



PLANT CITY CHAMPIONS FOR YOUTH

ENCOURAGE - SUPPORT - ACHIEVE

CHAMPIONS CHATTER

Plant City Champions for Youth, Inc.
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Early March, 2026

NEXT MEETING IS SET FOR MARCH 16

No meeting will be held March 3 due to the Strawberry Festival and Grand Parade Day. Our next meeting is a 3rd Monday Grill Night meeting on **Monday March 16, 6:30 pm**, but this one meeting will be held at the [United Food Bank and Services](#) facility at **702 E Alsobrook St.** We will hear about Food Bank activities for youth from **President/CEO Mary Heysek** (one youth program is on page 2 of this Chatter). We will provide pizza and drinks for this meeting. We will also discuss [Scholarships](#) (submittal portal is open through Mar 15), [Easter Egg Hunt](#) (Apr 4), Board selection (Apr 20), [Soccer Skills Challenge](#) (Apr 25), and [Law Appreciation](#) (May 4). Forward this newsletter to a new member candidate and invite them to join us – a membership form is included (hint, hint 😊)!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS KEEP ROLLING IN!

So far, six applications (five college and one vocational) have been received, but students still have until March 15 to apply! Our online scholarship portal is open for graduating seniors who have participated in Parks & Rec or Champions programming to apply. Vocational assistance scholarships are available as well as college assistance scholarships. Details and the portal links are [at this link!](#) See page 3 for the program information flyer!

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT – SATURDAY APRIL 4

Since 1989, we have been a part of the Parks & Recreation Department [Easter Egg Hunt](#). This year, the event will be at Plant City Stadium, 1810 E Park Road, on Saturday, April 4.

We need to arrive by 9:00 to set up ahead of the crowd!

The event starts at 10:00 am and continues after the egg hunt until noon with lots of fun activities for the age 3-11 participants.

Our participation includes sponsoring the “special” eggs for prizes and staffing a tent to promote our organization. We currently have **Darcy, Pat, Mike W,** and **Jack** signed up to be there. Others should come out and join us for a couple hours of interaction with our area families!

Thanks to **Darcy** and **Pat** for coordinating!



WANT TO BE A PART OF OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM?

Our fiscal year comes to a close on June 30. In April, we will select our slate of officers and board members for next fiscal year starting July 1. If you are interested in helping us on the administration side, please reply to the email bringing you this Chatter and let us know!

LOOKING AHEAD... MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- ✓ **Monday, March 2:** 1st Monday regular meeting – **canceled** due to [Strawberry Festival](#) and Grand Parade.
- ✓ **Monday, March 16:** 3rd Monday meeting, 6:30 pm, [United Food Bank of PC](#), pizza and drinks provided.
- ✓ **Saturday, April 4:** [Easter Egg Hunt](#) event, 10:00 am, Plant City Stadium.
- ✓ **Monday, April 6:** 1st Monday regular meeting, 6:30 pm, [ABC Pizza](#), 114 N Alexander St.

2025-2026 OFFICERS

Jeff Arnold, President
Jeb Hicks, Vice President
Jack Holland, Secretary/Treasurer
Walt Arnold, Sergeant at Arms



2025-2026 BOARD MEMBERS

Pat Stottlemeyer
Robert Olszewski
David Kinghorn
Jeb Hicks



Feeding Our Future

The Feeding Our Future Program is a vital piece of our organization and was created from the need to ensure children had year-round access to free nutritious meals.

During the school year, eligible children qualify for free or reduced cost breakfast and lunch through the National School Lunch Program. However, when these children are out of school for the holiday and summer vacation breaks, they don't always have the same access to food, and many are at risk of going without eating at least twice daily. When the UFB considered this crucial gap in services, the agency initiated the Feeding Our Future Program to provide children and their families' groceries to supplement the school's food program.

Now, these families are assured of having breakfast and lunch for their children throughout the calendar year. The UFB works closely with the local Hillsborough County Public Schools for the Eastern Hillsborough locations to readily identify those students eligible for participation.

Zip Codes Served:

Brandon: 33510, 33511

Dover: 33527

Dover/Sydney: 33587

Lithia: 33547

Plant City: 33563, 33564, 33565, 33566, 33567

Riverview: 33569, 33578, 33579

Seffner: 33584

Thonotosassa: 33592

Valrico: 33594, 33596

Wimauma: 33598

The Feeding Our Future Program Facts

- **950+ Weekly Weekend kids bags to local schools.**
- **Provides meals to over 15,000 children each year during out of school times including winter, spring, & summer breaks.**
- **Over 225,000 pounds of food distributed yearly through this program.**
- **Ensuring no child in our community goes hungry when schools are closed.**

Weekend Backpack Program

At United Food Bank, we feel that no child should ever have to go hungry. While the Hillsborough County School District provides children from low-income households with free breakfast and lunch while in school, many children have reported not having enough food to eat during times when school is out. UFB believes no child should have to go hungry or suffer from poor nutrition. Our Weekend Backpack program supplies children with a backpack filled with nutritional items for them to take home on Fridays, thus increasing their food security when school is out on the weekends. The program provides children the items necessary for six meals and snacks.

Break Bags

Students also face hunger when school is out for breaks. With over 14 weeks of holiday breaks and long summers without free or reduced breakfast and lunch, there is often a large gap in nutrition for families who are struggling to pay the bills. To bridge this gap UFB has the Break Bag Program. This program offers families a bag of food every week that children are out of school a week or more.

HCC Bags

Hunger doesn't just end when someone graduates high school. With the raising cost of tuition and textbooks many college students find themselves with not a lot of money left over for food. To help these students succeed the food bank has partnered with HCC and offers much needed food and toiletries to college students on a weekly basis. Allowing student to focus more on their studies and less on where their next meal is coming from.



High School Graduate
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM

Open for all Durant, Plant City, Simmons, and Strawberry Crest graduating seniors that have participated in at least one Plant City Parks & Recreation or Plant City Champions for Youth program!

Pick your Track:



Scholarships are up to \$1,000 each!

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: MARCH 15, 2026

More info: www.PCChampionsForYouth.org



SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE TWO EVENTS WE HELP CO-SPONSOR!

CITY OF PLANT CITY PARKS & RECREATION

EASTER

EGG HUNT

INFLATABLES
BUNNY PHOTOS
VENDORS
FOOD TRUCKS

**SATURDAY,
APRIL
4**

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
PLANT CITY STADIUM

EGG HUNT
STARTS AT 10:15A.M.
AGES 3-11

**\$5 CASH
PARKING**

**ALL ACTIVITIES
ARE FREE**

**OVER 20,000
EGGS!**
GOLDEN & SPORTS EGGS
HIDDEN WITH PRIZES

A vibrant poster for an Easter Egg Hunt. At the top, a large white bunny with pink ears is positioned behind the word "EASTER" in large, 3D yellow letters. Below it, a gold ribbon banner reads "EGG HUNT". The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds. In the center, a white box contains the date "SATURDAY, APRIL 4" and the time "10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. PLANT CITY STADIUM". To the left, a light blue box lists activities: "INFLATABLES, BUNNY PHOTOS, VENDORS, FOOD TRUCKS". To the right, another light blue box states "EGG HUNT STARTS AT 10:15A.M. AGES 3-11". Below these are three wooden signposts: one for "\$5 CASH PARKING", one for "ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE", and one for "OVER 20,000 EGGS! GOLDEN & SPORTS EGGS HIDDEN WITH PRIZES". The bottom of the poster features a chocolate bunny sitting in a basket of colorful eggs, surrounded by more eggs and butterflies.

FREE EVENT

29TH Annual SOCCER SKILLS CHALLENGE

 Otis M Andrews Sports Complex
(2402 E Cherry St.)

 April 25, 2026

 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
(Awards to follow)

**Ages 6-14 | Register on site |
Tennis Shoes or Cleats Required**

Dribble

Pass

Shoot

A poster for a soccer skills challenge event. The background is a soccer field with a goal net. On the left, a dark red banner says "FREE EVENT". Below it, the title "29TH Annual SOCCER SKILLS CHALLENGE" is written in large white letters. Further down, event details are listed with icons: a location pin for "Otis M Andrews Sports Complex (2402 E Cherry St.)", a calendar for "April 25, 2026", and a clock for "9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. (Awards to follow)". At the bottom, it says "Ages 6-14 | Register on site | Tennis Shoes or Cleats Required". On the right side, three small photos show children practicing soccer skills, each with a label: "Dribble", "Pass", and "Shoot". At the bottom, there are two logos: "The City of PLANT CITY" and "PLANT CITY CHAMPIONS FOR YOUTH" with the tagline "ENCOURAGE • SUPPORT • ACHIEVE".



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE*: _____
FIRST NAME*: _____ LAST NAME*: _____
MAILING ADDRESS*: _____
MAILING CITY AND STATE*: _____ ZIP*: _____
BIRTH MONTH*: _____ BIRTH DATE*: _____
MOBILE*: (_____) _____ HOME*: (_____) _____
EMAIL ADDRESS*: _____
SPOUSE / SIGNIFICANT OTHER NAME: _____
SPOUSE / SIGNIFICANT OTHER TELEPHONE - MOBILE: _____
SPOUSE / SIGNIFICANT OTHER EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
CURRENT / FORMER OCCUPATION: _____
PLANT CITY CHAMPIONS' MEMBER SPONSOR: _____
HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT PC CHAMPIONS: _____
WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES: _____
AREAS OF INTEREST (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)*:

<input type="checkbox"/>	YOUTH PROGRAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS	LOGO POLO SHIRT SIZE: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	MEMBERSHIP	<input type="checkbox"/>	FUNDRAISING	
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARKETING	<input type="checkbox"/>	WEB SITE / SOCIAL MEDIA	
<input type="checkbox"/>	CLUB LEADERSHIP (PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY/TREASURER)			

* = *REQUIRED*

**PLEASE SAVE TO YOUR COMPUTER
AND EMAIL TO US AT:
PCCHAMPIONSFORYOUTH@OUTLOOK.COM**

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- ⇒ APPROVAL OF APPLICATION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- ⇒ \$100 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (JULY 1 TO JUNE 30)
- ⇒ VOTING RIGHTS AVAILABLE TO THOSE IN GOOD STANDING
- ⇒ MEETING ATTENDANCE IS PREFERRED BUT NOT REQUIRED
- ⇒ FOCUS IS ON ASSISTANCE AT ACTIVITIES AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS