



June 09, 2008

2008 Florida Police and Fire Games

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2, 2008

Contact: Jason Puckett,

(941) 955-0991, ext. 105

E-mail: jpuckett@sarasotafl.org

Chief Larry Dunklee

(941) 861-4259

E-mail: ldunklee@scgov.net

Sarasota & Her Islands Welcomes
2008 Florida Police and Fire Games

Sarasota, Fla. The Sarasota Convention & Visitors Bureau (SCVB) is proud to announce that the Florida Police and Fire Games will be taking place in Sarasota County from June 15 through June 21. This will be the second year that Sarasota County has hosted the event. Last year the event produced an estimated \$6.8 million of economic impact to the area.

The Police and Fire Games is a weeklong “Olympic style” competition between the best athletes from police and fire departments around the State of Florida. The Sarasota Convention & Visitors Bureau in conjunction with the Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office, competitively bid on this event against numerous other destinations. For a bid fee of \$50,000, Sarasota secured the event for two years. Last year Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office Chief Deputy Larry Dunklee stated, “There is going to be an estimated 4,500 competitors here from all over the state. They’re going to pump between \$5 million and \$6 million into the local economy.” As it turned out, the event produced \$6.8 million in economic gain and the value is expected to increase this year.

Jason Puckett, Sports Marketing Coordinator for the SCVB, agrees, “The event will have a positive effect on the tourism industry during a usually slow time, and it will generate revenue for the County through the bed and sales tax collected. Not only does our community benefit economically, it also gives the public a chance to support the men and women that protect and serve us on a daily basis.”

There are a wide variety of games ranging from flag football and tennis to the highly anticipated combat ladder challenge. The games will be held at numerous venues throughout the county. For a listing of events and a schedule, please visit www.lawgames.org then click on “Florida”. For a more detailed schedule, including event start times, please send an email request to Jason Puckett at jpuckett@sarasotafl.org.



The Sarasota Convention & Visitors Bureau (SCVB) leads and supports the tourism industry in Sarasota County by providing the highest quality, and most innovative, marketing programs and promotions to ensure the continued growth of tourism and travel from visitors around the world. The Sports Marketing Department of the SCVB is tasked with bringing quality sporting events to Sarasota County to create economic impact. For more information, contact Jason Puckett at (941) 955-0991, ext. 105, or jpuckett@sarasotafl.org.