



## Children enjoy a day with Thomas the Train

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By Alex Weaver, Reporter



CORDELE, GA (WALB) -

A storybook character, 71 years old, is still resonating with kids today.

For Veterans Park in Cordele, a day out with Thomas has been full steam ahead for a decade.

Thomas the Train has been taking passengers all around Lake Blackshear and the park on SAM Shortline.

Thomas has been in town for the past two weekends.

The park welcomes the blue childhood celebrity every year.

Veterans Park enjoys opening its doors to children of all ages and showcasing what Cordele has to offer.

"People come here for this event. They pack the hotels and spend money in the restaurants and everything. So it's a great economic impact, as a tourism stand point, for Southwest Georgia," said Terry Miller, SAM Shortline Director.

Families from all over the south come to see him, take a train ride, and hang out with Thomas and his conductor.

The last chance to see Thomas and all of his friends will be next weekend, October 29 and 30.

"It's a great opportunity for kids to see the actual character from the TV show up live and in person. It's an actual railroad piece," said Miller.

The 5 day event with Thomas the Train is a crowd favorite.

It brings in over half of the park's revenue for the entire year.

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