



# Alligator Warrior Festival

[www.alligatorfest.org](http://www.alligatorfest.org)

Reenacting the 2nd Seminole War Battle of San Felasco Hammock (Sat & Sun only)

Fri 20 - Sun 22 October 2017, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

O'Leno State Park

410 S.E. Oleno Park Road, High Springs, Florida 32643

Bring your folding chair to watch the battle in comfort

**State Park Entrance Fees Apply** (Subject to Change)

\$5.00 per vehicle holding 2-8 people, \$4.00 Single Occupant Vehicle.

\$2.00 Pedestrians, bicyclists, and additional passengers.

**But Free Entry for School Groups & Event Volunteers**

Everyone is welcome to the Alligator Warrior Festival where flute and drum inspire dance, where artisans demonstrate their skills, where reenactors teach & answer questions about Florida in the early 19th Century. Friday is a history and literacy day for students, without battle reenactment. This event is neither sponsored nor endorsed by any school or school district.

100 years before Florida became part of the USA, it was a refuge for some Creek Indians who switched from trading with the British to trading with the Spanish. Together with other Florida Indians, they became known as the Seminole people. Florida was also a refuge for African slaves and their descendants who could be free under Spanish law. Decades later, the American War of Independence and the War of 1812 lead to more Indians and more slaves escaping to Florida. Then in 1821, Spain transferred its claim to Florida to the USA in exchange for 5 million dollars in debt forgiveness. The US Army was sent in to survey the land and learn where the people were. The village of Alligator was one of the northern Seminole communities. Settlers from the USA formed their own town of Alligator near Alligator Village and they lived in peace.

But the US government wanted all of the Seminole villages together in one part of Florida instead of spread all over the place. In 1823, except for a few communities in the panhandle, they got the Seminole people to agree to live in the southern part of Florida, with Fort King (Ocala) at the northern boundary of the reservation.

So the Village of Alligator moved south to a place along the Peace Creek. The most famous person from Alligator Village was Alligator Warrior. When Andrew Jackson became President he wanted all of the Indians living east of the Mississippi to leave their homes and move to the west. The U.S. Congress passed the Indian Removal Act of 1830 which cancelled the 1823 Treaty of Moultrie Creek. The US Army was ordered to

convince the Seminole to move voluntarily or to remove them by force. The Seminole people fought against moving and the conflict is called the 2nd Seminole War. Alligator Warrior was a commander, defending Seminole rights during many major battles of the 2nd Seminole War, but Alligator Warrior was probably not involved in the Battle of San Felasco Hammock. Today the hammock is a state park near Alachua FL and Alligator Town has been called Lake City FL since 1859, when it was renamed.

From I-75, Exit onto US-441 S (Exit # 414)  
Drive South on US-441 for about 5 miles  
Turn left onto SE Sprite Loop (Frontage Rd)  
Turn left at the O'Leno park entrance sign  
GPS 29.915071°North x 82.581246°West

