

SUNCOAST OBSERVER

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the National Weather Service Tampa Bay Area, FL

www.weather.gov/tampa

3.20.2018

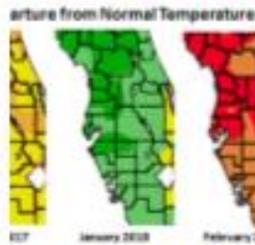
Top stories in this newsletter



Weather Ready Nation Ambassador Expands Effort at School



2018 Hurricane Awareness Tour in Lakeland



Record Warm February Across West Central and Southwest Florida



SKYWARN

NWS Looking for Volunteers to Report Severe Weather

Weather Ready Nation Ambassador Expands Effort at School

By: Dan Noah



Joshua Paczynski is a WRN Ambassador and science teacher at a middle school in Tampa. He has used Ambassador resources to help fellow teachers, staff, and students prepare for hazardous weather. He has now added the SKYWARN training at www.spotternetwork.org for 6th grade students interested in weather. Students must receive a 90% or better on the online test to receive a Certificate of Completion from WFO Tampa Bay (see picture on left). Joshua writes, "Here at school we work on teaching our students the weather threats that can affect their lives here in Florida, through discussions, and giving examples of how we can protect our lives and properties from these threats. Students are engaged in Severe Weather Awareness Week, and tornado drills, as well as we learn the catchy safety phrases at all grade levels. In 6th grade we work on the spotter network course given at the appropriate grade level. Middle school students also take rain gauge measurements daily and give weather observations."

2018 Hurricane Awareness Tour in Lakeland

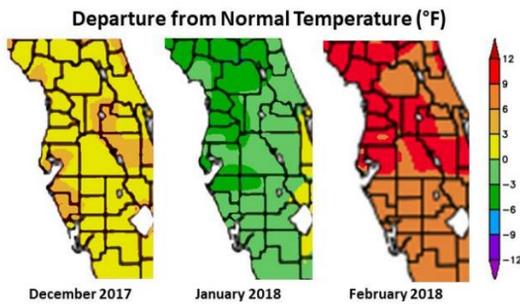
By: Jen Hubbard



The 2018 Hurricane Awareness Tour will be taking place May 7th through May 11th, with the final stop on May 11th at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport in Lakeland, FL. This event is free, and will be open to the public from 2PM to 5PM. The Tour highlights two Hurricane Hunter planes, and allows you to tour them and speak with the pilots and meteorologists that work on them. There will also be Emergency Response Vehicles available to tour, and exhibits from various local agencies and organizations highlighting hurricane preparedness. Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/tbw/hat> for more information.

Record Warm February Across West Central and Southwest Florida

By: Paul Close



February 2018 was the warmest February on record across most of West Central and Southwest Florida with several of the official observing sites setting new records for the month. Temperatures averaged about 7 to over 11 degrees Fahrenheit above normal for the month breaking previous records by up to 4 degrees. This also led to temperatures being about 1 to 4 degrees above average for the Winter (Dec/Jan/Feb). For more details about February 2018 and Winter 2017-18 visit the following links: <https://go.usa.gov/xQqEa> and <https://go.usa.gov/xQqEC>

National Weather Service Looking for Volunteers to Report Severe Weather

By: Dan Noah



Become a volunteer SKYWARN Spotter for your National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office in Ruskin, FL. Attend a live 1-hour online SKYWARN Webinar to receive your Certificate of Training and information on how to report tornadoes, waterspouts, wind damage, flooding rain, hail, freezing rain, and snow. Check out the ever expanding list of Webinars at <http://weather.gov/tampa/skywarn> and register by sending an Email to the person listed. They will Email you directions on how to participate.

You must live in one of these Florida Counties to report severe weather to NWS Ruskin: Levy, Citrus, Hernando, Sumter, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Charlotte, or Lee.

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