

PROCLAMATION

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, the mission of the Marion County Children’s Alliance is to improve the lives of Marion County’s children; and

WHEREAS, the Children’s Alliance was established in 2000 to bring organizations that serve children together to collaborate on children and youth issues in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Children’s Alliance and its partnering agencies determined in 2025 that the mental health of our children and youth was being compromised due to excessive social media use and screen time; and

WHEREAS, research shows that children aged 8–18 spend an average of 7.5 hours per day in front of screens -not including time for schoolwork. While digital media can support learning and connection, excessive use is linked to poor sleep, obesity, delayed development of social and learning skills, academic struggles, behavior issues, and increased risk of online predators and cyberbullying;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in us do hereby proclaim that **November 15th, 2025**, be known as

“Look Up Marion, Put Down the Phone Day”

in Marion County, Florida, and encourage all residents to participate in Look Up Marion, Put Down the Phone Day by spending quality time with loved ones and friends. Let’s take a stand for our kids, our health, and our community, one unplugged moment at a time.

DULY PROCLAIMED this 4th day of **November 2025**.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**

KATHY BRYANT, CHAIRMAN

CARL ZALAK, III, VICE CHAIR

MICHELLE STONE, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

CRAIG CURRY, COMMISSIONER

GREGORY C. HARRELL, CLERK

MATT MCCLAIN, COMMISSIONER