

# USF returns to traditional commencement this summer with no guest limitations

By Annalise Anderson  
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USF announced on June 17 that its recent fall, spring and summer graduates will have an opportunity to walk across the stage during the university's 124th commencement ceremony in August.

Commencement ceremonies will be held at the Yuengling Center, an indoor arena on the Tampa Campus. Graduates' names will be announced as they cross the stage and formal graduation portraits will be taken. Tickets for guests will not be required and there is no guest limit.

Ceremonies will be held on Aug. 21 for summer 2021 graduates.

Commencement for graduates of the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, Muma College of Business, Morsani College of Medicine, College of Nursing, Taneja College of Pharmacy and College of Public Health will be held at 9 a.m.

Commencement for graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences, College

of Education, College of Engineering, Patel College of Global Sustainability, College of Graduate Studies, College of Marine Science, College of The Arts and the Office of Undergraduate Studies will be held at 1:30 p.m.

After participating in virtual and modified commencements due to COVID-19, fall 2020 and spring 2021 graduates are invited to return for a traditional, in-person ceremony.

USF will host commencement ceremonies for previous graduates at 6 p.m. on Aug. 21 and at 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Aug. 22. USF will announce a finalized ceremony schedule once it determines the number of returning graduates and guests.

"When USF determined, based on health and safety protocols, that we would hold virtual commencements in 2020, USF leadership made a commitment to invite graduates back to an in-person ceremony when public health conditions allowed us to do so," wrote



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**After COVID-19 forced USF to host virtual or modified commencement ceremonies since last spring, the university has announced that it will return to a traditional, in-person commencement this August for its current and previous graduates.**

President Steve Currall. "We are excited to welcome back our previous graduates and to honor them and their achievements."

According to the announcement, health and safety remain the university's top priority.

All events are subject to change to reflect any new guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control, public health experts or university officials.

Advanced registration is required for all students and their guests to attend

commencement ceremonies. Registration can be done online via USF's commencement website.



COURTESY OF ARON BRYCE

**St. Petersburg resident Aron Bryce and a team of volunteers gathered together to clean up a local park after Bryce organized the event through one of his many community-centric Facebook groups.**

By Rachel Craig  
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Through community building and keeping St. Petersburg clean, park cleanups serve as a catalyst for residents to establish a taste for local involvement.

Aron Bryce, founder of

the Facebook group We Love St. Pete Parks, hosted a community cleanup at Walter Fuller Park on May 15, drawing together efforts from city residents eager to volunteer their time.

Bryce's success with the page motivated him to utilize his influence for the betterment of the community.

"Thankfully the group

has over 3,000 members now, and many have expressed a sincere desire to get involved with the cleanups," Bryce said. "Particularly after posting about the success of our first one at Walter Fuller this past weekend."

After posting details of the cleanup on the group's Facebook page, Bryce's efforts attracted a

hard-working crew of page members who showed up with gloves in hand, ready to work.

Aron's use of social media is focused on helping to form meaningful connections, build a stronger community and spark positive change.

The cleanup allowed a group of people to join forces and pick up litter as a team, including two USF St. Petersburg students, Juliana Kane, a senior anthropology major and, Cozy DeRosa, a junior psychology major.

"Any small action or step that one can take to better the environment is something that everyone should be interested in," Kane said. "The cleanup only took up an hour of my day and I left feeling good!"

Kane found Bryce's group through student-focused Facebook group "The Know It All's Guide To Knowing It All." It prompted her to take initiative in caring for the environment, while also meeting people and getting some fresh air.

Kane plans to continue working with the group and attend future meetups, and she described membership as an easy way to "participate and make a small, positive change."

Park cleanups are one of Bryce's many efforts to help make the city a more beautiful place. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, he organized several other safe and inclusive events that helped to bring city residents together.

"We have lived through so much isolation, division, and negativity in the past year. And I believe these outdoor activities have truly been a lifesaver," Bryce said. "They allow for people to get outside in the fresh air and sunshine, and meet new people."

Bryce invites those interested in participating in future cleanups to join the "We Love St. Pete Parks" Facebook group.

## Students participate in helping to keep St. Petersburg clean