

CAMPING TODAY

THE VOICE OF FAMILY CAMPERS & RVERS

January 2023



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Please send articles through the new

‘Camping Today’ Submission Portal Page.

<https://fcrv.org/camping-today-submission-forms/>



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Camping Today is a publication of the non-profit National Campers & Hikers Association, doing business as Family Campers & RVers (FCRV). Issue frequency is 12 (monthly) on line at www.fcrv.org. Publisher is Family Campers & RVers, 4904 Transit Rd. Bldg. 2, Depew, New York 14043-4906. Office Manager – Pat Wittmeyer 1800-245-9755, fcrvnat@verizon.net. Online subscription is included with annual membership. Mailed, printed copies are available by annual subscription of \$20. USPS Pub.# 724-710, ISSN# 870-1465. OWNER: National Campers & Hikers Association, doing business as Family Campers & RVers (non-profit), 4804 Transit Rd. Bldg.2, Depew, New York 14043-4906. Bondholders, mortgage, and other security owners holding 1% or more of bonds, mortgages, and other securities: NONE. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed in the last 12 months.



'Camping Today' Submission Forms

['Camping Today' is currently scheduled for release on the 15th of each month]

[All content must be submitted by the 1st.]

Contact FCRVOFFICE@gmail.com if you have any questions or problems submitting material.

Click on the hyperlink below for the type of 'Camping Today' submission you'd liked to send.

[Articles](#) – [Event Recap](#) – [Birthday Shoutout](#) – [Milestone](#) – [Farewell](#) – [Dear RV](#) – [Event Submit](#)



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From The President

Happy New Year, Everyone! Welcome to 2023! We anticipate a great New Year and look to the new camping season. I would like to take the time to encourage you to plan to attend Campvention in Richmond, Indiana in July. The team is working diligently in making this a great Campvention, and we only need you to be there. I have to say that I enjoy every Campvention, and each team works hard to make it a great experience. If you have never been to a Campvention or have not been to one in a long time, we would love to see you there. I would love to have more people than spaces. It would be a good problem to have! If this would happen, I know we would find a solution and make something work finding a place for you.

Has your Chapter completed your camping schedule and placed it with National through the submission portal yet? Do you have your State, Provincial, and Regional outings submitted yet? I know there are a few of you that have completed this, and I thank you for your work getting the information in for the Chapters and State, Provincial, and Regions that have this completed. You are the leaders of FCRV. Keep up the good work. You are the backbone of FCRV. I would ask you to post as soon as you have a date set. Then add information to them as you progress in the planning. This will help with projects in the planning. We have many members that travel, and this will help them with staying part of FCRV as they travel the country. This will also open your chapter to new friends and opportunities as you possibly cross the country. Another aspect that this will do for us is we show that we are active in camping, conservation, wildlife activities across the nation. This sets us up as a leader in camping



activities. The more active we are, the greater our footprint in this industry. Having said this, encourage your leadership to complete the listing of your activities.

So, having said this, let's make 2023 a great year! Let's have some fun camping; invite others to join us and grow FCRV in numbers. Only you can make the difference.

We will see you at the next campfire.

Gerry Pfirsch

FCRV National President



Scholarship Registration Is Now Open

FCRV HANK NATHAN SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY: 2023

By: Deborah Swanson

Who Can Apply: Any FCRV member, or their dependent* children planning to enroll, or currently enrolled, in an undergraduate, graduate, or trade school, may apply for an FCRV scholarship. An applicant must be a member for at least 18 full calendar months before application, and in good standing.

**Dependent children of members applying under their parent/guardian's membership must be a dependent thereof for the year of the scholarship award, and be eligible as an income tax deduction.*

How to Apply: Applications for 2023 will be available on Scholarship America's website @ <http://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/nacho/> Applications will only be accepted online at the above address. The application **MUST** include the FCRV member holder's name, membership number, postal mailing address, and, most importantly, an email address at which the applicant can be contacted. Pay special attention to the entire website and follow the directions closely as you will only have one opportunity to complete the application. Scholarship America will not contact you to make any corrections. Do not assume that it is the same as last year as it may have been changed.

Applications must include the following:

1. A current, complete transcript of grades. Grade reports are not accepted. Transcripts must display student name, school name, grades, and credit hours for each course, and term in which course was taken.
2. Two online recommendation forms, **one from an FCRV member, (can be a trustee, regional director, state director, district director, or any member who is not related). AND, one from a school official, or your immediate supervisor if you are working.** Your application will not be complete unless all required materials are submitted electronically, and you will not be considered for a scholarship.

Stipend: Annual Scholarships are awarded carrying a stipend ranging from \$250 to \$2,000. The Schuh

award of \$2500 is given to students who study the fields of wildlife or conservation. Part-time, and trade school, students will receive one-half of the granted amount. Scholarships are for one year. Recipients may reapply for a scholarship each year they meet the eligibility requirements.

Selection of Scholarship Recipients: Applicants are scored, and ranked, by Scholarship America who then recommends the ranking to the FCRV Scholarship Board. The Board then confirms the ranking and the award. The Board of Directors present the awards at, or after, the Annual General Meeting held at that year's Campvention,

Eligibility Requirements

1. Parents, or guardians, must be a member of FCRV for 18 full calendar months or longer.
2. Applicants must be enrolled, or accepted, into an undergraduate, graduate, or trade school course of study in an accredited two-to-four year college, university, or trade school. Part-time students must carry a minimum of six credits and full-time a minimum of twelve credits.
3. Applicants currently enrolled in college are given equal consideration with incoming freshmen students.

Scholarship Considerations:

1. High school graduates will have their class ranking scored by Scholarship America.
2. College students should have at least a 2.3 grade point average on a 4.0 point scale.
3. Consideration is taken for maturity, leadership, related activities, and goal of the candidate as related to the objectives of FCRV.
4. Special consideration is given to applicants majoring in fields related to conservation, ecology, or outdoor activities, although all other fields are considered.
5. This is a competitive Scholarship therefore the lowest ranked applicant may not receive an award.



Recommendations For National Awards

Recommendations For National Awards

By: Beth Standiford Recording & Corresponding Officer

Campvention will once again be the time for the presentation of awards to persons who have been selected to receive them for their service or other contributions to FCRV, camping, conservation, etc. In some cases, they may be awarded at another time or place. You, in the Field, are the best qualified to suggest and nominate the people who should be honored. We request only that you be judicious in your choice of nominations. Please, recommend only those persons who have made unusual contributions to FCRV, camping, conservation or others that fall in line with our specific programs.

A list of all previous recipients of Plaques and

Citations is posted at FCRV.org. The list is in alphabetical order so that names can be checked quickly. Please take the time to check and see if the individuals you are nominating have already been presented with an award. A couple or individual may be considered for an additional Citation if the circumstances warrant. Plaques are only awarded once.

If you have a problem with the fillable forms, please let me know and we will see what we can do to make your submission work. But, again, please don't wait until the last possible minute.

I am looking forward to the submissions and awards for 2023, and hope you are, too.

(All award forms can be found in the member section of the website [HERE](#))

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Since 1949, FCRV has been a friendly organization, welcoming diversity, and the wide range of talents, ideas and abilities each person brings to the campfire. But we need to adapt to the real world, too, and in that light, FCRV has adopted an anti-discrimination policy. We believe that everyone should be treated equally and respectfully, regardless of whatever characteristics might define the individual, and at the same time, we need to protect the assets and people of the organization. The adoption of this policy is one small step in doing just that.

The Trustees have adopted a policy with the approval of our attorney. The 2022 Executive Board voted to approve the same policy which is now in effect and reads as follows:

FCRV values all members as unique individuals and welcomes and celebrates the variety of experiences, talents, and gifts each brings to the organization. FCRV is committed to a camping environment where everyone is afforded the dignity and respect they deserve. No form of harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, national origin, age, marital status, covered veteran status, disability, pregnancy, or any other basis prohibited by applicable law is permitted. If you see or suspect any violation, or feel you, yourself, are a victim of harassment or discrimination, promptly report it.

This policy will be added to every current and future manual used or developed for use in FCRV. The 2022 Trustees thank you for your support of this policy.



Commercial Task Force

Commercial Task Force

By: Amy Decamp

Hello, campers...

Your help is needed.

Building a strong and ever-growing commercial member base has been a challenge for FCRV for well over a decade. While we are by no means alone in this struggle, we have several advantages many other non-profits do not: A 73-year organizational foundation to build upon; a consistent mission of wildlife preservation and environmental conservation that spans all demographics; and an energized, international member network.

Both current and prospective commercial members have different needs and priorities. To increase and retain financial sponsors, we must establish membership tiers that meet members' needs and help appropriately fund our organization. They must also reflect today's marketing desires and strategies, which the current levels do not.

Our FCRV website now lists the commercial membership tiers as "Under Construction." Here are the previous tiers for review:

Offering members varying levels of benefits with each tier gives current and prospective members more options to meet their needs, while also staying within their budget. This, in turn, boosts

membership renewals.

How may you help? Creative minds are needed to aid in the development of our new tier strategy. As consumers, we ALL have marketing experience and opinions, especially when it comes to RVs, camping products, supplies, and campgrounds. Please strongly consider joining our Commercial Task Force and lending a hand in this endeavor. You may send your questions and/or desire to participate to DrAmyDeCamp@gmail.com. Thank you!



Basic Membership	Enhanced Membership	Advanced Membership	Superior Membership
\$50.00/yr	\$100.00/yr	\$150.00/yr	\$200.00/yr
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You receive listing on the fcrv.org website Welcome listing in FCRV's online magazine, "Camping Today" and listing in the annual Commercial Membership Report in the May issue of 'Camping Today' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You receive listing on the fcrv.org website Welcome listing in FCRV's online magazine, "Camping Today" and listing in the annual Commercial Membership Report in the May issue of 'Camping Today' logo and a hot link to your website on every page of the fcrv.org website rather than just a listing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You receive listing on the fcrv.org website Welcome listing in FCRV's online magazine, "Camping Today" and listing in the annual Commercial Membership Report in the May issue of 'Camping Today' logo and a hot link to your website on every page of the fcrv.org website rather than just a listing. 1/4 page ad for 12 months in "Camping Today" (¼ Page size 1 ¾ x 2 ½) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You receive listing on the fcrv.org website Welcome listing in FCRV's online magazine, "Camping Today" and listing in the annual Commercial Membership Report in the May issue of 'Camping Today' logo and a hot link to your website on every page of the fcrv.org website rather than just a listing. 1/2 page ad for 12 months in "Camping Today" (½ Page Size 3 ½ x 5")



Camping Today/Social Media Forms

Camping Today/Social Media Forms

By: Barb Turner

Camping Today submissions have been technologically streamlined. By using the submissions forms below, members can easily submit articles and share upcoming events, recaps of activities completed, as well as farewells, milestones, birthday shoutouts, and ask questions of Dear RV.

Click on the hyperlink below for the type of 'Camping Today' submission you'd liked to send.

[Articles](#) – [Event Recap](#) – [Birthday Shoutout](#) – [Milestone](#) – [Farewell](#) – [Dear RV](#) – [Event Submit](#)

In addition to Camping Today, submissions other than the articles are placed in queue for sharing on social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. After research and recommendations, promotion and publicity of FCRV and our activities via these formats will enhance our exposure, both to our members and the RV world. From the beginning, NCHA/FCRV has been referred to as 'the best-kept secret'. Survival in the modern world won't happen as the 'best-kept secret'. Let's shout that we are here! We are 'happening'! And, we welcome all campers & RVers!

If you have any questions submitting material, contact FCRVOFFICE@gmail.com.



Help Wanted (Open Volunteer Positions)

FCRV needs your help. Please consider filling one of these positions. They are very important to the operation of FCRV. Contact [VP Ops – Jeff Kendle](#), or [Immediate Past President – Shari Weber](#) for details.

Membership Director – Reports to Vice-President Planning & Development and is a member of the Advisory Council. Primarily responsible for the growth and retention of membership. Field Manual job description is currently under review and subject to change.

Commercial Director – Reports to Vice-President Planning & Development and is a member of the Advisory Council. Main responsibility is the development and retention of commercial membership/accounts. Field Manual job description is currently under review and subject to change.

Youth Director – Reports to Vice-President Programs and is a member of the Advisory Council. Works for the betterment of future youth programs

in FCRV. Field Manual job description is currently under review and subject to change.



State/Provincial Directors for Maryland, DC, Ohio and Connecticut – Reports to their Regional Director and is a member of the Advisory Council. Position is to administer and coordinate the activities of the State/Province in the areas of membership



and National programs at their level. Maintain current membership list for said State/Province. Appoint Field Director(s). Keep Regional Director apprised of chapters status. Approve constitution/bylaws, promote FCRV and State/Provincial activities, submit reports to Regional Director, hold meetings with field staff. Field Manual job description is currently under review and subject to change.

Communication & Security Director – Reports to the Vice President Planning & Development and is a member of the Advisory Council. Communication to be used for FCRV Campventions and Retiree Rallies. Integration of electronic communication into a balanced communications system. Responsible for electronic (walkie-talkies) equipment. Field Manual job description is currently under review and subject to change.

Conservation Director – Reports to the Vice President of Programs and is a voting member of the Executive Board. Conservation is at the heart of FCRV. Maintain existing program guidelines and formulate new as needed. Maintain records of the program. Field Manual job description is currently under review and subject to change.

Veterans – Reports to the Vice President Programs and is a member of the Advisory Council. Show support FCRV members who are Veterans, conduct or arrange for, informational seminars featuring other Veterans and promote information about FCRV Veterans about activities and opportunities for

them. Field Manual job description is currently under review and subject to change

Travalong Director – Reports to the Immediate Past President and is a member of the Advisory Council. Program is designed to help travelers enjoy group-planned activities and help members and non-members learn about areas of travel and who to contact for information. Establish Travalongs with at least one to coincide with National Campvention. Field Manual job description is currently under review and subject to change.

Region 5 Director – Reports to the Vice President of Operations and is a voting member of the Executive Board. Represent FCRV in the region, assist State Directors in the region and provide coordination of administration between the States and the Vice President of Operations. Recommend appointments and/or releases of State Directors to the Vice President of Operations. Coordinate activities between the various States in the region. Act as the State Director in those States that have none. Within the region, administer National bylaws, Constitution, regulations, policies and directives.

Volunteer Background Records Custodian – Member of the Advisory Council Reporting to the Vice President Programs. This position receives permission forms from volunteers working with teens or youth to run a background check. Full job responsibilities are in the field manual. Field Manual job description is currently under review and subject to change.



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Retiree Rally 2023 - Dothan, Alabama

Event Details!



Rally Door Prize Info

By: Pat Crow, Door Prize Chair

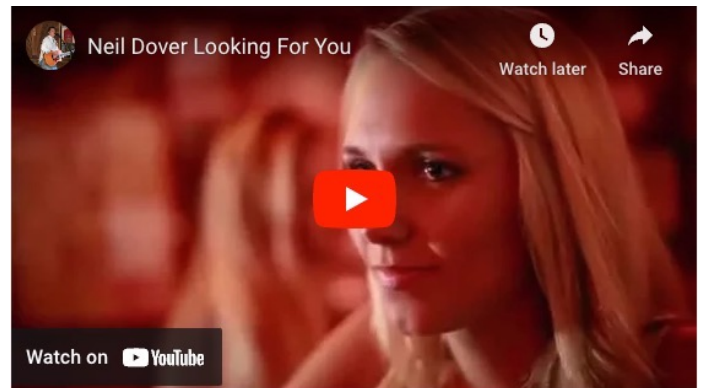
It's better to give than to receive, but wait——— you can do both at the Retiree Rally. Bring a door prize and receive a door prize. Nuff said!

Give What You “can” – Retiree Rally Food Drive

By: Beth Standiford, Food Drive Chair

FCRV makes a big impact on the locations where we hold Rallies and Campventions. For this reason, we want the impact to be a positive one. We, as a collective group, bring a lot of income to the area where we camp in the form of fuel, food, tourism, eating out, entertainment, local sites, etc. Food/Fund drives are a great way to give back and say thanks to a community where we've had so much fun with our friends. Food drives help local charities keep their shelves stocked, and it raises awareness among our camping community to the hunger and needs of those around us, even though they may not be immediately visible.

We are providing for the basic needs of others and giving a sense of dignity and pride to those who can then provide for their families. The facility we will



Neil Dover

Neil Dover will be entertaining the FCRV Retiree Rally 2023 attendees. Neil describes himself: “I’m a country singer songwriter based in south Alabama. My music is kind of country and kind of rock and a little beachy. I’ve been recording Independent Country Music for ten years now. I’ve only stayed in business so long because of people like you. There are people who’ve been pushed away from mainstream country because they just don’t like much of it anymore.” Preview Neil at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyI7_i0XTpQ. We look forward to hearing Neil perform for us in person the end of March.



be donating to is the Wiregrass Area Foodbank. This organization procures and distributes excess food and grocery products while cultivating community awareness and participation. An equal opportunity employer, this non-profit charity feeds the needy in six counties in Alabama. Complete with frozen and refrigerated storage as well as canned goods, they provide food to the needy at no cost. Food is distributed by affiliate agencies (churches, other pantries, soup kitchens, day cares, emergency



shelters and the like) at no charge and are members of the Feeding America National Food Bank Network. A table will be set up in the main building to accept donations all week of Rally and will be delivered along with any and all monetary donations.

For every \$1 donated, the Wiregrass Area Food Bank can provide 9 meals to feed the hungry.

Last year, cash donations exceeded my expectations by so much more than I thought possible. This year, I am asking every person at the Rally to donate the equivalent of one meal, either in canned goods or in cash donations.

I know you won't let down the deserving people of Dothan, Alabama. Any questions or comments can be directed to me at fcrvsecretary@gmail.com

2023 International Retiree Rally of FCRV

By: Ron & Reba Ray, Host of 2023 Retiree Rally

Early days will start on Friday March 24

Everybody must leave on Sunday April 2, unless arrangements have been made.

We hope everyone is looking forward to this rally as much as we are. We have a team that is willing to get the jobs done and are looking forward to working with each and every one of you.

Right now, we have 2 entertainers for the rally: PG-38, a 4- piece band that sings country music, and Neil Dover, who sings a variety of music. We have another entertainer in the works but has not confirmed as yet.

We plan to have a lot of vendors at the rally. It should be a great variety.

You should be getting your confirmation letter

through the email soon. Please make a copy and have it available when you check in at the gate. Also, if you can get those registrations in, we'll know how many to prepare for, especially for the meals.

If your state or province wants to run a King & Queen, please get their names in. The deadline is January 15, 2023. We would like to have more than one running; it just makes it more fun for everyone.

Remember, you do not have to be retired to come to retiree rally. Everyone is welcome. We don't have much for kids, but they can enjoy the games and every activity that we have going on. If you have friends that are not FCRV members and they want to find out what we do, then bring them along as a guest. Make sure you put guests on the top of their registration.

Make your plans, and let's see everyone at Dothan, Alabama.

See everyone soon; 3 months counting down.

Calling All Singers

By: Kip Cushing, Choir Director

Come join the International FCRV Choir, renowned voices from Canada and around the United States. We shall gather together at the beautiful Peanut Festival Grounds in southern Alabama. We will sing wonderful hymns our crowd will enjoy and cherish. It is one musical moment that can unleash the great memories from the past and present. I hope you will sign up when you register at the Retiree Rally; there will be sign-up papers on the tables. For those over anxious stupendous gospel singers, you could email me at kcushing@wi.rr.com (or wait).

Should Folk Music songs be more up your alley that is great. I will have a sign-up sheet for that group so that we may entertain all at the ever -popular super Variety Show. Anyone with an acoustic instrument wanting to accompany us will be much welcomed.

The excitement and fun of a Rally is when you jot your name on a list of what you enjoy doing and get involved. Whether it be accompanying us, singing, setting up chairs, handing out programs or just hanging out and telling a joke, it's fun. We're there to relax; so, remember, you can sing from a chair and hold a soda in one hand. I've done it. (I was reading the karaoke screen)



RETIREE GAMES – at the 51st Rally in Dothan, Alabama

By: Craig & Shari Weber & Marjorie Bates, Games
Chairs

The time to get “Nuttty” with the “Nuttty Campers” is getting closer.... Get your game on! Or, just come and have some fun. This month I thought I would talk about some of the outside games we plan to play.

At central registration there will be sign-up sheets for the different games. This allows for planning, but if you don't get signed up, just show up at the scheduled time, and you will play. We enjoy playing a variety of games. I will feature two this month and two more next month. Currently, the complete rules for the games FCRVers enjoy playing are listed on www.fcrv.org under programs, Adult Activities. Anyone with access to the internet can access this information. Winners will receive their recognitions at the end of the games and will be recognized in an announcement from stage.

Ladder Golf (also known by other names) is played with 2 or more players or teams. Each player has 3 golf ball bolas. A bola is 2 golf balls attached by a nylon rope. The object of the game is to wrap your bolas around the steps of the ladder. The ladder

consists of 3 steps, a top, middle and a bottom step. Each step has a different scoring value. The toss line is 15 feet from the ladder. Players take turns tossing their bolas. We will play singles and doubles. Doubles can be two women, two men, or one man and one woman. All interested players will be able to play with winners continuing to the next round until a first place and second place is determined.

Washer Toss is played with two wooden boards (12"x48"x4") with three 4-inch holes. The boards are placed opposite each other 10 feet apart. There are two sets of three 3-inch washers with different colors for each set of boards. Players toss the washers at the opposite board to put them in the holes scoring differently depending on which hole the washer goes in. We will play singles and doubles. Doubles can be two women, two men, or one man and one woman. All interested players will be able to play with winners continuing to the next round until a first place and second place is determined.

The rally has enough of each of these game sets to play the tournaments.

Anyone interested in helping with a particular game or just in general, please send a message to us at fcrvnd@yahoo.com.





Visit Enterprise, Alabama – Famous for the Boll Weevil Monument

By: Barb Turner

Boll Weevil Monument? Really? Yes! When Googling what Enterprise is famous for, the Boll Weevil Monument is the answer. Why?

First, what is a boll weevil? The boll weevil was a pest. It was a beetle that fed on cotton buds and flowers. 'Was' is important as it has been eradicated in the United States.

Now, remember 'cotton was king' in the south due to the climate. The boll weevil was a pest that destroyed cotton crops. Cotton was the main crop in the Enterprise, Alabama area. The boll weevil infestation in 1915 led to agricultural diversity. .

What could be planted other than cotton? Peanuts and other crops!! With the switch, the area experienced more prosperity than had ever come from cotton alone. Two years later, Coffee County

was the United States' leading producer of peanuts.

To 'honor' the pest that led to prosperity in the area, the Boll Weevil Monument was erected by the citizens of Enterprise in 1919 to show their appreciation to the insect that led to new prosperity. It is the only monument to an agricultural pest in the world.

Put Enterprise, Alabama and the Boll Weevil Monument on your 'to-do list' when attending the 2023 FCRV Retiree Rally in March! If you haven't registered yet, please do so by going to <https://fcrv.org/retiree-rally-2023/>.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boll_weevil

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HIKRjU5fRM>
(Visit Enterprise)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAcF30cU7p4>
(Boll Weevil Song by Tex Ritter, for those of you 'of-a-certain-age')





Campvention 2023 - Richmond, Indiana

Event Details!

FCRV International Band

By: Craig Weber, FRCV International Band
Director

This is a special notice to all of you who will be attending Campvention for the first time in Richmond, Indiana this summer. FCRV has a volunteer band that plays one evening at Campvention. We welcome anyone who would like to be part of a fun group and be part of Campvention. We practice four or five times before we play, and we try to keep the music simple.

Here's what you get as an FCRV International Band Member:

- Exclusive FCRV International Band tuxedo t-shirt
- 2. The enjoyment of meeting new people
- 3. FCRV International Band Member badge and year tab
- 4. Pizza party for you and your family before Concert



If you play an instrument and would like to be a part of the FCRV International Band, just dust off your instrument, blow in it to get the dead critters out, and keep your eyes peeled for more information. Music will be made available in May so that you can get in some extra practice.

Keep watching for future updates. Thank you.

Campvention '23 Registration Musings

By: Beth Muschinski, Registration Chair

Last week, while at home in MS, I spent about ½ hour in our Harry Potter cupboard (under the stairs storage area) while the tornado sirens went off. This occurred about 1am and then again about 30-45 minutes later. Everything was fine; no tornado touchdown anywhere near us.

This week, as I write this article, I am in WI waiting for a blizzard to come storming in. We are told to expect 1" to 75" of snow (not really that much, but I don't want our NY blizzard survivors to feel left out in the cold), wind chills in the -50 range and 50 mph winds. Not sure how this will turn out, but as we are here for 2 weeks, I'm sure that by the time we decide to head back south whatever snow we have will be cleared off the roads.

What an adventuresome life Larry and I have!!! Who would have thought retirement could be so exciting???

Sooooo, speaking of exciting.....who has already made their reservations for the 2023 Campvention in Richmond, IN July 9-14? Well, I can tell you exactly who will be attending!!! I had 7 reservations come in one day just before we left on this little WI adventure. Trust me, there are many, many more than 7 already planning on attending, BUT we have room for oh so many more campers!! I will just remind you now that there are over 900 campsites available to us so bring your friends, bring your neighbors, invite people you don't know (but would like to). I am thrilled to have exchanged emails and some phone calls with several of these registrants. We are all raring to get into those campers again and be done with winter.

The early bird registration has ended, but that is no reason to hang back and wait to send in your information and claim a spot. Articles have been put on Facebook regarding other activities in the Richmond, IN area. Join the [Facebook 2023 Campvention page](#) (if you haven't already) and be kept up to date on these and many more things to do in that area. The Campvention calendar is filling up



with seminars/games/hospitalities/other activities and promises to be a fun-filled week. There is information on the Facebook page regarding RV rentals and hotel rooms in the area if you have no camper. Who needs a camper to go camping? Not us! We have a great time no matter what! In the past year we have borrowed a camper, stayed with friends in their camper, stayed in motel rooms. If

you want to have an adventure, there is always a way.

Please do not allow my remaining winter to be boring. Send in those registrations and plan on spending the week of your life in Richmond, IN in July 2023.

Veterans Memorial Park, Richmond, Indiana

By: Barb Turner, Publicity Chair

At the suggestion of Linda Hennie, Campvention 2023 Co-Chair, the site to share this month is the Wayne County Veterans Memorial Park in Richmond, Indiana at 5701 National Road East. The park is 3 miles from the Wayne County Fairgrounds, site of the 2023 FCRV Campvention!

The park honors area veterans for their service to our country. It is located in the Whitewater Gorge.

“Memorial Park contains memorials from the Civil War, WWI, WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Women’s Memorial, Purple Heart Memorial and more all along the scenic Whitewater River. Two M3A3 Stuart tanks, a HUEY helicopter, M60 Tank, two naval guns, a new A-6 intruder aircraft (2022) and more reside in the park as well. This beautiful memorial park was created by veterans for veterans. A new overlook provides a scenic view of

the park along with seating and a rocking bench.

“Walk, Bike, Run – The NEW Whitewater Gorge connector trail has been completed. This 1/3-mile trail overlooks Veterans Memorial Park and connects the Cardinal Greenway to the Loop, Whitewater Gorge Trail & Veterans Memorial Park!” <https://www.visitrichmond.org/listing/veterans-memorial-park>

Linda reported that Campvention Chair Connie Black & she enjoyed exploring the park. The accompanying photos were taken by Linda.

Explore the Wayne County Veterans Memorial Park while attending Campvention 2023 in July. Registered? You can do so at <https://fcrv.org/campvention-2023/>.

<https://www.facebook.com/Wayne-County-Veterans-Memorial-Park-1674015939530637/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77x4ExKBisU>





Calling All Youth to Campvention 2023

By: Deena Felver, Chairman & Pat Cohee, Co-chair

This is Deena Felver, and I have a fun-filled week planned for the youth at Campvention in Richmond, Indiana this year.

There will be a different theme every day. There will be a Halloween day so make sure you pack the Halloween costumes, and parents and fellow campers, make sure you bring the candy to fill up the buckets. There will be a Cinco de Mayo day, a water day, and an honoring-the-veterans day. So, with that all being said, bring your swimsuits or water attire and maybe a picture of a vet that is

special to you so we can honor them. There will also be a craft or activity every day to go with the theme for the day.

I hope to see lots of youth in attendance at Richmond. We are planning a fun-filled week, and I am excited to meet the youth (their parents) and other new people. Remember to bring Halloween costumes, swimsuits/water attire and candy!

If you have any questions regarding the youth programs scheduled for the Richmond Campvention, you can email me at cdfelver@metalink.com.



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Event Calendar & Recaps



[\[Click Here For Full Event Calendar\]](#)

[\[Click here to submit a recap of your ent or outing\]](#)



Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
last Wednesday



Colorado Eagles Christmas party early December at the beautifully decorated home of one of our members. There was a fun gift exchange (so you wanted to keep that?), a prize for the best Christmas sweater, lots of good food and plenty of time to visit. Wonderful!



16 2 Share



Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
on Friday



The Colorado Trailblazers held their monthly luncheon and meeting at the Colorado Springs Golden Corral. We also had our annual Christmas card and goodie exchange.



7 Comment Share



Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
last Friday



The Slow Travelers went to Branson, Mo. in November for Veterans Week. Great time sightseeing, shows, shopping and veterans activities. On parade day, November 11th, the temperatures fell and we attended the parade bundled in our winter coats. It was a great camping week.



19 1 4



Family Campers & RVers - FCRV

about a week ago



The 16 members of the FCRV RGV Winter Texans Chapter attended the 50th Anniversary of the Rio Grande Valley Ballet, presentation of THE NUTCRACKER, at the McAllen Performing Arts Center. Photographs or recording of the very good performance was not allowed.



4 4 Comment Share



Family Campers & RVers - FCRV

about a week ago



Aspen Adventurers camped at Parish Ranch. The turkeys visited us every day. Weather was great, food and conversation were even better. It's not every day the FCRV National President bakes cinnamon rolls for everyone before you head back home.



13 1 Share



Family Campers & RVers - FCRV

about a week ago



Pitch-N-Pull chapter held it's holiday luncheon at Fitters 5th Street Pub in Sedalia, MO on December 6th. It was wonderful that everyone was able to attend since it had been some time that we have all been together.



19 4 5



Fond Memories of Time Gone By

Fond Memories of Time Gone By

By: Richard and Vera Randall

Vera and I joined NCHA in 1968. We joined the Fiddlers Green Chapter, located in Springville, New York, and actively camped with them until 2019. Our first Campvention attendance was in DuQuoin, Illinois in 1969, and we sure wondered what it was all about! Our next Campvention attendance was 1970 where we learned the best way to enjoy Campvention was to help others and get acquainted. Our first big volunteer gig was the insignia trailer and that is where all the fun began. Before we knew it, we were volunteering at many Campventions, taking on the responsibility of layout, parking and registration. We also held many positions in our chapter, and we were field directors for many years. Over the years we received many plaques, and citations, in recognition of jobs well done. In 2015, we received "the big one", a National Plaque. We could not be there in person so we were the first to receive the plaque virtually. What a great honor. We have made many friends from all around the country



over the years. We would like to name all the friends we made, but it would take an entire issue of Camping Today! Due to our ages, Vera, 98 and me 96, we can no longer actively camp. We still enjoy day trips with the chapter and potlucks. We did not give up, just slowed down a bit. Fiddlers Green is a great family chapter and remains family to us.



Personalized garments; drinkware; clings; decals; kitchen & bath items. You can choose from our large graphic collection or use your photos or designs.

For FCRV branded items: https://stores.inksoft.com/fc_rv/shop/home

For other items: https://stores.inksoft.com/marshall_creations16/shop/home

Call or text: 410-533-0038

Marshallcreations16@gmail.com



“Working in the Clouds”

“Working in the Clouds” – Adventures in the Field: Stories from a Wildlife Technician

By: Amy Wittmeyer

When I was working in California on a camera trapping project in 2021, we worked in the field through the month of October. As the season changed, we began to experience some pretty crazy weather, from temperatures 30°F below normal to an atmospheric river dropping over 6 inches of rain in 36 hours. The craziest weather I experienced that month, however, was hard rime ice.



Rime ice forms when water droplets from low-hanging clouds freeze on cold surfaces and create 3D formations and layers on trees, buildings, and pretty much any outer surface the water can find. This freezing fog forms on the windward side of any solid object and creates thick, hard-to-shake coverings of opaque white ice.

My field partner and I started the day driving up the mountain and into the cloud, amazed by how dense the fog was and a little apprehensive about working in such miserable conditions. It was below freezing and very wet; we were in a cloud, after all. Trust me, it's not as glorious as it sounds in romance and fantasy books. But, duty called, and so we set off along the trail for a ways until we had to break off and start climbing the hillside. As we did, we entered what felt like a fairy tale.

The mountain top was covered in beautiful, simultaneously delicate and hard rime ice. Every stick, every individual needle on a spruce branch,



sported its own covering of ice. As we climbed even higher and hit the mountain top, the trees were completely coated, giving the forest an ethereal,



almost Narnia-like feeling. To make it even more stunning, many of the trees were charred black from a wildfire the previous year, and the contrast of the white ice on the black trees was breathtaking. As we hiked back down the mountain to return to our truck, we dipped below the cloud layer and the rime ice faded away.

I, for one, was very glad we encountered this spectacle. Even though my hair froze, and I was uncomfortably warm from hiking but cold from the weather, it made it all worth it. I had never seen such a phenomenon before. The experience turned what could have been a very miserable day indeed into one of the coolest days I've ever had in the field (no pun intended!)





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Dear RV



Hi there everyone, we are introducing a new article in Camping Today. We would like to welcome you to Dear RV. This is a place where you can ask the questions that you are hesitant to ask members of your Chapter, State, or your Neighbor. Your questions will be answered from our point of view, and it will hopefully give you a chuckle as well as some useful information to help you in your RVing experience. You may not agree completely with all our answers, but our goal is to give honest information to you as to how we do our RVing. We would prefer to not know who is submitting the question. So, send us your questions and we will send you an answer (possibly that you were not expecting) but an answer, just the same and possibly with a small dose of humor for good measure.

Us here at Dear RV!

[Click on this link to go to the Dear RV web page to submit your question.](#)

Dear RV,

When I was younger, I was told to not cover my RV. I was told covering it (with a tarp, in those days) would be worse than the acid rain we had then. Now I see all sorts of RV covers. Are they just money-making opportunists, or are current RV covers legit?

Dear Cover,

There are many reasons why you should and shouldn't cover your RV, especially if it's stored outdoors. On the pro side: Keeping it cleaner. Any time you can minimize the amount of work involved with owning an RV it's a good thing, and a cover does help with keeping the dust, dirt, bird poop, UV rays, sun damage, and dirty rain from causing damage to your investment. On the con side: Make sure you invest in one that fits your camper. An ill-fitting cover can cause more damage such as paint wear, damage to mirrors from it flapping in the wind and trapped moisture may cause rust. Covering (and removal of) a large RV cover could be extremely challenging. And where do you store it? So, as you see this is a choice that only you can make for yourself. You will have to weigh the pros and cons of covering your RV. Elsewhere in Camping Today we have a corporate sponsor (see their ad) that might be able to answer any other questions you may have. Thanks again for asking Dear RV

Dear RV,

We have our unit in a storage lot and are wondering if there is anything that will successfully keep rodents out of my camper during the winter. Thanks.



Dear Camper,

It's almost a fact of life that if you have a camper in storage, you will get rodents. It's an ongoing battle. I know a lot of people who empty out absolutely everything and still get them. I also know others who never take anything out and don't get any. Let me just say, there are a LOT of products on the market and all prices you can try. I personally have had success with bars of Irish Spring soap and dryer

sheets. If you have a pet, you do have to be careful of the over-the-counter product you choose. IMHO, the most important things you can do are: Remove all food (including pet food). Wipe down the rig before storing. Keep them out by plugging the holes. Check every place there is an opening around and under your camper and seal those openings. Good luck and let me know how it goes. Thanks for writing to Dear RV

Solar Eclipse - April 8th 2024

Solar Eclipse – April 8th 2024

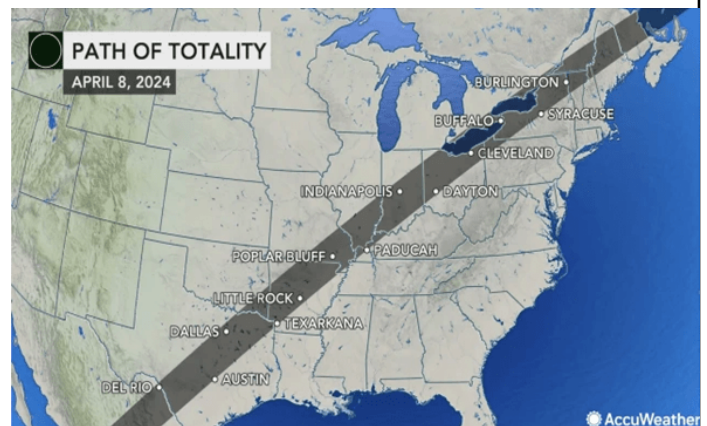
By: Beth Standiford

Hey Campers! Not since 2017 have you had an opportunity like the one coming in April of 2024. We all know what an ordeal it is to get campsites now so here's your chance to REALLY plan ahead!.

A total solar eclipse will be visible April 8, 2024 so start planning NOW!

Here's a link to where you will be able to see it.
https://nationaleclipse.com/cities_total.html

Check out the campgrounds in the path near you!



In The Town of Bean Blossom In.

Bill Monroe's
Music Park & Campground
5163 State Road 135 North
Morgantown, In 46160

www.billmonroemusicpark.com



Farewells

Note that Farewells are only published in the PDF version of Camping Today. If we miss a Farewell for an FCRV member or former FCRV please submit it at the following link:

<https://fcrv.org/camping-today-submission-forms-farewell/>

Joyce Schneider Rachuk- FL - Chapter N/A - December 9, 2022 - Obituary not available

Warren Fritz (88) - KS - Bonfire Busters - December 8, 2022 - [Obituary for Warren Fritz](#)

Phyliss Gass (93) - OH - Roamin' Trojans - December 25, 2022 - [Obituary for Phyliss Gass](#)

George Brant (90) - NY - Chapter N/A - December 17, 2022 - [Obituary for George Brant](#)

Ida O'Dell (72) - MI - Chapter N/A - December 22, 2022 - [Obituary for Ida O'Dell](#)

Leonard De Groot (77) - NJ - Capital Campers - November 28, 2022 - [Obituary for Leonard De Groot](#)

Dick Smith (99) - OH - FuNCHAsers - November 28, 2022 - [Obituary for Dick Smith](#)

Bryon Johnston (88) - CO - Chapter N/A - January 6, 2023 - Obituary not available.



51st
FCRV INTERNATIONAL RETIREE RALLY
NATIONAL PEANUT FESTIVAL FAIRGROUND
DOTHAN, ALABAMA
RALLY STARTS: MARCH 28 TO APRIL 2, 2023
EARLY DAYS: MARCH 24 TO MARCH 27
PLEASE FILL IN ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

FOR REGISTRAR ONLY

REG# _____
CK# _____
CASH _____
AMT: \$ _____

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST: _____ SPOUSE/OTHER: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

ADDRESS OF OTHER (IF DIFFERENT): _____

MAILING ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT (FROM ABOVE): _____

HOME PHONE #: _____ CELL #: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ CONFIRMATION SENT: PDF _____ WORD _____
MAIL: _____

REGISTERING FOR:

CAMPING: _____ ON GROUNDS CAMP PASS: _____ CAMP PASS OFF GROUNDS: _____ NUMBER OF PEOPLE: _____

IS THIS YOUR FIRST RETIREE RALLY: YES _____ NO _____ ARE YOU A VETERAN: YES _____ NO _____

SPECIAL NEEDS: _____ (MUST HAVE ON FILE WITH THE REGISTRAR OF THE FOLLOWING): UP TO DATE:
DOCTOR'S CERTIFICATE, STATE LICENSE REGISTRATION INCLUDING HANDICAPPED PLATE OR PLACARD. THIS AREA IS
RESERVED FOR WHEELCHAIRS, WALKERS, OR THOSE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY PROBLEMS.

RATES: REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 14, 2023. ALL ATTENDING MUST REGISTER EITHER
BEFORE OR AT THE GATE. EARLY BIRDS FEE OF: \$40 PER DAY WILL BE COLLECTED IN DOTHAN AT REGISTRATION.
INCLUDED IN PRICE: HOOK-UPS, (30/50 AMP), ICE CREAM SOCIAL, 2 DINNERS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND LOTS OF FUN.

	<u>BEFORE DEADLINE:</u>	<u>AFTER DEADLINE:</u>
2 PEOPLE IN UNIT:	\$330	\$365
1 PERSON IN UNIT:	\$300	\$335
****CAMP PASS ON GROUNDS STAYING IN SOMEONE'S RV (MUST PAY \$10 PER DAY FOR EARLY DAYS).		
2 PEOPLE	\$200	
1 PERSON	\$100	
CAMP PASS OFF GROUNDS:		
2 PEOPLE	\$200	
1 PERSON	\$100	

REFUNDS: ALL BUT \$35 WILL BE REFUNDED IF RECEIVED TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE RALLY. AFTER THE
RALLY DEADLINE (MARCH 14, 2023) ONLY THE CAMPING FEE WILL BE REFUNDED. ALL OTHER REFUNDS WILL HAVE TO
WAIT UNTIL THE RALLY ENDS.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FCRV/NCHA RETIREE RALLY. NO CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

MAIL TO: BILL AND PENNY RAMLOW: 8371 NIGHT OWL DR. RIVERVIEW, FL. 33569.

YOU CAN CONTACT THEM AT: 305-822-6589 OR 813-545-6083. PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE OR

EMAIL THEM: PRAMLOW@AOL.COM

I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR: _____



63rd INTERNATIONAL CAMPVENTION
FAMILY CAMPERS & Rver's
A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME IS FCRV
Wayne County Fairgrounds and Expo Center
861 Salisbury Rd
Richmond, IN



Campvention Days: July 9-14 2023

fees cover July 9-14 (6 nights)

Early Bird Days: July 7 & 8, 2023 @ \$30/night (pay upon arrival – cash/check)

Registrations are needed by: June 1, 2023

There will be room for you if you decide to come at the last minute.

Just bring this registration with you. We want everyone to come see us!!!

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____ **Spouse/Guest:** _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **ST/PRV:** ____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone #: _____ **e-mail:** _____

Is this your first Campvention? Yes ____ No ____ Send my confirmation letter in PDF: Yes ____ No ____

Number of people in your unit:

Of Adults: ____ Teens: ____ Youth 9 – 12 ____ Youth 5 – 8 ____ Young Adults ____ Total number of people in Unit: ____

Please list the names and ages of all Teens and Youth:

Name	Age	Name	Age

CAMPVENTION PARKING:

The gates will be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Special Needs Information:

Check if you are requesting a special needs site: ____ There will be no special needs sites available at the gate.

REGISTRATION:

Everyone must complete a registration form including second families and camp passes. Submit payment with the registration form. All funds should be US currency of checks or money orders. NO CREDIT CARDS.

	<u>Registration</u>	<u>At Gate</u>
One Family in the Unit	\$335.00	\$365.00
Extra Family in the Unit (separate pay)	\$150.00	\$165.00
Week Drive-in Pass (July 11-16)	\$175.00	\$190.00
Walk-in Camp Pass (per day)	\$ 30.00	\$ 35.00

PAY BEFORE DECEMBER 31ST, 2022 TO RECEIVE A \$25 DISCOUNT (\$310.00)

Please note length of camping rig behind type:

Motor Home _____ 5th Wheel _____ Travel Trailer _____ Pop-Up _____

Make checks payable to: FCRV Campvention 2023

Mail to: Beth Muschinski

475 Eaglecrest Dr.

Grenada, MS 38901-8391 (662)230-3233

Refund policy: If you are unable to

attend, all except \$25 will be refunded

froglegs2002@gmail.com

We would like to volunteer for: _____

SEMINAR PRESENTATION FORM
2023 CAMPVENTION IN RICHMOND, INDIANA
JULY 9 – 15, 2023

If anyone is interested or you know of someone who may be interested in presenting a seminar during the 2023 FCRV Campvention in Richmond, Indiana, please complete this form and email it as soon as possible – but before April 30, 2023 or call Ray Suennen.

YOUR INFORMATION (Please print) Name _____
Email _____
Phone # _____
City & State _____

PRESENTORS (If Different) Name _____
OR Assistant / Back Up Person Email _____
Phone # _____
City & State _____

SEMINAR NAME - _____

Describe the Seminar _____

LENGTH OF THE SEMINAR - _____ Minutes (from 30 to 90 minutes)

BUILDING NEEDS _____
Such as electricity, tables (including size), screen, ventilation, or ??

DO YOU HAVE A PREFERRED -->	DAY	TIME OF DAY
(Monday-Friday)	1 st Choice. _____	_____
	2 nd Choice _____	_____

OTHER COMMENTS - _____

EMAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM TO – FCRVwi2@YAHOO.COM

Or mail to Ray Suennen, 2563 Turnbury Road, Green Bay, WI 54313

For information call - 920-606-0289

Ray will reply by email to confirm receipt of this form.



HOSPITALITY REGISTRATION FORM
2023 FCRV CAMPVENTION
Wayne County Fairgrounds
Richmond, Indiana



Registration Deadline May 1, 2023

State / Province / Region / Trustees: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone: Home (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

	Date July 10th – 14th	Day	Time if Not after Evening Program
1 st Choice			
2 nd Choice			

Note: evening hospitalities will begin ½ hour after the Evening Program.

Please complete the following:

How many Tables are required to serve? _____

Do you need refrigerator space (Yes/No) _____ freezer space (Yes/No) _____

Refrigerator and freezer space will not be available until the day of your hospitality.

Indicate type of Refreshments & Snacks _____

If you need a Sound system or ice, you must furnish your own.

If you move tables and chairs, please put them back where they were. You must also take out your own trash to the dumpster after the hospitality, wipe down the tables, clean-up spills, and sweep the floors if needed.

Please Email your Registration Form to either of the following:

Denise Weiss

Email: winonagirl@hotmail.com

Stacy Davis

hotflash.nana@outlook.com

Enter "Campvention 2023 Hospitality" in the subject line

Registration Deadline May 1, 2023

Questions: Please contact Denise at 765-960-6299 or Stacy at 317-902-6338



PROGRAM ADS 2023 CAMPVENTION DEADLINE May 1, 2023



Now is your chance to say thank you or recognize someone special or wish someone a Happy Birthday or Happy Anniversary. Perhaps you want to tell someone in the organization Thank You for all their hard work. Or you'd like to remember one of our own who has passed and is missed at Campvention. You can do any or all these things in the 2023 Campvention Program Book!

Ad prices are:

- Blurb (2 lines of print) \$10
- Blurb (4 lines of print) \$20
- Quarter Page (business card size) \$25
- Half Page (5" x 4" landscape) \$50
- Full Page (5" x 8" portrait) \$100
- Full page (Premium Placement) \$150
(inside front cover, inside back cover, back cover)
- Full Page Spread (2 pages, side-by-side) \$175
- Centerfold Spread (Premium Placement) \$225
(middle two pages of the program, across the center staples)

For all ads, please fill out the following:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ E-MAIL _____

For Blurbs, please put lines of text below:

Digital art for ads is preferred. Flash drive, email attachments, digital dropboxes are all accepted. For a Business Card ad, please include your business card with your payment if unable to provide digital art.

Send your payment, payable to "Campvention 2023" along with the wording and/or artwork, you want and this form by May 1, 2023, to:

**Marci McIntosh
2558 E Sigler Rd
Carleton, MI 48117**

**Ad and payment must be received by May 1, 2023
For questions, please e-mail marci719mac@gmail.com or call 313-590-3092**