

Alyssa Smith

Smith facilitates a photo project for the Department of Health in Sumter County.



By CIARA VARONE
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What makes Sumter County the picture of health?

The Florida Department of Health in Sumter County is seeking answers through a recently launched community photo project, Sumter Through Your Lens. The Daily Sun spoke with Alyssa Smith, senior health educator with the Florida Department of Health in Sumter County, about how residents can get involved.

How did the Sumter Through Your Lens project develop? Has the department done a community photo project before?

The Sumter Through Your Lens project began as part of a larger community health assessment.

Florida Department of Health in Sumter County conducts a community health assessment every three to five years to understand the health-related resources available in the community, and to guide our program planning.

I am excited to be facilitating this project, as this is the first time the health department has used a photo project as part of a community health assessment.

What is the goal of the project?

This project aims to capture the essence of day-to-day life in Sumter County, with

MORE INFORMATION

For information, contact Alyssa Smith at alyssa.smith@flhealth.gov or 352-569-3120.

a special focus on health and wellness. We hope to gain an understanding and firsthand perspective of what contributes to the health of our citizens, and also to identify possible challenges to living a healthy lifestyle.

What types of photos are you seeking and where will the photos go?

We welcome any photos that reflect what makes Sumter County a healthy place to live, work and play. Some examples of recent submissions include photos of local parks, a fruit and vegetable stand and an exercise trail. The photos will be included in our community health assessment to illustrate community strengths and areas of improvement. At the conclusion of the community health assessment, the health department will host a public presentation of results, which will include photo submissions.

Why should residents participate?

Sumter Through Your Lens provides an opportunity for

creative personal expression. This project encourages residents to engage with their community and its resources. Participating in projects such as Sumter Through Your Lens has often been described as rewarding, as it promotes a sense of connectedness to one's community and contribution to overall community health.

How do you submit photos?

Submitting photos is easy. Send photos and descriptions via email to asksumter@flhealth.gov.

Is there anything else readers should know about the project?

We encourage community members to be safe while taking photos, and also to be considerate of privacy. Photos of individual people or businesses require a photo release form, which the health department can provide. We are accepting photo submissions through the end of April 2018.

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