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PASCO COUNTY TDC PROVIDES SPECIAL EVENT GRANT FUNDS TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

New Port Richey, FL — The Pasco County Tourist Development Council (TDC) has grant applications available to organizations hosting special events that bring overnight visitors to Pasco County. A complete package, including all requirements, can be obtained by calling **(727) 847-8129** or by visiting the County's tourism website at **VisitPasco.net**.

The TDC views these events as opportunities to promote recreational options to visitors outside of Pasco County. The funds supporting the grant program come from the two-percent Tourist Development Tax. The tax is collected from hotels, motels, campgrounds, and short term housing rentals of less than six months. Funds awarded to organizations must be used to promote/market the special event to persons outside of Pasco County.

This year, the Council expects approximately **\$79,000** to be available. Last year the Council received grant requests totaling more than **\$195,000** and supported 22 events, including the Chasco Fiesta, Kumquat Festival, Little Everglades Steeplechase, Longleaf Triathlon, Bug Jam and many others.

Completed grant applications are due back to the Office of Tourism, 7530 Little Road, Suite 340, New Port Richey, FL, 34654, no later than **July 31, 2008**. The TDC will hear grant presentations and make its funding recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on **Sept. 16, 2008** in Dade City.

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