



GETTING STARTED AND RULES

GETTING STARTED

1. Register by emailing Viera's Big Year coordinators with your contact information. We will not share your information, but we will send you updates and invites to special birding events we are hosting throughout the year.
 - a. Send email to - Dana.vinci@viera.com
 - b. Include: Name, Phone, Email
2. Set up an eBird.org account – Go to their [HELP CENTER](#) for articles and videos on getting started, documenting sightings, editing and sharing your checklists, and much more.
3. Not required but recommended to download the eBird app on your mobile device and download the FLORIDA PACKET. This will be the most convenient way to document your findings while in the field.
4. Not required but recommended to download the Merlin app to help identify birds.

RULES

1. Participants must register with Viera's Big Year (see Getting Started)
2. Birds must be identified between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.
3. Participants will need to use eBird.org to record bird sightings on an eBird Checklist.
4. eBird checklists must be shared to the eBird account VIERABIGYEAR by December 31, 2024. It is recommended you share a checklist after each completion throughout the year.
5. Birds must be identified and recorded while you are standing within the DRI boundaries, or the other locations identified on the Viera's Big Year Birding Map. The bird can be just outside the boundaries, but your feet must be within the boundaries.
6. Participants MUST NOT trespass onto private property.
7. Birds recorded must be wild, unrestrained, and alive.
8. Birds can be identified by sight or sound.
9. For the contest, we will only count a species one time BUT you should record all sightings for the scientific data collected by eBird. For example, if you go birding and spot 2 sandhill cranes, you will record that you spotted 2 on your checklist and share that checklist with VieraBigYear. We will only count 1 of the sandhill crane sightings towards your final count for the contest.
10. The contest is open to all Brevard Residents.
11. You can join the contest at any time.
12. By virtue of participation in Viera's Big Year, participants acknowledge and agree to abide by the rules and the American Birding Association (ABA) "Code of Ethics" assessed here: <https://www.aba.org/aba-code-of-birding-ethics/>
13. All bird checklists are subject to question by Viera's Big Year coordinators and rare, uncommon, or scarce sightings may require additional documentation to be counted towards your count. Documentation would include photos or video.