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## 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Florida Pro/Am Skimboarding Tournament Slides onto Vilano Beach

## Florida's longest running skimboarding tournament returns August 22-24 to St. Augustine, FL

St. Augustine, Fla. (July 25, 2025) – Florida's Historic Coast is home to one of skimboarding's longest-running competitions on the planet. The <u>31<sup>st</sup> Annual Florida Skimboarding Pro/Am Tournament</u> takes place on <u>Vilano Beach</u> from Friday, August 22, through Sunday, August 24.

When tour founder and event director Steve Pullara moved from Tampa to Vilano Beach in 1989, he already knew and loved the beach, and wanted to share the area with others through a skimboarding tournament. Lined with shoals that produce desirable A-frame peaks, Vilano Beach is now widely considered one of the best skimboarding spots on the East Coast. The tournament attracts nearly 100 competitors and even more spectators from around the world.

"It's all about skimboarding, from sunrise to sunset," says Steve Pullara, founder and event director. "We'll have top-ranking professionals and an array of amateurs facing off on the waves. Our competitors range from 8 years old to over 40, with men's and women's divisions. It's awesome to see the heart they put into their runs. And it's a chance for spectators to see some of the best athletes competing in the sport. It brings together everything I love – the sport, the community, and Vilano."

Pullara began hosting the Florida Pro/Am Skimboarding Tournament in 1990, introducing the Pro Division in 1996. A lifelong skimboarder and sports champion, the tournament is his love letter to a sport that provided him with fun, lifelong friendships, and plenty of memories. Pullara's investment in the skimboarding community is apparent in his unique approach to the amateur division. It is the only one in the world that allows amateur athletes two attempts to advance before being eliminated. This creates a more laid-back atmosphere and encourages growth amongst contest newcomers.

Skimboarding originated in the 1920s, when two Laguna Beach lifeguards created round disks from redwood and used them to slide across the water. The sport grew from there, with boards transitioning to foam cores covered in resin and fiberglass in the 1980s. Skimboarding's audience widened when *Sports Illustrated* featured skimmer Tom Trager on the cover of its September 1987 issue.

Spectators are encouraged to attend the Pro/Am, with it's family-friendly environment, tons of action, and opportunities to capture one-of-a-kind photos. Visitors can stay the weekend and enjoy a variety of lodging options and amenities close by. The <a href="Hyatt Place Vilano Beach">Hyatt Place Vilano Beach</a> and <a href="Holiday Inn Express & Suites">Holiday Inn Express & Suites</a> <a href="Vilano Beach">Vilano Beach</a> are just steps away from the waves, while the Ponte Vedra Resorts are just a short drive north. Casual dining is available on the Intracoastal Waterway at <a href="Aunt Kate's on the River">Aunt Kate's on the River</a> and <a href="Cap's on the Water">Cap's on the Water</a>, while <a href="Pesca">Pesca</a> offers rooftop cocktails and bites with ocean views from atop the Hyatt Place.

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Located midway between Daytona Beach and Jacksonville, Florida's Historic Coast includes historic St. Augustine, the outstanding golf and seaside elegance of Ponte Vedra, the rural beauty of Hastings, Elkton, St. Johns, and 42 miles of pristine Atlantic beaches. Visitor Information Centers are located at 10 Castillo Drive, St. Augustine; 200 Solana Rd. Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach: and at the St. Johns County Beach Pier Park, 350 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine Beach. For advance travel information, call 1.800.653.2489 or go to the Visitors and Convention Bureau website at <a href="www.FloridasHistoricCoast.com">www.FloridasHistoricCoast.com</a>. Check us out on social media Instagram @FloridasHistoricCoast; @ViajaStAugustine, Facebook.com/OfficialStAugustine, and Facebook.com/ViajaStAugustine and Twitter @FlHistoricCoast