



July 17, 2011

Contacts:

Bobbi Davis, Children's Board of Hillsborough County and Hillsborough Program for Out-of-School Time (POST)
Cell (813) 789-5503

Lindsey von Broembsen, Florida Regional Director, Black Stallion Literacy Foundation - Cell (404) 983-0822

Rip Stalvey, Director of Marketing, Florida State Fairgrounds – Cell (813) 477-3138

Children Reading to Horses? Yes. It's Part of Black Stallion Literacy Event for Hillsborough County Kids at the Florida State Fairgrounds July 15, 19, 26

TAMPA, FL – Can reading to horses help with child literacy? The answer is yes, if you are one of up to 8,000 elementary school children in Hillsborough County taking part in summer camps that not only include reading *The Black Stallion* books but actually interacting with stallions from Orlando's Arabian Nights at the Florida State Fairgrounds for three dates in July.

The Black Stallion Literacy Foundation in Orlando is working with the Boys and Girls Club, the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Hillsborough County Program for Out-of-School Time to make reading fun through the magic of live horses.

On July 15, 19 and 26 at the Bob Thomas Equestrian Center at the Fairgrounds, first, fourth and fifth-graders who have been reading *The Black Stallion* book will have the opportunity to watch professional horses and riders Arabian Nights do a re-enactment from the book. Shortly after 12 o'clock noon, the children will move from station to station learning more about horses and even have the opportunity to read to a stallion.

"The Black Stallion Literacy Program is a new collaboration here in Hillsborough County that our summer programs will utilize to keep kids connected to reading. We know that kids who read over the summer are better prepared to excel in the classroom when school begins in August. The events at the field trip help to bring reading to life for our kids and inspire them to continue reading," said Bobbi Davis, Children's Board Hillsborough County, who heads the Hillsborough Programs for Out-of-School Time.

The Black Stallion Literacy Foundation has reached nearly a half million children in 17 states in its first 10 years. For more information, go to the foundation's website at http://www.bsif-online.org/school_programs.asp or call Lindsey von Broembsen, Florida regional director, at (407) 239-9223, ext. 230.

The Children's Board of Hillsborough County serves as the leading voice and advocate for children and families in our community. The board is the only organization of its kind in Hillsborough County that generates revenue to help children and families. The Children's Board is recognized nationally for its contributions to best practices in policies and programs aiding children and families. Citizens may visit www.childrensboard.org to learn more about the board's programs.

Dan Casseday, Children's Board, DCasseday@childrensboard.org, cell (813) 892-1239.

#30#