

Alachua County Florida

A Proclamation

**Declaring August 25th through August 29th, 2025, as
“Be SMART Week” in Alachua County, Florida**

- Whereas,** firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States; and
- Whereas,** Alachua County is committed to fostering a safe and supportive environment that promotes the well-being of all children; and
- Whereas,** almost every day in the United States, a child gains access to a firearm and unintentionally injures or kills themselves or someone else; and
- Whereas,** research shows that the most effective way to prevent children from accessing firearms is by making sure all guns are stored unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition; and
- Whereas,** both gun owners and non-gun owners have a role to play in promoting secure firearm storage and preventing unauthorized access by children and teens; and
- Whereas,** more than half of gun owners do not lock all their firearms securely, and approximately 4.6 million children in the United States live in homes with at least one unlocked and loaded firearm; and
- Whereas,** schools, hospitals, state agencies, and community organizations are committed to their crucial role in reducing injuries and deaths by promoting secure gun storage and safety; and
- Whereas,** Be SMART Week raises awareness and promotes public education about responsible gun ownership and the importance of storing firearms securely; and
- Whereas,** S – Secure all guns,
M – Model responsible behavior around guns,
A – Ask about unsecured guns in other homes,
R – Recognize the role of guns in suicide,
T – Tell your peers to be **SMART!**

Now, therefore, through the authority vested in me by the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, I do hereby proclaim August 25th through 29th, 2025, as “Be SMART Week” in Alachua County, Florida.

Duly proclaimed this 26th day of August, A.D., 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY FLORIDA

By: _____
Charles S. Chestnut, IV., Chair

ATTEST:

J.K. “Jess” Irby, Esq.