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# STETSON UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Stetson University's Gillespie Museum Celebrates Science during 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Smithsonian Museum Day

DELAND, Florida, Sept. 12, 2019 – The [Gillespie Museum](#) on [Stetson University's](#) campus will be participating in [Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day](#) during its free Science Saturday on Saturday, Sept. 21, 10 a.m.-noon. Museum Day brings together museums, zoos and cultural centers from all 50 states to offer free admission, a national commitment to access, equity and inclusion.

Visitors will have an opportunity to view the museum's collections and displays, including a sneak peek of the "Agatized Coral and Other Silicified Fossils of Florida" exhibit. Agatized coral was chosen by the state legislature in 1970 as Florida's state rock. The display is a stunning and diverse assemblage from the personal collections of Florida geologists Sam Upchurch, PhD, Professor Emeritus of geology and former geology department chair at the University of South Florida, and Gary Maddox, a state hydrogeologist and co-owner of Apalachee Minerals.

Young scientists will have a chance to study agatized and silicified corals and other marine fossils from the Econfina and Withlacoochee Rivers, Ballast Point and Nutall Rise in Florida.

Science Saturday will include hands-on activities for learning how fossils are formed and identifying how the color and structure of the fossils vary by location with lab experiments, microscopic observations and coloring pages.

The Gillespie Museum hosts Science Saturday activities once a month during the academic year and includes a range of topics from fossils, silicates and fluorescent minerals to pollination and native ecosystems. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

### About Stetson University

*Founded in 1883, [Stetson University](#) is the oldest private university in Central Florida. Stetson focuses on intense learning experiences in a supportive community that allows students to develop their voice in a connected, inclusive environment. Stetson University ranks No. 5 on U.S. News & World Report's 2019 list of Best Regional Universities (South), and has been recognized as one of The Princeton Review's 385 Best Colleges, 2020 edition. [Stay connected](#) with Stetson on social media.*

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