



# GATOR SPIRIT

**T**he University of Florida has one of college football's most loyal followings and the numbers support the claim. Florida has ranked in the top 15 nationally in college football attendance in each of the last 18 years, and in each of the last nine seasons, Florida has ranked among the top 10. In addition, with capacity at 83,000-plus at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium at Florida Field, the University of Florida has been the site of the largest football crowds – college or professional – in the State of Florida history.

When Gator fans cheer, they're led by one of the nation's most outstanding group of cheerleaders. In addition, Albert, the popular alligator mascot, and his counterpart Alberta, join in the fun. One of the best-known Gator spirit traditions is Mr. Two-Bits George Edmondson, a Tampa resident and avid Gator fan. The beloved man who travelled from section to section at all Gator games leading rousing renditions of "Two Bits, Four Bits, Six Bits, a Dollar – All for the Gators Stand Up and Holler!" Edmondson sponsors an annual scholarship for a member of the cheer-leading squad. Despite deciding to slow down after celebrating 50 years as Florida's top cheerleader in 1998, Edmondson surely will be spotted in special appearances at "The Swamp" this fall.

At Florida games, it's important to get to the game early and stay in your seats at halftime, so as not to miss out on the Pride of the Sunshine, the University of Florida's Fightin' Gator Marching Band. Matt Sexton, Director of Bands, leads a group of 300 students through performances each week.

At the end of the third quarter, the band strikes up "We Are the Boys from Old Florida," and all Gator fans stand together and sway left and right, arm-in-arm, while singing this traditional tune.

At Homecoming each year, current Gator students and staff members, Gator alumni and fans from all over converge on Ben Hill Griffin Stadium at Florida Field for an evening of entertainment and pep rallies. Gator Growl, as this 75-year-old event is so popularly known, is regarded as the World's Largest Student-Run Pep Rally, packing nearly 70,000 fans in Ben Hill Griffin Stadium at Florida Field each year.

## School Songs

### ***UF Alma Mater***

Florida, our Alma Mater...  
 Thy glorious name we praise...  
 All thy loyal sons and daughters  
 ... A joyous song shall raise...  
 Where a palm and pine are  
 blowing...Where southern  
 seas are flowing...Shine forth  
 thy noble Gothic walls...Thy  
 lovely vineclad halls... 'Neath  
 the Orange and Blue victorious  
 our love shall never fail...  
 There's no other name so  
 glorious... All hail, Florida, hail.

### ***The Orange and Blue***

On, brave old Flor-i-da, just keep  
 on marching on your way!...On,  
 brave old Flor-i-da, and we will  
 cheer you on your play! Rah! Rah!  
 Rah!... And as you march a-long,  
 we'll sing our victory song anew...  
 With all your might Go on and  
 Fight Gators Fight for Dixie's rightly  
 proud of you... (Chorus) So give a  
 cheer for the Orange and Blue,  
 Waving for-ev-er, forever... Pride  
 of old Flor-i-da, May she droop  
 nev-er... We'll sing a song for the  
 flag to-day, Cheer for the team  
 at play! On to the goal we'll fight  
 our way for Flor-i-da.

### ***We Are The Boys***

We are the boys from old Florida,  
 F-L-O-R-I-D-A... Where the girls  
 are the fairest, the boys are the  
 squarest of any old state down our  
 way... We are all strong for old  
 Florida down where the old Gators  
 play ... In all kinds of weather  
 we'll all stick together for  
 F-L-O-R-I-D-A.