



Contact: Ed Caum
Tourism Manager
Office of Tourism Development
727-847-8129
ecaum@pascocountyfl.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 3, 2016

Pasco on Course for another Record Year in Tourism

~~Tourist Tax collections are up \$70,000 over same time last year~~

PASCO COUNTY, FL – Pasco, like other counties in Florida, continues to benefit from increased travel to the Sunshine State. This week, as the country celebrates National Travel and Tourism Week, Pasco has its own bragging rights. The ‘Visit Pasco’ Tourism Office is on its way to another record year – with Tourist Development Tax collections up 13.5% over the same time last year. The tax, also referred to as the ‘bed tax,’ comes in part from hotels.

“Collections are up \$70,972 over this time last year,” said Ed Caum, Pasco County Tourism Manager. “We had a new hotel open up this year, with two more opening before the end of this year and two more in the development pipeline, which means even higher collections for Pasco County Tourism.”

The Visit Pasco Tourism Office has collected \$593,712 since October, 2015. That’s up 13.5% from last year at this time when \$522,740 was collected. “In fiscal year 2014/2015, Pasco County Tourism collected an all-time high of \$968,263 in Tourist Development taxes,” said Caum. “So we are on course for another record year!”

This year is the 33rd Annual National Travel and Tourism Week. Communities across America celebrate each year, highlighting what travel means to jobs and economic growth. Travel supports 15 million jobs in America, with just over a million in Florida - including 6,000 here in Pasco. Each hospitality job creates another job in support, so tourism is providing 12,000 full-time jobs in Pasco County.

“We are at a tipping point when it comes to growth in Pasco County,” said Caum. “We’re just months away from having the largest indoor ice facility in the southeast, and we will soon have a large indoor sports complex which will help us continue to emerge as a sports and travel destination.”