



3RD EDITION
MARCH 2026

www.osceolasheriff.org/newsletter

Sheriff Blackmon's Report Card



A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF CHRISTOPHER BLACKMON

As new types of motorized devices become more common, keeping children safe requires awareness both at home and in the community. Many of these vehicles may seem harmless, but when used improperly, they can lead to serious injuries and legal consequences.

At the Osceola County Sheriff's Office, we are focused on prevention and education. By working together, parents, schools, and law enforcement can help ensure that children understand the rules, make safer choices, and stay protected while using these devices.



**OSCEOLA COUNTY SHERIFF
CHRISTOPHER A. BLACKMON**

Understanding E-Bikes, Scooters, and Mopeds

More children and teens are using e-bikes, scooters, and other motorized devices. While they can be fun and convenient, they also come with safety risks and legal responsibilities that families may not fully understand.

Some vehicles, such as motorized scooters, go-peds, and pocket bikes, are not allowed on sidewalks or roadways. Riding them in these areas can lead to citations and, in some cases, criminal charges.

Safety is a growing concern, especially for younger riders. Many children are not fully aware of traffic rules or the risks around them, which increases the chance of accidents. Certain devices, like electric dirt bikes, are only meant for private property and are not street legal.

Parents should also be aware that allowing a child to operate certain motorized vehicles without a valid driver's license on public roads can result in legal consequences.

Not all devices follow the same rules. Some e-bikes may be used on bike paths or sidewalks, while others cannot. Understanding these differences helps prevent unsafe situations.

Clear expectations and simple conversations at home can go a long way in keeping children safe.

Learn more at:
www.osceolasheriff.org/understanding-e-bikes-scooters-and-mopeds





PROTECTING CHILDREN STARTS WITH AWARENESS

Protecting children and vulnerable individuals is a responsibility that goes beyond any single month. While awareness efforts help bring attention to the issue, safety depends on what we do every day as parents, educators, and community members.

April is nationally recognized as both Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. These initiatives help raise awareness, support survivors, and promote ways communities can work together to prevent harm and strengthen families. While these campaigns highlight the importance of the issue, the responsibility to protect children continues year-round.

Abuse and exploitation are not always easy to recognize. Children may not speak up directly, which is why it is important to pay attention to changes in behavior, withdrawal, fear, or sudden shifts in mood. These signs may be subtle, but they should never be ignored.

Prevention starts with open and consistent communication. Creating an environment where children feel safe to talk, ask questions, and share concerns builds trust. When they know they will be heard and supported, they are more likely to reach out when something does not feel right.

This is a shared effort. Families, schools, and the community all play a role in recognizing concerns and responding early. Staying aware and involved can prevent situations from escalating.



Speaking up can make a difference and help protect someone who may not be able to speak for themselves.

By staying engaged and informed year-round, we can create safer spaces where children feel protected, supported, and able to grow with confidence.



When **Safety** Means the **Unexpected**

School safety often brings to mind classrooms and daily routines. In Florida, it can sometimes mean something very different.

Sergeant Drew, a trained Snake & Gator Wrangler and member of our School Resource Officers unit, plays a critical role in keeping students and school communities safe—including handling encounters with local wildlife. With many lakes and natural areas in Osceola County, alligator sightings near schools are not uncommon.

When these situations occur, quick and informed action is essential. Sergeant Drew has safely responded to incidents, ensuring students and staff remain protected while the animals are relocated without harm.

These moments also serve as a reminder for families and educators. Children may not fully understand the risks of wildlife encounters, making guidance and supervision essential. Sergeant Drew's work exemplifies the broader mission of our SRO unit: staying prepared, adapting to the unexpected, and protecting both people and wildlife.

GATOR SAFETY TIPS

- Keep a safe distance, never approach or try to interact with an alligator
- Never feed alligators, it is illegal and increases dangerous behavior
- Keep children and pets away from the water's edge, especially in lakes and ponds
- Stay calm and move away slowly if you encounter one
- Teach children to alert an adult immediately if they see a gator



ON DUTY WITH...



Jack Drew: Passion and Skills Beyond the Badge

Off duty, Sergeant Drew is a craftsman, adventurer, and creator. From woodworking and leatherwork to backyard blacksmithing, chainmail, and knives, he turns imagination into skill.

An avid science fiction reader and horseman, Sgt Drew brings the same passion and focus to life outside the badge as he does on duty.



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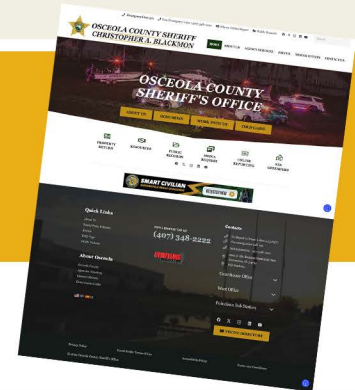
PROGRAMS THAT INSPIRE



Cookies with a Cop

Through *Cookies with a Cop*, deputies visit local schools to share cookies, stories, and conversation with students. These events help kids get to know their school officers, ask questions, and build trust, while fostering positive connections between law enforcement and the community.

Visit our website to see what's coming up:
www.osceolasheriff.org/ocso-events



Have a question? Call us!
(407) 348-2222

Or send a message:
www.osceolasheriff.org/newsletter

Osceola County Sheriff's Office

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WATCHED
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