

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COUNCIL

The Southwest Florida Council, originally called the Royal Palm Council was founded in 1926 in Ft. Myers, Florida. At that time, it covered the territories of Lee, Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades and Hendry counties. At this early time there were approximately 191 Boy Scouts and at least 6 boy Scout troops. It's first summer camp was held at Breezy Point in Highlands County, near the village of Lake Placid. The area was later known as Camp Ropaco.

Daniel Carter Beard, one of the organizers of the Boy Scouts of America, was a friend of Barron G. Collier and was a frequent winter guest of the Colliers at one of the latter's plush Florida hotels. Barron Collier was an honorary president of the council.

In 1931 it is noted that the council ended the year with a membership of 377 Scouts. In 1933, 54 Scouts attended the World's Fair in Chicago, August 8-31. In 1935, Dan Beard spent the winter as Barron Collier's guest at the Charlotte Harbor Hotel, in Punta Gorda. He was also present for the council's Silver Beaver presentation to William A. Neal of Arcadia. It is noted that 1935 ended with 233 Boy Scouts and 28 Cub Scouts.

In 1937 Royal Palm Council merged with the Sunny Land Council, which consisted of Manatee and Sarasota Counties. The local council territories survived the war years, and the post war years with a variety of Scouting activities and events. In 1960, William G. Price, of Ft. Myers, was re-elected as council president. George Sanders, of Ft. Myers, was elected as 3rd Vice-President. 1964 saw 39 Eagle Scouts, the largest number of Eagle Scouts in one year in the council's history.

In November of 1966, the current Southwest Florida council was formed from the Sunny Land Council to include Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties. In January 1995, the Sunny Land Council merged into Southwest Florida Council, Ft. Myers Florida to become one council servicing 7 Southwest Florida Counties, which added Manatee and Sarasota Counties.

Our council properties include Camp Flying Eagle, 16009 Upper Manatee River Road, Bradenton, FL 34212. This camp is approximately 165 acres of densely wooded area on the Manatee River. Flora & fauna includes Oak, Pine, Cedar and Hickory trees along with a myriad of smaller trees and bushes. Some of the vegetation can only be found at CFE. The camp is also home to many species of birds and fish. Wildlife includes Squirrels, Fox, Raccoons, Possum, Armadillo, etc. Canoeing and row-boating activities are a must at CFE. Fresh water fish species will be found in the ponds and river. In addition, some salt-water fish species can be found in the Manatee River. Fishing is allowed. It is a great camp for "bird watching". It is situated on the Manatee River in the Manatee District of the Southwest Florida Council. The Manatee or "Singing River" provides a backdrop for the amphitheater outside the dining hall, and also provides several water activities. The unique contrast to the busy world is a favorite of many units.

Price-Sanders Scout Reservation, 38751 Bermont Road, Punta Gorda, FL, 33982. The Price-Sanders Scout Reservation, occupies 1280 acres, a section of land one mile wide and two miles deep, on the eastern boundary of the Cecil Webb Wildlife Management Area, in Charlotte county. The reservation includes two facilities: Camp Miles (for Boy Scouts and Explorers) and Camp Gannett (for Cub Scouts and their families). The reservation is located on State Road 74, 15 miles east of Punta Gorda and 3 miles west of the intersection of SR 31 and SR 74. Within the boundaries of the camp are various types of trees, plants and shrubs that are native to this portion of Florida.

The buildings on the Reservation (PSSR) include: a central dining hall, individual troop campsites, a health lodge, a trading post, archery, rifle and shotgun ranges, a chapel by the lake, and ecology lodge, a central heated shower facility, a training lodge, a swimming pool, a boating island for aquatics.

New 11/1/66

Territory (ceded by Sunnyland Council, #724, Sarasota, FL):

Collier County, FL

Lee County, FL

Charlotte County, FL - except Englewood Division

Hendry County - LaBelle Division (LaBelle city)

Glades County, FL - district 2 (Palmdale city)

January, 1995 notice: “Effective 1/1/95, Sunny Land County, #724, Sarasota, FL, merged into and became a part of Southwest Florida Council, #88, Fort Myers, FL.”

SARASOTA COUNTY COUNCIL, #101

SARASOTA, FL

New April 1928

Territory:

Sarasota County, FL

Through 1931 charter

ROYAL PALM COUNCIL, #723
FORT MYERS, FL

New January 1926

Territory:

Charlotte County, FL

Collier County, FL

DeSoto County, FL

Glades County, FL

Hendry County, FL

Lee County, FL

Through 1936 charter

SUNNYLAND COUNCIL, #724
BRADENTON, FL

New January, 1926

Territory:

Manatee County, FL

Sarasota County, FL

1929 charter - lists territory as Manatee County only

Territory Transfer - August, 1929: adds Hardee County, FL, and Highlands County, FL (formerly under **Lakeland Council**)

1930 charter - lists territory as Hardee County, FL; Highlands County, FL; and Manatee County, FL, only

February 1931 - Registration note: “remove Hardee County, FL, and Highlands County, FL, from jurisdiction of council #724”

Territory Transfer - November, 1932 - adds Sarasota County, FL (from **Direct Service**)

1933 charter - lists territory as Manatee County, FL, and Sarasota County, FL

Territory Transfer - April, 1937 - adds Charlotte County, FL; Collier County, FL; DeSoto County, FL; Glades County, FL; and Hendry County, FL - from **Direct Service** (formerly under **Royal Palm Council, #723, Fort Myers, FL**)

1938 charter - lists territory as:

Charlotte County, FL

Collier County, FL

DeSoto County, FL

Glades County, FL

Hendry County, FL

Lee County, FL

Manatee County, FL

Sarasota County, FL

1947 charter - territory change lists only “portions of Glades and Hendry counties” - others still the same

1956 charter - shows [headquarters city as Sarasota, FL](#)

1966 charter - lists territory in Glades County as “District 2 (Palmdale)” and territory in Hendry County as “LaBelle Division”

1967 charter - territory lists only:

Charlotte County, FL - Englewood Division

DeSoto County, FL

Manatee County, FL

Sarasota County, FL

Through 1994 charter

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