

Get Ready for Children's Week Florida 2026!

Florida's largest annual event that celebrates children, teens, and advocates is returning to Tallahassee

FLORIDA – February 2, 2026 – Children's Week Florida, the largest annual event held in the state celebrating Florida's commitment to children, youth, and advocates, marks its 31st year at the state capital from February 22 - 27. Over five unforgettable days, thousands of Floridians from across the state will gather for a week of advocacy, connection and interactive enrichment. This year, Children's Week is focused on the "building blocks" that shape a child's future: the moments that foster confidence and connection.

"We all have someone who believed in us at the right time," said Erin Smeltzer, President and CEO of the Children's Forum, organizing partner of Children's Week. "That moment shaped who we are. This week, we celebrate children, teens, and the individuals dedicated to improving outcomes for Florida's youth. These advocates remind everyone of the pivotal role they play in a child's life."

Children's Week Florida is excited to announce this year's events and activities. They include:

- **All Week! Celebration of the Hands** - During Children's Week, the Capitol Rotunda will be decorated with custom hand artwork from thousands of children, teens, families, legislators and advocates from around the state. Click [here](#) to learn more about how you can be part of this larger than life display!
- **Sunday, February 22, 3 pm: [Celebration of the Hands Press Conference](#)** - Join us as we kick off Children's Week and unveil this year's artwork throughout the Capitol Rotunda.
- **Monday, February 23, 5 pm: [Advocacy Dinner & Awards Ceremony](#)** - Connect with community leaders, child advocates, legislators and educators at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center for a memorable night honoring our 2026 advocacy award recipients and their work supporting Florida's children, teens, and families. This event also features Keynote Speaker Coy Bowles, a renowned guitarist of the three-time Grammy Award-winning Zac Brown Band, author of five children's books, and the Region IV Head Start Ambassador on Early Literacy.
- **Tuesday, February 24, 9 am: [Children's Day at the Capitol](#)** - Children's Day kicks off with a press conference from Florida's leaders and elected officials, followed by a day packed with youth entertainment, and hands-on, engaging activities from Children's Week Florida partners, brought to life in Storybook Village and Storybook Garden. Free breakfast and lunch will be provided for all attendees.
- **Tuesday, February 24, 10 am: [Storybook Village](#)** – At this year's Storybook Village, books will be brought to life through interactive booths, engaging activities, and

captivating story time! All children who enter Storybook Village will leave with free books and goodies to continue the magic at home.

- **Tuesday, February 24, 10 am: [Storybook Garden](#)** – Storybook Garden offers a calming and sensory-friendly space for children with unique abilities and families who want a moment away from the large crowds during Children’s Day. Storybook Garden features unique-ability-friendly activities, services, and resources.

Click [here](#) to register for Children’s Day at the Capitol, Storybook Village, and Storybook Garden.

- **Wednesday, February 25, 9 am: [Teen Day at the Capitol](#)** - Middle and high school students will delve into Florida’s legislative process, tour the state Capitol, engage with policymakers, and discuss issues impacting Florida’s youth. Click [here](#) to register for Teen Day.
- **Thursday, February 26: [Thoughtful Thursday](#)** - A virtual event to wrap up the week through a series of sessions hosted by Children’s Week Florida partners to explore key issues affecting Florida’s children, teens and families.

Children’s Week Florida is grateful for its many partners who speak as one voice to ensure that Florida’s children thrive. Its work would not be possible without their support. Our Featured Partners include:

- Walmart, Advocacy Dinner & Awards Ceremony partner
- Sunshine Health, Media and Press Conference partner
- Ambetter Health, Children’s Day partner
- Humana Healthy Horizons in Florida, Celebration of the Hands partner
- Farm Share, Food, Nutrition and Wellness partner
- The Association of Early Learning Coalitions, Storybook Village partner
- Molina Healthcare, Storybook Garden partner
- Simply Healthcare, Teen Day partner
- Children’s Forum, Organizing partner

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About Children’s Week Florida

Children’s Week Florida is the largest annual event held in the state that celebrates its commitment to children, youth, and advocates. The event, held each year in Tallahassee during the legislative session, unites young children, teens, legislators, educators, families, advocates, and community leaders to celebrate Florida’s children and ensure every child is healthy, ready to learn, and able to reach their full potential.