
- 11 AM: Stetson vs. Morehead State
- 12 PM: Georgia State vs. New Mexico
- 1 PM: FAU vs. Jacksonville State
- 2 PM: Morehead State vs. Georgia State
- 3 PM: Stetson vs. Jacksonville State
- 4 PM: Morehead State vs. New Mexico

Saturday, March 18

- 9 AM: FAU vs. Lincoln Memorial
- 10 AM: Stetson vs. Georgia State
- 11 AM: Jacksonville State vs. New Mexico
- 12 PM: Lincoln Memorial vs. Morehead State
- 1 PM: Georgia State vs. FAU
- 2 PM: Stetson vs. New Mexico
- 3 PM: Jacksonville State vs. Morehead State
- 4 PM: Lincoln Memorial vs. New Mexico

**Steve Bishop**, Executive Director and President of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball, is excited that the event will be taking place at Hickory Point Beach. He said, "The Florida Region is honored to host the annual Stetson Invitational collegiate beach volleyball event this year at Hickory Point Beach. This was one of our original goals when we built Hickory Point Beach back in 2014, to host high school and college beach volleyball events for our local community. Stetson University is one of the top programs in the country and they are hosting some well-known colleges at this year's event. We look forward to helping Stetson grow this event in the coming years and we invite the residents of Lake County and the surrounding counties to come out and support the teams."

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Hickory Point Beach was completed early July 2014. The Florida Region partnered with Lake County, Florida and Lake County Water Authority to jointly build the project on the 68-acre Hickory Point Recreational Complex, next to Lake Harris. This state-of-the art facility offers professional level net systems, stadium quality lighting, a professional speaker/intercom system, antennas & pads on every court, short court lines, 24 inches of top quality washed white sand, 20 feet minimum between courts (side-to-side) and 35 feet minimum between courts (end-to-end.)

Additional amenities available at the complex include free parking onsite, permanent restrooms, beautiful views of Lake Harris, a children's playground, outdoor showers near courts, a nature trail, a swimming area, BBQ grills with picnic table, a free boat ramp with dock access and much more. Additional information can be found at [www.HickoryPointBeach.com](http://www.HickoryPointBeach.com).

**About Florida Region of USA Volleyball:**

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is a 501c3 non-profit that began operations in the 1960's and was officially incorporated in 1982 to promote the sport of volleyball and to create competitive playing opportunities for volleyball enthusiasts of all ages throughout the State of Florida. The Florida Region is one of the 40 regional volleyball associations under the umbrella of USA Volleyball and currently serves approximately 14,000 members. Indoor and outdoor programming is available for adults, juniors, coaches and officials. The Florida Region of USA Volleyball headquarters is located in Eustis, FL. Additional information on the Florida Region can be found at: [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org).

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