

CAMPING TODAY

THE VOICE OF FAMILY CAMPERS & RVERS

February 2025



@officialfcrv

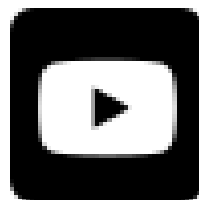
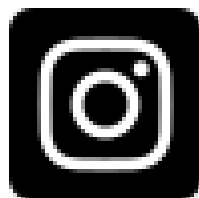
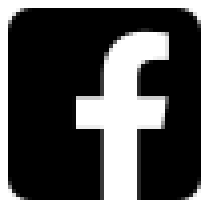


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Camping Today' Submission Forms

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

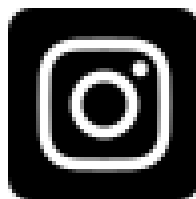
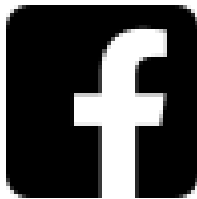
[All content must be submitted by the 1st.]

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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YOUR CHAIR AWAITS



- International Camping Club
- Non-Profit Member Owned
- National & Local Events
- Wildlife & Conservation
- Scholarship Programs
- Youth, Teen, Adult and Retiree Programs

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From The President

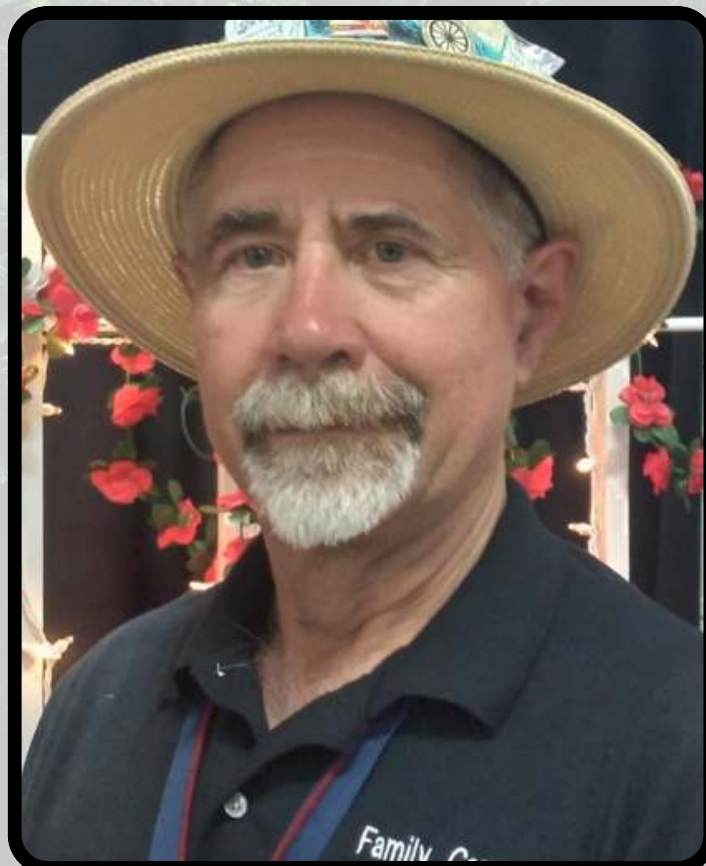


I hope that the New Year is treating everyone well. Many of us are planning the upcoming year and our many chapter activities. Let me remind you to get your camping schedule in. I can say that it is always fun when you can camp with fellow members when traveling. This makes for some great memories and highlights for a trip. Another reminder is to assure your email on file with the national office is correct as we have an election just around the corner. This is an important function, and we have good candidates who are willing to share their time and talent to keep FCRV moving ahead. Your ballot will be distributed by email and will have a link to cast your vote. I ask that you take a moment and verify with your state/provincial director or the national office that your email is updated.

Another reminder is if you are requesting an Insurance Certificate the National Office MUST be copied on the request, if the request is made through the carrier. Events that you are asking for proof of insurance also MUST be listed with National on the Calendar of Events. This goes back to the importance of your schedule shared with National and showing on our outings. Having your outings listed helps us know the possible number of outings that we need to cover with insurance.

With housekeeping out of the way, I now can tell everyone that the location for Campvention 2026 has been secured. It will be at the South Dakota State Fairgrounds in Huron, South Dakota. July 5 – 11, 2026. This is being hosted by Region 3. Stay tuned for more Information to come.

Your Chair Awaits, See You at the Next Campout
Gerry Pfirsch
FCRV International President



FCRV National Awards

FCRV National Awards

By Teresa Walorski

Do you know of someone or a Chapter that is deserving of recognition for outstanding service or has been volunteering their time and knowledge?

April 15th is the deadline to have your nomination(s) into the Awards Committee. We want to be able to present any award at the 2025 Campvention in Tennessee.

There are several award categories for which they may fit. You can nominate in the following categories: Award of Merit, Chapter of the Year, Hank Nathan Lifetime Achievement, Individual Nomination and Lifesaving / Humanitarian.

This year we are hopefully making it easier than ever to nominate someone. Simply click on the link below, fill out the form(s) as much as possible, Submit. DONE! Nothing to print, nothing to mail!

Once submitted, the nominations will be directed to the nominating team member. The committee will then review and add up using the points system, that is why putting as much as you can is so helpful.

<https://fcrv.org/awards-forms/>

We are still in need of Award Committee members! Nominations are due by April 15th. After that time the committee would have a meeting to review the points system and read the nominations. Hopefully, only one or two meetings for this volunteer position. So, if you can volunteer your time to review nominations, and help to recognize those individuals and chapters who truly support FCRV, please email Teresa Walorski at fcrv.recording.officer@gmail.com to sign up, you are appreciated!

Thank you!

NCHA/FCRV Hank Nathan Scholarship

NCHA/FCRV Hank Nathan Scholarship 2025 Is Open

By Stan & Fran Vozar, NCHA/FCRV Hank Nathan Scholarship Directors

Applications can only be requested through this web portal:

<https://fcrv.org/hank-nathan-ncha-fcrv-scholarship/>

Words of Suggestion: If you have been asked to write a letter of recommendation for an applicant, we suggest you discuss the letter format with the candidate (it must be written in WORD format) and agree to cover key points of interest, especially how well you know each other and how confident you are in the applicant's future success. Your letter will be scored. Return your letter to them, and they will include it with their application. The deadline is May 1.

Membership Initiatives

Dear Members,

We wish to share some of our ongoing efforts in promoting marketing, membership, and recruitment.

As we continue to grow and evolve as an organization, it is essential to address the challenges and opportunities that come with change. Our organization's success and future depend on our ability to adapt and embrace new strategies that align with the current camping community. Our future depends on attracting a diverse range of members, including younger generations who bring fresh perspectives and energy to our community.

Recent data from industry leaders like Kampgrounds of America (KOA) and Recreational Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA) highlight significant changes in camping and the outdoors. Over the past decade, the number of overall camping households increased by 23%, while active camping households surged by an impressive 68%. This uptick in camping interest was further evidenced by the dramatic growth in households who venture out three or more times (98%).

Demographically, campers have become younger, with close to half of campers since 2022 being under the age of 35, compared to 30% in 2014. Additionally, the diversity among campers has increased, with 39% of enthusiasts being non-white compared to 23% ten years ago. Millennials and Gen Xers were the greatest percentage of new RV buyers in 2023, with the current median age of the new RV buyer being 32 years old.

These reports confirm that attracting younger members is vital for our growth. We encourage

every member to recruit new members and word of mouth has always been our best practice. Currently, our social media efforts are primarily on Facebook, targeting members aged 50+. We are also exploring other platforms to reach younger prospective members.

The Trustees, Regional Directors, and office staff created a Membership Team in the fall of 2024 initiating brainstorming sessions to create new ways to bring in new members. Look to future editions of Camping Today for updates and exciting new programs. Our modern marketing campaign is designed to ensure consistency and coordination with all FCRV regions and demographics. This strengthens our brand and enhances our ability to attract new members and commercial sponsors who are vital to our continued success. Focusing on just one is misguided, unproductive, and contradicts the supportive community and principles of this organization.

We encourage all members to support these efforts and to understand the importance of a unified brand. By doing so, we can ensure that FCRV remains a vibrant and thriving organization for years to come. We hope this brings clarity and understanding to FCRV's focus. We also anticipate and appreciate members' commitment to the organization and look forward to working together to achieve shared goals. If you have any questions, please reach out to any of us.

Respectfully,
FCRV Membership Committee

Join the Ambassador Club

Join the Ambassador Club: A Call for New Members to Family Campers & RVers

By Pat Wittmeyer

Are you passionate about camping and eager to share your love for the great outdoors with others? Have you enjoyed your membership in FCRV and wish to share these camping experiences with others? Do you enjoy meeting new people and fostering a sense of community? If so, we invite you to become a member of our prestigious Ambassador Club!

The Ambassador Club is an enthusiastic group within our international camping club dedicated to recruiting new members. As such, we have levels of recognition, acknowledging the number of member families recruited to FCRV. At the beginning we have the Sapphire level, wherein members who recruit at least 5 new families are recognized with a special Ambassador pin and one year's free membership in FCRV. Next we have the Ruby level, which is for those recruiters who have brought in at least 10 new members to FCRV. You would also get a pin with both the Sapphire and Ruby "jewels", and receive an additional 2 years free membership for yourself or a family member. After that we have the Emerald level of recruitment, which recognizes folks who have brought in an additional 10 families, which brings them to a total of 20 new families brought into FCRV. You would receive a pin with 3 "jewels" as well as receiving an additional 3 years of free membership for yourself or a family member, for a grand total of 6 years of dues-free membership to acknowledge your outstanding efforts on behalf of this organization. Finally, the ultimate level of recruitment under the Ambassador Club is the Diamond level, which recognizes those who have brought in a total of 50 or more new members to



FCRV. If this level is reached, the Ambassador will receive a Lifetime membership for themselves and their spouse. As an Ambassador, you will play a vital role in expanding our community, enriching the experiences of fellow campers, and ensuring the continued success of our club.

Why Join the Ambassador Club?

- **Make a Difference:** By recruiting new members, you help introduce more people to the joys of camping and the camaraderie of our club.
- **Recognition and Rewards:** Our Ambassadors are celebrated for their recruiting efforts with special pins and some dues-free memberships.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with like-minded individuals who share your passion for camping and outdoor adventures.
- **Leadership Experience:** Enhance your leadership and communication skills by taking on a proactive role within the club.

Join the Ambassador Club



How to Become an Ambassador

Joining the Ambassador Club is easy! Simply follow these steps:

1. Express Your Interest: Contact the National Membership Liaison to express your interest in joining the Ambassador Club.
2. Visit the FCRV website, at www.fcrv.org. Go to Members/Ambassador Club. There you will find additional information about participating as an Ambassador, as well as the forms to track your recruitment efforts. Once you have a list of names showing your level of recruitment, share it with the Membership Liaison to get your pin.
3. Start Recruiting: Begin inviting friends, family, and fellow camping enthusiasts to join our international camping club.

Recognizing Your Efforts

We believe in recognizing the recruiting efforts of our members. At each Campvention we hold a special Ambassador Club Luncheon where we serve up a delicious meal, have a speaker, and recognize the accomplishments of our members over the past year. Additionally, our recruiters will be featured in the national monthly magazine, *Camping Today*.

Join Us Today!

Embark on a rewarding journey with the Ambassador Club and help us grow our vibrant community of campers. Together, we can share unforgettable experiences, foster lifelong friendships, and inspire a love for the great outdoors.

For more information or to sign up, please contact the National Membership Liaison at fcrvoffice@gmail.com, or visit our website at www.fcrv.org. Look under the members tab for additional information.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Ambassador Club!



FCRV Financial Report 2023-2024

FCRV FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Checking-Office Account	\$ 5,033	BOA Corp card	\$ 330
Checking-Operating Account	\$ 8,317	Federal Taxes	\$ 1,040
Checking-Even Campvention	\$ 14,448	NY Personal Leave	\$ 113
Checking-Odd Campvention	\$ 2,623	NYS Employment Tax	\$ 154
Checking-Retiree	\$ 16,721	NYS Income Tax	\$ 539
Money Market	\$ 5,906	Campvention Fund-Even	\$ 13,964
Franklin Income Cl A1	\$ 76,239	Campvention Fund-Odd	\$ 2,623
Lord Abbott Bond Debenture Cl A	\$ 67,657	Due To Wildlife	\$ 1,453
Lord Abbott Income Cl A	\$ 38,866	Region 3 Funds Held	\$ 1,765
Due from Wildlife	\$ 6,000	Band Fund	\$ 1,124
Pre-paid Liability Insurance	\$ 10,179	Veterans Fund	\$ 797
		Teen Fund	\$ 1,910
		Retiree Fund	\$ 365
		Retiree Checking	\$ 16,721
Total Assets	\$ 251,989	Total Liabilities	\$ 42,897
		EQUITY	
		Fund Balance	\$ 321,343
		Retained Earnings	\$ (91,217)
		Opening Bal Equity	\$ (815)
		Unrealized Gin/Loss Investment	\$ 40,517
		Net Income	\$ (60,736)
		Total Equity	\$ 209,092
		Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 251,989



There are three positions up for election for the year beginning July 2025 to June 2027. Comptroller and Vice President Planning & Development are elected by the whole membership. The Vice President Operations is elected by the Executive Board and Advisory Council. The candidates' bios and platforms are included in this issue of *Camping Today*. Ballots will be distributed after March 15, 2025, to the email on file for your membership. This is a great time to assure your email is correct with the national office. All memberships of FCRV are entitled to one vote. The deadline to vote is April 15, 2025. Results will be in the May issue of *Camping Today*.

Sandra Wingert

Comptroller



Resume

Sandi along with her husband, Joe Wingert joined FCRV in 1999. They have been or are currently in many FCRV chapters. These include the Rocky Explorers, the Rocky Raccoons, and the Trailblazers, chapters in Colorado. Also YARS (Young Active Retirees), a National chapter, and FCRV RGV Winter Texans in Texas for Snowbirds spending the winter in warmer weather. Sandi has held at one time or another, every position in the Colorado chapters including Field Directors. She helps her husband with parking rigs at the Retiree Rally. She currently is in charge of activities for the FCRV RGV Winter Texans in the winter months. In the past, she has held similar positions as Comptroller with different names, such as Comptroller, Business Manager, Office Manager, and Bookkeeper for auto dealerships.

Platform Statement

I have held the position of Comptroller for FCRV since 2023. I would like to continue that position for a second term. In my first term, I improved our investment opportunities to better grow our monies in reserve. I took over payroll, freeing up time for office personnel. I have been diligent to report and file all reports for Federal and State jurisdictions. I have done accurate accounting. The Profit and Loss statement is reported to the Trustees and the P&L is also posted in *Camping Today*. I have succeeded in scanning and downloading and organizing all information that is stored in the virtual office so there are no longer paper files.

I believe that the best interests and the future of FCRV would be cultivating new family members. I believe that we need to change the focus of this organization and get back to the basics that this organization was founded on and that is conservation and wildlife and camping together.

Amy DeCamp

Vice President of Planning & Development



Resume

Amy is a lifetime camper. She and her wife Linda became camping club members in 2004, joining FCRV in 2022 when Amy became VPPD.

Amy holds a B.S. in Police Administration from Eastern Kentucky University and Juris Doctor from Capital University Law School. She served as a State Parole Officer and Legal Educator/Department Chair for 20 years before working in the RV industry for more than a decade. Currently, she is a Legal Research/Training Consultant for LexisNexis, collaborating with U.S. law firms to enhance efficiency/productivity.

Amy and Linda are prominent members in their church family, where Amy is a musician/vocalist, worship leader, and Personnel Committee Chair. She also participates in mission work, aiding rebuilding efforts nationally and internationally, and is president of her high school alumni association.

The ladies reside in Ohio with their two Chows Chows, Kennedy and Stetson.

Platform Statement

As the Vice President of Planning & Development for FCRV, I have dedicated my first term to revitalizing this beloved organization by embracing change and inclusivity. Our club, founded on enjoying the camping lifestyle and preserving wildlife, the environment and conservation, must evolve to remain relevant and vibrant for future generations.

During my tenure, I spearheaded initiatives to modernize our marketing strategy, launching the “Your Chair Awaits” campaign to attract younger members. Recognizing the diverse backgrounds of our community, we implemented a non-discrimination policy to ensure FCRV is welcoming to all. Additionally, we began forging partnerships with industry vendors to secure sponsorships and financial viability, making FCRV more modern, open, and consistent in its messaging, a requirement across media platforms today.

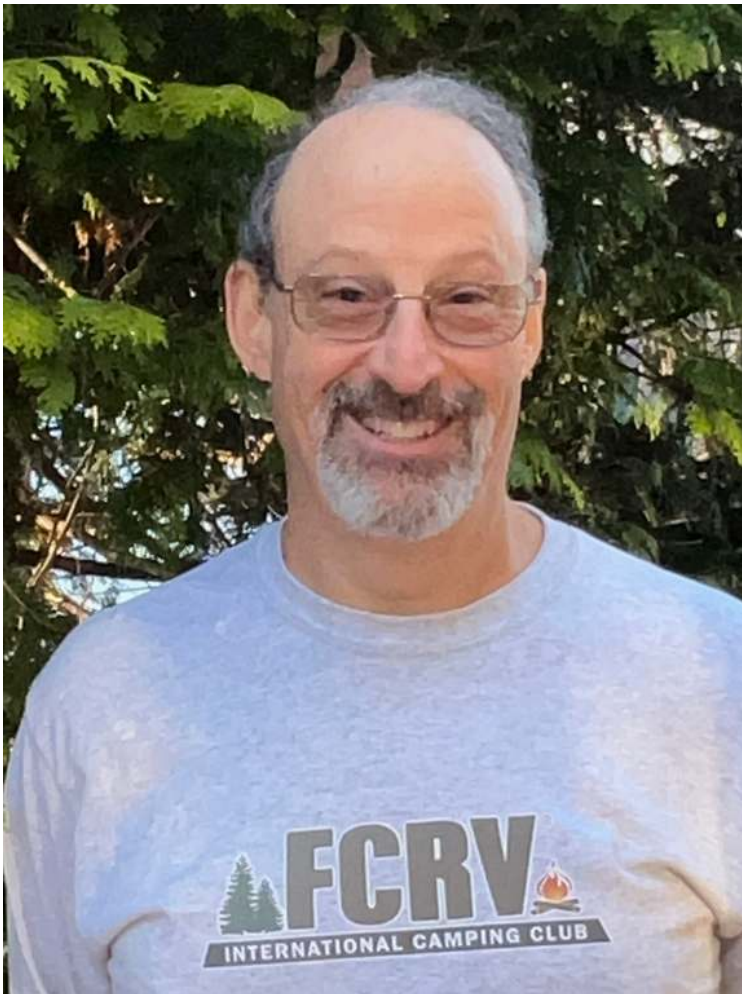
Change is challenging, especially when it touches on traditions. However, it is crucial to remember our roots and the inclusive vision of our founder. To move forward, we must honor our diverse membership and uphold the true spirit of FCRV, now!

Looking ahead, I am committed to expanding our membership and sponsorship bases, enhancing member experiences, and fostering an environment where all feel welcome. Together, we can continue this path of progress, ensure that FCRV not only survives but thrives, and preserve our cherished camping lifestyle for generations to come.

I humbly ask for your support in the upcoming election to continue this important work. Let us embrace the future with open arms and a shared commitment to this club’s enduring legacy. Together we grow!

Daniel Tinter

Vice President of Planning & Development



Resume

Daniel's career includes statistical modeling, software development, managing and supporting accounting applications, leading developers, liaison between IT and all levels business management. Strong people and project management as well as problem solving skills were required to be successful.

Daniel has volunteered throughout his life from homeless shelters to the board of the local Audubon chapter. Currently, Daniel volunteers on the steering committee with Middlesex County VITA as the recruiting and schedule coordinator. VITA prepares taxes for low income people at no charge. He recruits volunteers to process returns and staffs three sites during the tax season. He also prepares client returns.

Daniel and his wife, Lynn, are past presidents, current treasurers of CT Happy Wanderers and are assistant state directors. They volunteer at all CT conservation events and chaired the staffing of the 2024 RV Show and brought in new members. He volunteers at Campventions including chair of the Septic Service.

Platform Statement

NCHA was incorporated in 1954.

The NCHA Constitution listed reasons for incorporation.

I have summarized a few:

- Encourage people to participate in recreational activities which protect, conserve, and defend the natural resources.
- Promote physical fitness, self-reliance, sound camping and hiking skills, an appreciation of nature and ecological dependence.
- Carry on educational and charitable purposes to exclusively promote conservation, wildlife management or related fields through scholarships and grants.

No other camping club fills this niche. We can do more to promote these ideals.

Lets understand our future members.

According to RVIA, 9.6 million households will buy RVs in next 5 yrs.

11.2 Million Current RV Owners

- First time buyers: 31%.
- Young Buyers (18-34): 22%. 65% intend to buy new.
- Family Campers (18-54): 33%. 64% with children.
- Casual Campers: 39%. 82% over age 55.

How can we use this data?

1. First time buyers: Let's guide them.
2. New buyers: Rebuild relationships with RV Dealers across the country.
3. Family Campers: Promote our ideals mentioned above.
4. Casual Campers have grandchildren. Focus bringing their grandchildren into the organization.

Our future should emphasize who and what we stand for: Conservation, Environmental protection, Wildlife management, Kid Friendly, Scholarships and Physical Fitness. Lets reassess what we print and how we use social media to attract these groups.

We also need to listen to our members. Let's work together. Share your ideas on how to move forward. My email address: dtinter@comcast.net.

Linda English

Vice President Operations



Resume

Linda and John English have been members of FCRV since 1993. They have served as field directors, district directors, state directors and Linda has held several leadership positions in Michigan's State Association. This year will be their fourth time serving as team leaders for Campvention and they have also hosted many state and regional campouts.

They have been married 53 years, have 2 children, 8 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren. Linda has a bachelor's degree in business with a 42-year career in public education before retiring in 2014. The last 26 years of her career she was employed at the third largest intermediate school district in Michigan. As an administrative assistant in pupil services, she shared audit responsibilities and knowledge of educational law while assisting local public-school districts.

Her hobbies are camping, gardening, reading, quilting, enjoying Michigan's 4 seasons and spending time with family and friends.

Platform Statement

These past two years serving as your vice president of operations opened my eyes to the complexity of FCRV and the business of our organization. There has been so much to learn.

I have had the pleasure of chatting with so many members who have offered new ideas. I am the voice of our membership on the Board of Trustees and always welcome your input.

Communication is paramount and with the implementation of our Trustee Meeting Notes, it is my hope that every member is kept current on our operations. These notes are distributed through our national office to the executive and advisory board members to be shared with membership. Our regional and state director's trimester reports are now submitted through our website portal. This has streamlined the process for the directors and makes for timely reporting. We are committed to utilizing the technology set up in our Virtual Office.

The trustees meet regularly not only to discuss business matters but also schedule specific subject meetings to discuss ways to increase membership and market commercial opportunities...these are just two meeting examples.

Are we willing to explore new ideas to sustain and grow our organization? What can we do differently to spark interest in potential members? How can we expand our educational programs? How do you share FCRV in your local community? How can we promote change and operate more efficiently? What are current campers looking for in organized camping? Are we utilizing technology to its full potential? What other funding opportunities can we explore?

These are just some of the questions I believe need to be considered with your help. Our leadership team is committed to exploring new ideas and opportunities. Are you committed to taking this journey with us?

I look forward to continuing to serve in this position with your support.

I hope to see you at the 2025 Campvention in Lebanon, Tennessee!

Welcome New Members

Family Campers & RVers would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Cartmell, Billy	Cartmell, Carolyn	UT	Referred by: Frank Soderborg
Howard, Tommie	Howard, Kimberly	MO	Referred by: Campground - No reference
Koester, Gary	Nosek, Doreen	IL	Referred by: Rhonda O'neal
Timoteo, Sidney	Timoteo, Lisa	UT	Referred by: Kevin Rider
Owens, Keith	Owens, Rebecca	CO	Referred by: Kim Pearson
Sherwood, John	Sherwood, MaryAnn	CO	Referred by: Chapter - Rocky Toppers RV Club
Duran, Anthony	Duran, Malissa	MO	Referred by: Larry & Betty Alvy
Szatkiewicz, Keith	Rivera, Kimberly	WI	Referred by: Dawn Hagen
Callahan, Tim		IL	Referred by: No Reference
Tolman, Clyde	Tolman, Linda	UT	Referred by: Gordon Evans
Barreras, Suzanna		CO	Referred by: Bill Sheedy





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Retiree Rally 2025 - Dothan, Alabama



[Click here for event info & registration](#)

[Join in on the discussion at the 2025 Retiree Rally Facebook group](#)

Click the link above or scan the code below.



From your Registration Co-Chairs - Update
By Millie Pauwels & Joanne Rich

Time is running out to be able to pay \$350.00 for a couple; registration must be received by March 1, 2025. If paying at the gate, it will be \$375.00. Register early to have a great time and to save some money.

Are you ready to have an exciting time? We await your registration for the 2025 FCRV Retiree Rally in Dothan, Alabama!

Plan to come early! The early days of the rally will be March 21-23, 2025, which will give you time to explore the area. Plan to see the beautiful murals on the buildings. There are also peanut statues throughout Dothan.

The rally starts on March 24th – March 30th.

The cost of the rally for two people in a unit is \$350.00; what a bargain as you will receive full hook-ups, ice cream social, two dinners, entertainment, games, crafts, and lots of fun to be had by all.

The rally will be held at the National Peanut Festival Fairground, 5622 Highway 231 S, Dothan, Alabama.

The registration form for the International Retiree Rally can be found on the FCRV Site.
<https://fcrv.org/retiree-rally-2025/>.



Retiree Rally 2025 - Dothan, Alabama

Retiree Rally 2025 Entertainment - **New**

By Reba Ray, Entertainment Chair

SOUTHERN CITY LIGHTS.....Wednesday night's entertainment

We are all full-time professional musicians who love what we do and take our craft very seriously.

After 10 years of playing together, we became "Southern City Lights". We are now entering our 5th year as SCL and we love what we do now, even more than we did 5 years ago. We have been honored and humbled at the response of our wonderful clients. All that we can sum up is that this is a true testament of just how much emphasis we put into every event and how our "Tight Knit" genuine sound, that can only come from years of playing together, makes a huge difference in our performance, chemistry and quality of live music. We would love nothing more than be a part of your event as you dance the night away, under Southern City Lights!

Your event is not just another gig, it is an absolute pleasure to utilize our extensive experience to make this event pleasurable to all.

This three- piece band has its ability to create a very warm, upbeat atmosphere while not over-powering.

<https://www.southerncitylightsband.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/southerncitylights/>

GILLIRAN'S ISLAND BAND – Friday night's entertainment

Gilliran's Island Band is a talented husband-wife duo, delighting audiences with their beautifully crafted originals, soulful harmonies and expertly curated song list. Terra Jean Otto shines on violin – deep in the grooves with sweet lines, ripping riffs and even some funk chops. Vocalist and singer songwriter John Gilliran sings his heart out in perfectly pitched smooth baritone tones and soaring falsetto, all the while laying down a solid foundation on acoustic guitar. Described as Americana Soul Pop. Their energetic show will take you on a journey through many musical styles and is sure to put a smile on your face, a zip in your step and maybe a tear in your eye!



Door Prize Information - **Repeat** By Denise Hudson, Door Prize Chair

Just a reminder to bring your door prizes to the rally in Dothan. I will do my best to make sure this all runs smoothly. If everything goes as planned, then everyone who brings a door prize should receive a door prize. Remember, you need to put your name on the back of the ticket that will be going into the bucket. Please do not drop off door prizes without receiving your ticket. I am also asking everyone if they would consider volunteering to deliver door prizes to the winners on the nights of the drawings. You will need to be present to win. I don't know about you, but I am getting excited for the rally. I can't wait to see you all in Dothan. Until then, keep safe and warm.

Retiree Rally 2025 - Dothan, Alabama

'Spring has Sprung' Pet Parade - **Update**

By Donna Powell, Pet Parade Chair

Well, my next update to all that want to have your pets in our Pet Parade is here! Remember, I am using the theme 'Spring Has Sprung', so have you been thinking what bright, colorful costumes you can make? I do not know which day this will be, but we will know when we see the schedule. This is fun; we all enjoy showing our pets and their costumes, tricks, etc. We will have three judges; the categories will be 1) Theme - best portrayal of it; 2) Look alike (pet/owner); 3) Best Behaved; 4) Best Trick; 5) Best of Show. Bring your pets - dogs, cats, birds; all are welcomed! There will be a sign-up in registration; so, if you would like your pet in the parade, please sign up! All those participating will receive a participation certificate and some form of goody. The winners will receive their award certificate and their prize.

Water will be available. We are hoping for beautiful weather. The parade area will be known by registration time. Come and have fun and be in the parade. Or just come and enjoy those who are in our parade.

See y'all in Dothan, Alabama!

Information from Kip Cushing.... - **New**

Books: If anyone has books they would like to put on table for Book Exchange, please bring them along.

Choir: The choir sign-up sheets will be on the table at registration so please remember to jot your name down. We will be singing for the memorial service Thursday and church service on Sunday.

See you down the road! Anyone wanting to travel together from Wisconsin south with someone, feel free to contact me.



Retiree Rally Flea Market Reminder - **Repeat**

By Richard & Frances Jackson, Flea Market Chairs

Are you getting ready to pack up and attend the Retiree Rally? It won't be long now, so spring into action and pack items you would like to sell at the Flea Market. Sign up for a booth when you get to the rally, during registration. Booth spaces are free!

Retiree Rally 2025 - Dothan, Alabama

'Introducing Paul & Beth Standiford - New 2025 FCRV International Retiree King & Queen Candidates

Hello. We are Paul and Beth Standiford. We would be honored to become the FCRV International Retiree King and Queen for 2025. Camping has been an important part of our married life, starting with travel on a motorcycle with a 2-man pup tent and 2 sleeping bags.

We joined NCHA in Indiana as members of the Kekionga Chapter and attended Campvention in 1977 (Illinois) and 1978 (Colorado). We have since progressed to much more comfortable camping equipment having had almost every kind of camper available.

Beth enjoys sewing and crocheting and many other kinds of crafting. As an accomplished singer, she has been a member of church choirs wherever the family lived and is currently learning to play the guitar. As Missouri State Chaplain, Beth led the campers to the aid of others in supporting two food banks for many years and provides a chaplain's message called "Feed My Sheep" in Missouri's quarterly newsletter which always includes a recipe. She is a former Trustee having served as Recording & Corresponding Officer for 6 years.

Paul retired from the position of IT Asset Manager, working for the same company for 50 years in various positions. He continued to use his computer skills for the benefit of FCRV and the Missouri Camper's Association. Paul is an avid reader of many different genres. He is always willing to help a fellow camper with whatever issues their camper may develop.

We became Emerald members of the Ambassador Club in 2024. We have both held various state and chapter offices and look forward to many more years of camping comradery.



From the Chaplain.... - New By Bill Buggeln, FCRV Chaplain

Greetings to all, I am looking forward to the Retirees gathering. We will, as always, have a worship service at the Rally. Also, we will be planning a Memorial service so please either send the names to me at buggelnb@gmail.com or we will have a sheet for you to add names to at the Rally.

We will have a morning devotional/Bible Study time each day of the Rally. We would really like to have a large number attend.

Red Hat/Hard Hat Gathering
Dianne and I will again be planning a gathering of the Red Hatters and also a gathering of the Hard Hatters. Right now, these are still in the planning stages, but we do look forward to having a good time at each. See all of you in a couple of months.

Attention! - New By Millie Pauwels, Registration Co-Chair

I have had a few registrations with the wrong information. Please make sure to have the right registration form with the amount of \$350 for a couple and \$320 for a single.

Retiree Rally 2025 - Dothan, Alabama

Games in Dothan - Update

By Shari & Craig Weber & Carol & Ray Yates, Games Co-Chairs

Spring has Sprung and the games team is looking forward to helping you spring into fun. 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. Rules for the games FCRVers enjoy playing are listed at <https://fcrv.org/programs2/national-programs/adult-activities/>. Just click on the link to go to the information or copy and paste the link in your browser. Anyone with access to the internet can access this information. The games will be slightly modified to allow playing in the allotted time. Winners will receive their recognitions at the end of the games and also in an announcement from stage.

Outside games being played include Ladder Golf, Washer Toss, Cornhole, and Bean Bag Baseball. We have featured Ladder Golf and Cornhole in previous issues. Next month we will feature Washer Toss and Bean Bag Baseball.

Table games you have come to enjoy will be played. We will play Mexican Train, Euchre (if there are enough players), Card Bingo, and Five Crowns.

This month we are featuring two of the table games (Five Crowns and Card Bingo were featured in a previous issue).

Mexican Train is played with double 12 dominoes and up to 8 players per set of dominoes. Players draw 11 (7 or 8 players), 12 (5 or 6 players), or 15 (2 - 4 players) dominoes. Remaining dominoes are the boneyard. Play moves clockwise with the objective to play all your dominoes and have the lowest score after three rounds. Play begins with the first player playing his highest double domino.

If the first player doesn't have a double play moves clockwise until someone can play a double. Play continues with players matching the number with their dominoes until one player has no more dominoes.

Euchre is played with a deck of 24 cards including ace, king, queen, jack, 10 & 9 in all four suits. Players are dealt 5 cards each. The remaining 4 cards are set in a pile next to the dealer with the top card face up. This is the proposed trump suit. Beginning with the player to the left of the dealer, players decide whether they can take at least 3 tricks in that suit. If that is possible the player "orders" the card into the dealer's hand. The dealer then puts that card in their hand and discards to leave 5 cards in their hand. Ranking of trump is jack of the suit declared (called the right bower), jack of the suit of the same color (the left bower), then ace, king, queen, 10, 9. Normal rank in the non-trump suits. Three tricks make the bid for one point. If the team takes all 5 tricks they receive 2 points. If the person who "orders" trump plays alone and takes at least 3 tricks they receive 1 point, if that player takes all the tricks 4 points are given for the "lone hand". Play goes until all 4 players have dealt twice. The team with the high score wins. If there are enough players for multiple tables the teams will shuffle and begin play again. The person with the high score is the winner and the person who achieved the most "lone hands" is also a winner.

Anyone interested in helping with a particular game or just in general, please send a message to us at shari.fcrv.pastpres@gmail.com



Retiree Rally 2025 - Dothan, Alabama

The 53rd FCRV International Retiree Rally - **New**

By Barb Turner, Rally Publicity Chair

The 53rd FCRV International Retiree Rally is 1½ months away! Are you registered? The pre-registration deadline is March 1st to save \$25. The rally committee has a week of activities planned for you. The National Peanut Festival facility is rally-friendly with full hookups. Activities, two dinners, ice cream social, crafts, games, entertainment await the attendees. Note: you don't have to be retired to attend!!

Over the last few months, various locations were shared as places to visit during the early days or going to/leaving the rally. In doing research, I discovered Attapulgus, Georgia which is a little over an hour southeast from Dothan. It's a very small town of less than 500 people. "The town's name is a Muscogee word meaning 'Dogwood' due to the abundance of attapulgite which makes up the clay soil throughout much of the Southeast. The mineral was named after the town. (Attapulgite is a magnesium aluminum phyllosilicate which occurs in a type of clay soil common to the southeastern states. When used in medicine, it physically binds to acids and toxic substances in the stomach and digestive tract. For that reason, it has often been used in antidiarrheal medications.)

"Attapulgus was the birthplace of civil rights leader Hosea Williams (1926-2000), who is said to have been run out of town by a lynch mob at the age of 13. He is remembered around the world for his close association with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and for leading, with John Lewis, the famous march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, in 1965 that led to the passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965. Williams served on the Atlanta City Council, the DeKalb County Commission, and in the Georgia Senate. He also started a program to feed the hungry that has continued long after his death."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attapulgus,_Georgia

In addition, Attapulgus is home to Elephant Refuge North America which spans 850 acres of gently rolling hills, lush pastures, dense forests, spring-fed lakes, creeks, and streams with a climate that allows the elephants to remain outdoors 24/7 almost all year. It is a perfect place for elephants to regain their 'elephantness' and develop loving bonds with other elephants and caregivers.

<https://elephantaidinternational.org/projects/elephant-refuge-north-america/>

Learn about the refuge through these links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1cppNXzx-A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ES0ZBkRqW1Y>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KuT5Hv3MNI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KuT5Hv3MNI>

The refuge is not open to the public, but I found that the refuge has webcams to watch the elephants in their environment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgapmP7xLpk>

will take you to the live webcam. Additional videos can be viewed at

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ElephantAidInternational1>.



Campvention 2025 - Lebanon, Tennessee

[More Info](#)

[Register](#)

[Forms](#)



[Click here for event info & registration](#)

[Join in on the discussion at the 2025 Campvention Facebook group](#)

Click the link above or scan the code below.



Campvention 2025 from the Chair - **Update**

By Ed Shaneyfelt, Campvention 2025 Chair

Hopefully you all survived the winter freeze and are looking ahead to July. It is not too late to still register for the Campvention in Lebanon, Tennessee. We are still planning a fun-filled week for you all. Remember that Wednesday is being planned as a slow day so you can go see the area. We have some tours lined up for you to sign up for. Be on the lookout for this information forthcoming.



Wanted: Campvention Photographer - **HELP**

We need a volunteer who will take the lead and take photos during Campvention week. No experience necessary. We need you!

For further details please contact:

Amy DeCamp: dramydecamp.fcrv@gmail.com

Linda English: lindae.fcrv@gmail.com

Campvention 2025 - Lebanon, Tennessee

2025 Gift Basket Drawing - **New** By Betty Andrews, Gift Basket Chair

As we gear up for our much-anticipated FCRV International Campvention, we invite you to continue the tradition and contribute to the event's success by donating gift baskets. These baskets will be a highlight of our gathering, showcasing the generosity and creativity of our FCRV community.

We welcome contributions from local, provincial/state, regional chapters, and individuals. Gift baskets may include a variety of new, unopened items, such as local or area specialties, camping gear, handmade crafts, themed items, and so on. These donations will not only enhance the rally experience, but also foster camaraderie and community spirit among attendees. Everyone likes to win a basket, and the more donations received equals the more prizes won!

At your upcoming campouts, consider asking each member to bring an item to put into a basket, allowing many to participate and feel a part of a group project, even if unable to attend Campvention personally. Favorite vendors may also be asked to contribute items or baskets. You are only limited by your imagination! Remember to place a 3x5 card inside the basket, identifying the contributing party/group and an address for the lucky recipient to send a "thank you."

Thoughtfully consider participating in this exciting activity! For additional information, please contact Betty Andrews by email UBetUKen2@gmail.com. Anyone interested in co-chairing this activity with Betty is welcome to reach out, too.

Thank you for your support and enthusiasm. Let's make this Campvention a memorable event for all!
Happy Camping!

Get Ready for a Paw-some Celebration!**Update** By Amy DeCamp

This year's Pet Parade is happening on July 25, 2025. We want YOU and your furry (or not so furry) friends to be a part of it.

Stay tuned to Camping Today and social media channels for more information on how you can sign up your pet as we get closer to Campvention 2025.



Campvention 2025 - Lebanon, Tennessee

Visit Nashville, Tennessee - **New**

By Barb Turner

Attend Campvention 2025 in Lebanon, Tennessee AND visit 'Music City' Nashville! Thirty miles west of Campvention Nashville is easily accessed for exploring and enjoying.

Nashville, also known as Music City, was named for Francis Nash, a general of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. The city was founded in 1779 when this territory was still considered part of North Carolina. It was a port on the Cumberland River and a railroad center. It was the northern terminus of the Natchez Trace, 440 miles from Natchez, Mississippi, linking the Cumberland, Tennessee, and Mississippi rivers. Tennessee became the 16th state on June 1, 1796. In 1828, Andrew Jackson was elected President of the United States from the state of Tennessee. Nashville became the state capital on October 7, 1843. Nashville as part of Tennessee seceded during the American Civil War in 1862 and was the first state capital in the Confederacy to be taken by Union forces. It was occupied through the war. After the war, the city gradually reclaimed its stature. It became a center of trade and developed a manufacturing base.

Nashville is known as 'The Music City'. How did that happen? The term intertwines with the history of Nashville. "The history of music in Nashville dates back to the late 1700s when the settlers celebrated with fiddle tunes after arriving on the shores of the Cumberland River. Nashville eventually became a national music publishing hub, thanks in part to the Fisk Jubilee Singers, an a cappella singing group made up of African-American singers who hail from Fisk University. Founded by the American Missionary Association, the predominantly black college set the goal of educating freed African Americans. In conjunction with this mission, the Fisk Jubilee Singers set out to raise money for the university.

"A theory regarding the start of 'Music City' involves the Fisk Jubilee Singers. During a tour of Great Britain and Europe in 1873, the group performed several songs for Queen Victoria. Among those songs were 'Steal Away to Jesus' and 'Go Down Moses'. After hearing the singers, Victoria was so impressed that she supposedly said they 'must be from the music city.' However, the Jubilee Singers' director, Paul T. Kwami, does not believe that story to be true, instead claiming that the name 'Music City' can be attributed to a radio DJ who referred to Nashville using that name. "The DJ that Mr. Kwami is referencing is David Cobb. In 1925, Nashville radio station WSM-AM, along with its broadcast, The Grand Ole Opry, was formed, and rumor has it that Cobb referred to Nashville as 'Music City' during a 1950 broadcast. Today, the Opry is America's longest-running radio show.

"While either of these theories, or even both, could be true, there's no doubt that Nashville continues to be a city with a thriving music scene. Every day, live music is played in dozens of venues across town, boasting the sounds of music from every genre. Local, national, and world-renowned musicians grace the stages of these establishments, securing the city's reputation as the most musical spot in the South."

<https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/usa/tennessee/articles/a-brief-history-of-how-nashville-became-music-city>

There is so much to see and do in and around Nashville. Below are some sites to visit:

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/best-things-to-do-in-nashville-tennessee-7564468>

<https://www.visitmusiccity.com/things-to-do-in-nashville>

<https://www.thecrazytourist.com/15-best-things-to-do-in-downtown-nashville/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CY9e-mS3_ak

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70E7Hm6WbcM>

Watch for tour possibilities in March's Camping Today. Remember, to best enjoy Nashville, do some planning! Remember to get registered for the 2025 FCRV Campvention at [https://fcrv.org/campvention-2025/!](https://fcrv.org/campvention-2025/)



Event Schedule & Recaps



[Click Here For Full Event Calendar]

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV Family Campers & RVers Public Group
 Admin All-star contributor · Yesterday at 5:00 AM

Nine Canadian families crossed the border to attend the Blue Water Mixer in Michigan. Clowns were everywhere during the weekend of Card Bingo, family games, washer toss, soup lunch and plenty of door prizes.

View insights 106 post reach

11

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
 Published by Forrest Camperson
 February 6 at 5:00 AM

Six families from the Tri-County Travellers camped at Rondeau Provincial Park. Warm weather allowed beach walking, bike riding, group meals & campfires.

19 3 comments 1 share

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
 Published by Forrest Camperson
 February 8 at 5:00 AM

The CO Trailblazers camped at Monarch Spur RV Park and Campground, just 15 minutes from downtown Salida. Highlights of the campout included lunch in Salida at the Boath... See more

Woodland Wookies and 5 others

Event Schedule & Recaps

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
Published by Forrest Camperson
February 4 at 5:00 AM · 🌐

Only a few Silver Foxes took part in the campout at WeAreChampions RV Park in LaVeta and had Heddy & Ron as guests. We still did walks, got ice cream, had a cook out, a... [See more](#)

[See insights and ads](#) [Boost post](#)

👍 Woodland Wookies and 4 others

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
Admin · All-star contributor · January 14 at 5:00 AM · 🌐

The Silver Foxes of Colorado Springs CO enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the home of Janie & Buddie. 20 members had plenty of food, 2 games, prizes, card, & gift bags. Nice... [See more](#)

[View insights](#) [131 post reach](#) >

👍👍👍 8

Lynn Smith Tinter
February 2 at 10:47 PM · 🌐

Exhausted after three long days at the Northeast RV and Camping Show in Hartford, Connecticut With Daniel Tinter, Steven Josey, Lisa Mouthaan & Steve Mouthaan

[View insights](#) [305 post reach](#) >

👍 30 [9 comments](#) [2 shares](#)





Do you have questions about your RV, accessories, best practices, etc? Submit them to Dear RV and our staff will attempt to answer them. The answers are based on years of camping experience, but we don't guarantee that the answers will apply to your specific unit or situation. If someone submits a question and you can add to our answer OR have a better answer, please submit below with information about the original question. Your submission will be reviewed for possible publication in a future Dear RV Q&A. So, send us your questions and we will send you an answer. Remember, all submissions are anonymous. Us here at Dear RV! Question(s) or comment(s) for Dear RV.

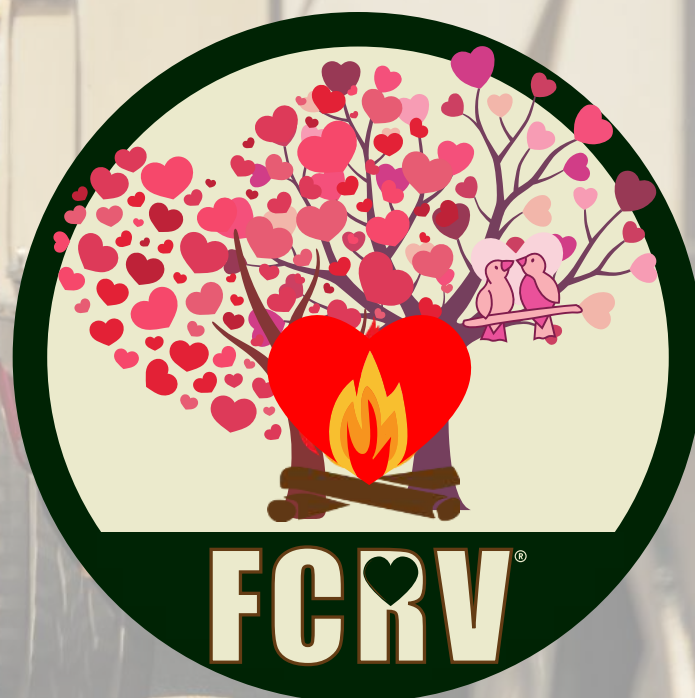
Submit here: <https://fcrv.org/dear-rv/>

Dear RV

Does anyone else have problems with their RV refrigerator in the winter?
Our fridge stops working when it is cold outside.
This leaves us with a mess in the fridge.

This is a common problem with RV type refrigerators. Keep in mind that your RV fridge is an absorption cooling system, so the colder it is outside the less efficient it is in cooling. Reduction usually starts to go down around 25 degrees F and lessens as the temperature drops. I read that in cold weather using the propane setting will help as the waste heat from propane will help the unit function. Some cold weather packages have additional elements to the cooling unit to prevent the unit from freezing. Others say an incandescent light can be enough to avoid the problem. Another thing that will help is try to keep the cold wind from blowing directly into the unit with the use of a wind break protecting from direct wind.

Hope this helps and thanks for asking Dear RV.



Camping With Toddlers

Camping With Toddlers

By Rose Padrick

rosepadrack@gmail.com

Our family has always enjoyed the great outdoors, and have camped since our children were very young. We truly enjoyed helping them grow up with an appreciation for nature and wildlife, and now have the privilege of doing the same with our grandchildren.

Whether you pitch a tent, use a pop-up, or own a R.V., with a little planning and preparation, camping with toddlers can be a most enjoyable vacation.

I suggest the first few camping trips be kept short. In almost every state of the union we are lucky enough to have a myriad of wonderful parks and campgrounds close enough to spend just a weekend, any longer than that may become stressful for a little one.

We try to keep as close to a regular schedule as possible but improvise where necessary. If your child still takes naps in the afternoon it will probably be next to impossible to get him to go down when there is so much to do and see, but a few quiet moments cuddling on a towel in the grass guessing cloud shapes, or enjoying a swing or hammock from the comfort of Mom or Dads lap can work wonders, the child who goes nowhere without his Blanky can usually be cajoled into carrying it in a zip lock bag at the campsite if you explain he wouldn't want ants crawling all over it.

While I have used a small blow up pool with a bassinet mattress as a bed for my youngest before he could crawl, a portable playpen for larger children two and under works well, especially when we camp in a tent, as there is a danger of someone rolling over on a small child, or him getting tangled in the blankets. An adult sleeps between the child and the door, just in case a little one wakes up before anyone else and wants to go searching for adventure. We also attach a small bell to the door zipper.

In addition to a regular first aid kit, I bring an antiseptic hand cleaner, and use it at least once an hour whether the child's hands appear to be dirty or not. I recommend rinsing their hands with clear water or wiping with a wet cloth afterwards, as most toddlers continually have their fingers in their mouths.

An extra vigilant eye is necessary to keep a child from picking up and tasting new and unusual objects. Don't forget lots of sunscreen, and insect repellent, I prefer the spray on, it gets in all the cracks and crevices. Do not spray directly into the child's face, spraying on your hands and rubbing on his face works well, be extra careful not to get in or near his eyes and do not allow him to touch his face until it is fully dry

Mealtimes can get a little hectic; usually one of us will take the little one on a nature walk while the other deals with the fire and cooking. Trading cooking and walking duties gives each of us special time alone with our special child. I use this time to point out animal or bird footprints, see how many different trees, bushes, and leaves we can find. Don't forget to pick some pretty flowers for the cook, if picking flowers is not against park rules.

We have found meals and snacks are best eaten a short distance away from the campsite. Little fingers drop or spill food and drink. All manner of insects and critters will come a-running to enjoy dinner with you, and you don't want to have a sleepover with them also.

Sugary snacks, roasting marshmallows, making smores; are best done several hours before bedtime. Trying to put a sugared up toddler to bed is close to useless, and a battle of wills can spoil the whole evening and leave the child with a bad memory of camping.

We find the traditional scary stories around the campfire are best told in a hushed voice after the little one is safely asleep, the older kids still enjoy getting the bejeebers scared out of them, without unwanted effects on the little one. The later it gets the scarier the story gets anyway.

While birds and small animals are most curious and hungry in the early morning, waiting until the child has had breakfast and has run off a little energy makes it easier to teach him to sit quietly so the birds and squirrels will come close enough to view and enjoy. It is important to teach all children early on not to feed wild animals by hand. As cute as they are, a wild animal will bite if frightened, and dealing with a wild animal bite is much more difficult than dealing with a nip from a neighbor's puppy.

My husband and I have truly enjoyed helping to open the outdoor world and all its treasures to every child we have had the privilege of camping with over the years, and we intend to be right here when the third generation of my family gets the camping bug.



410-533-0038



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/marshallcreations16/shop/home>

Call or text: 410-533-0038

Marshallcreations16@gmail.com



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