



A Not-For-Profit Community-Supported Blood Bank

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Departments and Law Enforcement Agencies to Compete in Boots and Badges Blood Drive Competition

Sarasota- This July, watch out for the big battle! Local Fire Departments and Law Enforcement Agencies are getting geared up to compete against each other in a friendly rivalry called Boots and Badges. Boots and Badges is a blood drive competition that pits these agencies against each other to help boost blood donations during the month of July. This is the first year that Suncoast Communities Blood Bank will hold the competition. A large traveling trophy will be awarded to the team with the highest amount of blood donations at the end of the competition.

***Kick Off Event**

A kick off event for Boots and Badges is scheduled for June 29th at 10:30 a.m. at Suncoast Communities Blood Bank, 1760 Mound Street, in Sarasota. Officials from the agencies will be on hand to show their competitive edge and some may donate blood to start the competition.

Expected to attend the kick off are:

Sarasota County Sheriff William F. Balkwill; Sarasota County Fire Department Chief Brian Gorski and Assistant Fire Chief Paul Dezzi; officials from Sarasota Police Department, North Port Fire Rescue and Police Department; Nokomis Fire Department; and Longboat Key Police and Fire Rescue.

The large traveling trophy will also be on display. The media is encouraged to attend this kick off. Please call Julie Platt at 954-1600 ext 272 if you are interested in covering the event.

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The following agencies will be participating in the competition:

Sarasota County Fire Department
Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Sarasota Police Department
Longboat Key Police Department
Longboat Key Fire Rescue
North Port Police Department
North Port Fire Rescue
Nokomis Fire Department

Law Enforcement officers, fire rescue workers, their co-workers, family and friends may donate during the month of July at any Suncoast Communities location or bloodmobile to support the competition. No appointment is necessary and walk-in donors are welcome.

When donating blood on behalf of this competition, please mention Boots and Badges and whether it is in support of Law Enforcement or Fire.

Main Donor Locations and Hours:

1760 Mound Street (corner of U.S. 41 & Osprey Avenue)
Sarasota

Hours: M-Thurs 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Fridays 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

1097 N. Tamiami Trail
Nokomis (in shopping center at U.S. 41 and Laurel Road)

Hours: M-Th 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Fridays Closed
Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For more information about Boots and Badges please call 954-1600 or visit www.scbb.org.

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