Registration

- To take part in this competition, you must register online for the 2021 Florida Python Challenge® and pay the registration fee.
  1. The registration fee is $25.
  2. Individuals can register in one of two competition categories:
- Professional: Includes paid python removal contractors for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) or the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)
  - Any person who registers under "Novice" that is currently a paid python removal contractor will be moved to the "Professional" category.
  - "Professional" participants must follow their respective contract requirements when participating in the competition as paid contractors. When participating as paid contractors, "Professionals" are allowed special access in the Competition Locations as allowed by their contracts.
- Novice: Includes anyone that does not fall in the "Professional" Category.
- Additional United States of America Military Recognition: Active Duty Military Personnel and Veterans may be eligible for additional prizes.
- Any Florida Python Challenge® participant may only win one prize. If an individual is eligible for more than one prize, they will be awarded the prize of the highest value and the runner-up for that category will be awarded the remaining prize.

NOTE: Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida (FWFF), FWC, SFWMD and NPS employees may register and participate in the Florida Python Challenge® but shall not be eligible for any prizes. Similarly, University of Florida (UF) staff collecting official data as part of this event are ineligible for prizes.

- You must be 18 years of age or older to register for the Florida Python Challenge®. Children under 18 years old may accompany a registered adult. Parents accept all liability for their children's participation.
- Once registered for the Florida Python Challenge®, you will receive an email notification confirming your registration was completed successfully. **This notification, whether hard copy or electronic, must be carried with you while participating.**
- Upon completion of the required online training, all participants must agree to a waiver of liability for themselves and any youth accompanying them.
- Registrants may not have had any prior convictions for fish or wildlife violations or animal cruelty, including violations of Title 68, Florida Administrative Code, or Chapters 379 or 828, Florida Statutes.

NOTE: If you have been involuntarily terminated from a python removal contractor or volunteer authorized agent program for any reason other than not meeting minimum hour or catch requirements or failure to follow data submission policies or procedures, you are ineligible to register and participate in the Florida Python Challenge® and shall not be eligible for any prizes.

- Before registering for the Florida Python Challenge® you are required to take the Florida Python Challenge® Online Training. Please reserve about 30 minutes to complete this learning module. While you may take the training as many times as you like, you must complete the training and

pass the quiz at the end by scoring at least 80% in order to register for the Florida Python Challenge®.

- During registration, Florida Python Challenge® participants must agree to a statement that all their python submissions and corresponding datasheets will be true and accurate. Any occurrences of fraud may result in criminal prosecution.
- Registration paid to the FWFF is non-refundable. Registration funds will support this event and future non-native species removal activities.

Competition Locations

Registered participants may remove Burmese pythons from the following competition locations and must abide by all other specific area regulations:

- Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
- Everglades and Francis S. Taylor WMA
- Frog Pond Public Small Game Hunting Area
- Holey Land WMA
- Rocky Glades Public Small Game Hunting Area
- Rotenberger WMA
- Southern Glades WEA

Check Station Locations and Hours

Area Maps

Collecting Burmese Pythons

- The Florida Python Challenge® python removal competition occurs from 8:00 a.m. Friday, July 9 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, July 18, 2021.
- You must carry a copy of your Florida Python Challenge® registration notification in your possession, either paper or electronic, when participating in the competition.
- Anyone under the age of 18 must be supervised by a registered adult when removing Burmese pythons during the competition.
- Only Burmese pythons removed from the Competition Locations during the Florida Python Challenge® are valid entries for the competition. Registered participants are responsible for reviewing and following all Competition Rules.
- The use of firearms to take pythons during this competition is prohibited.
- Air guns may be used to humanely kill captured pythons during daylight hours only.
- The use of gun and light at night is prohibited. Artificial light may be used at night to aid in locating and capturing pythons.
- Taking pythons with an air gun on, from or across levees or the right-of-way of roads is prohibited.
- Pythons must be humanely killed at the Competition Location at which they are found and turned in dead at the nearest accessible Florida Python Challenge® check station. **Live transport of pythons outside of any Competition Location is prohibited except by "Professional" participants acting in their capacity as paid contractors.**

- Check stations are open from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. each day of the competition. On the last day of the competition Sunday, July 18, 2021 the check stations will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 5 p.m. If you collect a python outside of the check station hours, pythons **must be humanely killed prior to leaving the Competition Location** and submitted to the nearest accessible check station within 24 hours of capture.
- Use of off-road vehicles (ORV) including all-terrain vehicles (ATV) is prohibited within the Big Cypress WMA during the annual ORV closure period: June 1, 2021 through July 30, 2021. This annual closure is necessary for visitor and resource protection as outlined in the 2000 Final Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Recreational Plan Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. For additional information about the ORV program, visit: Off-Road Vehicle Use - Big Cypress National Preserve (U.S. National Park Service).
- Removing pythons from rights-of-way is subject to the rules of the specific areas in which they are located.
- Use of drones or other unmanned aircraft systems is prohibited in Big Cypress WMA. Registrants interested in using drones on SFWMD properties must obtain an Event Authorization in advance of conducting these activities.
- Commercial recreational activities, such as but not limited to airboat rides, guide services, or other tourist services are prohibited in Conservation Area 3A South (south of I-75 and west of the Miami Canal) in Everglades and Francis S. Taylor WMA, unless authorized by the Miccosukee Tribe, which has the exclusive right to provide such services in the leased area.
- Commercial operations in Big Cypress WMA, including commercial filming, require a permit from NPS in advance of conducting these activities. For more information visit https://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/filmingandphotograpy-permits.htm.
- Parking or driving airboats or other vehicles on tree islands or the surrounding fringe vegetation is prohibited. Cutting, damaging or removing any natural, manmade or cultural resources is also prohibited, including cutting down vegetation on tree islands. Do not remove anything from the Florida Python Challenge® Competition Locations other than Burmese pythons or other nonnative reptiles as authorized by Executive Order 20-17. Participants will be disqualified if they kill a native snake.
- Road-killed Burmese pythons are not counted towards the competition, but the FWC would like to receive reports of any pythons seen. Please provide the roadkill data to IveGot1.org.
- Snake hooks, snake tongs, snake bags, noose poles and long-handled non-motorized tools may be used to capture Burmese pythons by hand.
- Use of traps, bait, explosives, chemicals, smoke and motorized tools is prohibited.
- Florida state statutes require that harvested pythons must be killed humanely. For more information, please refer to 828.12 (F.S.), which prohibits inhumane treatment of animals. More information is found in the Florida Python Challenge® document on humane methods for killing pythons.
- Big Cypress National Preserve is managing a team of Burmese pythons that are implanted with radio transmitters. These scout snakes are located throughout the Preserve and are an important part of the National Park Service's python research and removal program. Do not harm or remove these animals, each animal is marked with an orange tag which has a unique ID number and the email (bicy_python@nps.gov) where they can be reported. If you do capture one of these scout snakes, take a picture of the tag and release the animal. We will be able to provide the length measurement for any scout snake that is captured.

Submitting Burmese Pythons

- All captured pythons must be transported to the nearest official Florida Python Challenge® check station location. **Live transport of pythons outside of any Competition Location is prohibited.** If you collect a python outside of the check station hours, pythons **must be killed humanely prior to leaving the area** and submitted to the nearest accessible Florida Python Challenge® check station within 24 hours of capture.
- Pythons harvested and submitted dead should be in no more than two pieces (e.g., the head removed from the body). The head of the python must be included as part of an official submission.
- A datasheet must be completed and submitted with each Burmese python upon submission to the check station. Burmese pythons submitted without the completed datasheet will not be included in the competition. Datasheets must be printed by the participant and filled out in the field with appropriate location data.
  - Participants in the Florida Python Challenge® are encouraged to voluntarily submit datasheets for pythons that were seen but not captured.
  - Official measurements on all Florida Python Challenge® pythons will be conducted by UF. All pythons submitted will be held by UF until the end of the competition. If you would like your carcass back, please mark that on the submitted datasheet and UF will work with you to schedule a time for pickup.

Prize Determination

- All prize determinations will be conducted by the FWFF in coordination with the FWC and SFWMD, at their sole discretion. All prizes will be provided by the FWFF.
- Staff members of the FWC, SFWMD, NPS, FWFF, or UF staff collecting official data as part of this event are ineligible for prizes.
- Burmese pythons submitted **after** 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 18, 2021 shall not be considered for prizes.
- All Burmese pythons will be verified, measured and weighed using a standardized protocol. These data will be used to determine competition winners, and all decisions will be finalized before the Florida Python Challenge® Awards Ceremony.
- Pythons harvested and submitted dead should be in no more than two pieces (e.g., the head removed from the body) to be eligible for the longest Burmese python prize. The head of the python must be included as part of an official submission.
- In the event of a tie for the most pythons, the award will be given to the participant with the longest total length of all pythons captured by that participant. In the event of a tie in the category for longest python, the award will be given to the participant with the python that is the longest and weighs the most.
- Participants that win monetary prizes will need to fill out an IRS Form W-9 (Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification) prior to receiving their winnings. Monetary winners will receive a W-9 form by mail and will have 30 days to return the completed form to the FWFF.
- Monetary winners that do not submit a completed W-9 form within 30 days of receipt will forfeit their prize.

Disqualifications

- You **will be disqualified** from the competition and ineligible to win any prizes if you:
    1. Submit false information on your registration.
    2. Submit a python that has been collected outside of the Competition Locations or dates of the competition.
    3. Collect and/or submit a native Florida snake.
    4. Submit a python originally possessed as a pet.
    5. Submit a python originally possessed for commercial use or exhibition.
    6. Are found to have inhumanely killed a snake.
    7. Are found to have kept any live snake.
    8. Post inhumane photos or videos or otherwise inappropriate videos or photos related to the Florida Python Challenge® on social media.
    9. Are found to have used live pythons for any type of public or private exhibition without appropriate permit(s).

Any participant or person who has violated or violates any rules of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, South Florida Water Management District, National Park Service, the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), or Florida State Statutes (F.S.), shall be subject to disqualification from the Florida Python Challenge® as well as be charged accordingly for said violation. Persons disqualified from the contest will not receive a refund of their entry fee.