



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 2026

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NKF Rich Salick Surf Fest Celebrates 41 Years of Waves, Community, and Giving Back This Columbus Day Weekend

COCOA BEACH, FL — The National Kidney Foundation of Florida, along with longtime sponsors and community partners, is proud to present the **41st Annual NKF Rich Salick Pro-Am Surf Festival**, returning to the iconic **Westgate Cocoa Beach Pier** this **Columbus Day Weekend, October 10–12, 2026**. As one of the most anticipated events on the Space Coast, this year's festival promises unforgettable surf, music, food, and family fun—all in support of the fight against kidney disease.

The **Ron Jon Men's and Women's Pro** competitions headline this year's festival, drawing top athletes from across Florida and as far away as Costa Rica to compete for prize money and custom trophies crafted by world-renowned artists. Also featured are the **FPL Pro Longboard** and **Gutin & Wolverton Women's Pro Longboard** events, showcasing the grace and skill of longboard surfing throughout the weekend.

Spectators can enjoy the action from the beach or take a stroll along the historic pier with a refreshing beverage from **Carroll Distributing**, or visit sponsor booths offering **free giveaways** and merchandise. Whether you're a lifelong surfer or just here for the vibes, there's something for everyone—all while supporting a great cause.

The event kicks off Saturday, October 10, with preliminary heats for both professional and amateur divisions. Be sure not to miss the fan-favorite **"Surfer Dudes" Pollywogs Division**, where rising stars as young as four years old compete for a spot in the finals. All final heats will conclude on **Columbus Day, Monday, October 12**.

41st Annual Celebration: 41st Anniversary Block Party

Join us for a brand-new addition this year: the 41st Anniversary Celebration Block Party on Saturday, October 10, from 6–10 PM in downtown Cocoa Beach. Enjoy live performances by Truphonic and headliners Beebs and Her Money Makers, with local food trucks, event merchandise, and giveaways from sponsors including Monster Energy, Tito's Handmade Vodka, and Drifthouse Surf Shop. Don't miss your chance to grab a specialty brew from the beer tent including one of the Playalinda Brewing Co. 41st Anniversary Cans.

On **Sunday, October 11**, experience the “Tropical Party of the Year” at the **Taste of Brevard and Silent Auction**, featuring live music, inspiring stories from kidney patients and surf legends, and signature dishes donated by top Space Coast restaurants competing for the “Best Taste” title.

The silent auction will showcase hand-painted surfboards, art from **Wyland Galleries**, beach cruisers, surf gear, and more.

All proceeds benefit the National Kidney Foundation of Florida, supporting awareness, prevention, and treatment of kidney and urinary tract diseases and expanding organ donation programs.

Tickets to the Taste of Brevard are available now at NKFSurf.org and at the door.

With support from over **300 volunteers** and the unwavering spirit of the Cocoa Beach community, this year’s festival promises to be one for the history books. The event honors the legacy of co-founder and three-time kidney transplant recipient **Rich Salick**, who passed away in 2012, and whose passion for surfing and service continues to inspire.

For more information, visit www.nkfsurf.com or call **407-894-7325**.

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