

CAMPING TODAY

THE VOICE OF FAMILY CAMPERS & RVERS

January 2025



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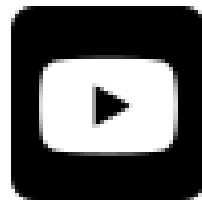
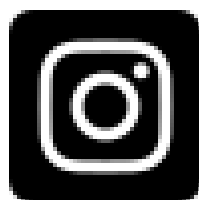
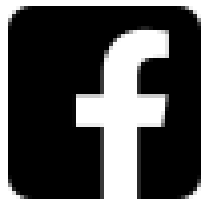


Table of Contents

From or About Our Members

- [From The President](#)
- [Your Opportunity Awaits](#)
- [Lets Save Some Trees! - From National Office](#)
- [National Election](#)
- [Scholarship 2025 Is Open](#)
- [Past Conservation Director: Al Quivey](#)
- [Sunday School with Jimmy Carter](#)
- [Welcome New Members](#)

Upcoming National Events

- [Retiree Rally 2025 – Dothan, Alabama](#)
- [Campvention 2025 – Lebanon, Tennessee](#)

Event Schedule & Recaps

- [Event Calendar & Recaps](#)

Camping Information & Tips

- [Dear RV](#)

Past Camping Todays

- [2022-2024 Online Archive](#)
- [1989-2021 DeWayne Johnston Historical Archives \(pdfs\)](#)



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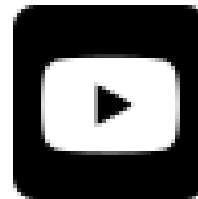
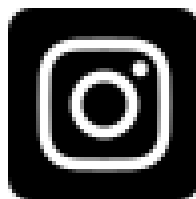
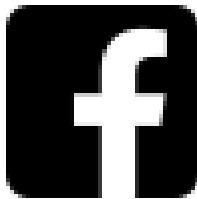
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[Click on the hyperlink below for the type of 'Camping Today' submission you'd liked to send.](#)

[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
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- Youth, Teen, Adult and Retiree Programs

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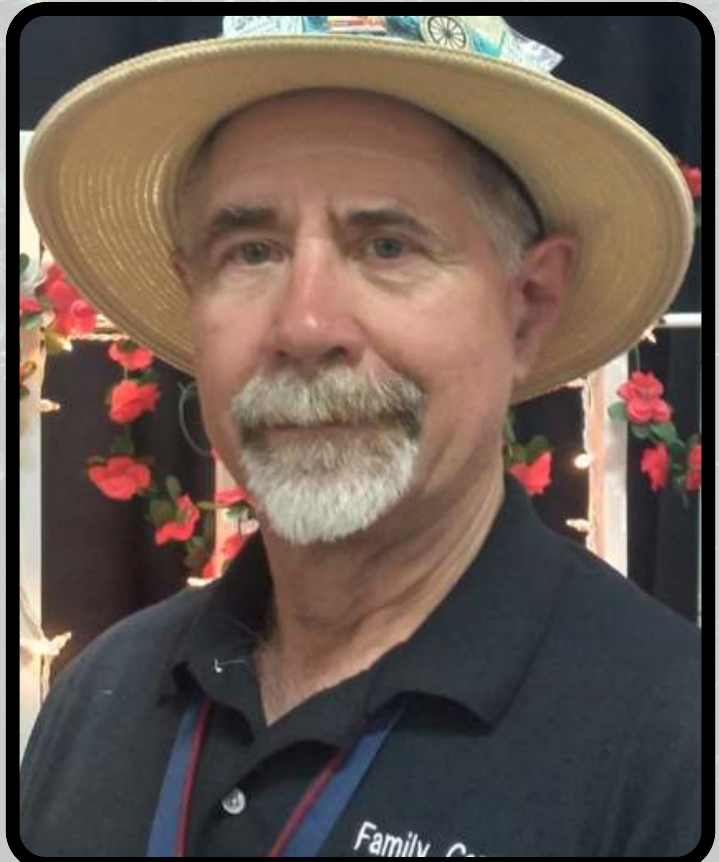
From The President

Well, everyone, we have started a new year. I hope everyone was blessed to enjoy the New Year with friends and family and have traditional celebrations that many families enjoy. HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone. May your family be blessed in this New Year.

This month you will be hearing from Amy DeCamp, Vice President of Planning and Development. I do, however, have a few reminders. Your camping schedules are needed by February 1, 2025. I start the insurance renewal process in mid-February. Along with this any Insurance certificate requests need to have the office copied on the request or be made through the office. For the Certificate to be issued, the event MUST be on the calendar as part of the filed schedule with the National office.

One last thing, as you all know, we have an election in April. This is the time to ensure that you have the correct email address on file at the office and that you have not blocked this email from receiving emails from FCRV. Again, we will be conducting the election through email.

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





Your Opportunity Awaits: A Call to Action for FCRV Members



Your Opportunity Awaits: A Call to Action for FCRV Members

By: Amy DeCamp, Vice President Planning & Development

Family Campers and RVers (FCRV) has long been dedicated to the preservation and conservation of the environment, wildlife, and the RVing lifestyle. As members of this vibrant community, there is a unique opportunity to engage in service projects that not only support these core values, but also serve as a powerful tool for attracting new members, promoting and enhancing the experience and enjoyment of recreational camping and RVing.

Service is at the heart of FCRV's mission. It is not just about individual abilities or resources, but coming together as a community to make a meaningful impact. Members are encouraged to harness their diverse talents and skills to create projects that benefit both the environment and local communities. Whether it's participating in a community clean-up, volunteering at a local wildlife sanctuary, or organizing educational workshops on sustainable RVing practices, every effort counts.

FCRV members are equipped with the necessary skills and resources to lead impactful service projects. The willingness to learn and adapt is crucial, as is the ability to work collaboratively. By leveraging the unique talents within the club, such as expertise in conservation techniques or event organization, members can effectively address the needs of their communities while promoting the organization's mission.

Service is not just a choice but a responsibility and a privilege. FCRV members are called to serve, regardless of their circumstances or backgrounds. This call to action is an invitation to listen to the needs of the community and respond with dedication and humility. By actively participating in service projects, members can demonstrate the club's commitment to making a positive difference.

Service projects offer a dual benefit: they strengthen the bonds within the FCRV community and serve as a platform for positive publicity for all levels of the organization. By showcasing the club's dedication to environmental preservation and community service, these projects can attract new members who share similar values. Highlighting successful initiatives in newsletters, social media, and local media outlets can amplify the club's reach and inspire others to join the cause.

We are all empowered, equipped, and called to serve. By participating in service projects, members not only support the club's mission, but also contribute to the broader goal of preserving the environment and wildlife...and doing so fosters fun, fellowship, and a strong sense of community within our RVing family. Together, FCRV members can create a lasting impact and inspire others to join in this meaningful journey, while also experiencing personal growth and educational enrichment. Your opportunity awaits!

Service Project Suggestions – Let's Get Started!
This list is certainly not exhaustive, but merely a jumping off point. We are only limited by our imaginations! Our Conservation and Wildlife Programs also have suggestions at fcrv.org/members/programs.

Your Opportunity Awaits: Continued



1. **Community Clean-Up Events**: Organize regular clean-up activities in local parks, campgrounds, or natural areas to promote environmental preservation and enhance community spaces.
2. **Wildlife Habitat Restoration**: Participate in projects that restore or create habitats for local wildlife, such as planting native trees or building birdhouses.
3. **Recycling and Waste Reduction Workshops**: Host educational sessions on recycling practices and waste reduction to encourage sustainable living among community members.
4. **Volunteer at Local Nature Reserves**: Support conservation efforts by volunteering at local nature reserves or wildlife sanctuaries, assisting with maintenance and educational programs.
5. **Community Garden Projects**: Establish or support community gardens to promote local food production, environmental education, and community engagement.
6. **Sustainable RVing Workshops**: Organize workshops on sustainable RVing practices, such as minimizing waste, conserving energy, and using eco-friendly products.
7. **Habitat for Humanity Builds**: Participate in building or repairing homes with Habitat for Humanity, fostering community enhancement and providing safe housing.

8. **Trail Maintenance and Improvement**: Collaborate with local hiking or biking clubs to maintain and improve trails, ensuring they remain accessible and enjoyable for all.
9. **Environmental Education Programs**: Develop and deliver educational programs for schools or community groups focused on environmental conservation and the importance of preserving natural resources.
10. **Social Events and Gatherings**: Host social events, such as potlucks or campfire gatherings, to foster fun, fellowship, and a sense of community among FCRV members and the broader community of fellow enthusiasts.



Let's Save Some Trees! - From National Office

Let's Save Some Trees!

By: Pat Wittmeyer, Membership Liaison

Most of our FCRV members are aware that the National Office sends out hard copy letters reminding our members that their membership dues are up for renewal. A reminder letter goes out two months prior to the due date, a second letter goes out just prior to the due date, and finally one goes out after the due date, stating it's not too late to renew. This is a drain on financial resources and employee time. As a group with a strong conservation focus, we can reduce our use of paper.

The office is adopting a slight change in the process of letting our members know that it's time to pay their membership dues. The "first letter" will now go out electronically. (Yet another reason why the office needs to have current emails for all our members!) Two months prior to a membership due date an email from the FCRV National Office (fcrvoffice@gmail.com) will be sent telling them their due date, and the available rates of renewal for one-year, two-year and three-year options. The message will also include a hot link to our payment page, making it all the easier to just click, fill out your information, and pay your dues, all in one sitting.

Don't worry, if you don't have an email, your inbox is full, (now might be a good time to do a little purging here at the beginning of the year) or your email is on the fritz, we will still send the second reminder letter and the last letter out via mailed hard copy to our members who need to renew in Family Campers & RVerS.

FCRV is working hard to keep the cost of operations down. Utilizing the features of current technology is a great way to do that. And it's an excellent way to have a positive impact on the natural world around us.



National Election

National Election.

By: Shari Weber, 2025 Nominating Committee Chair

There are three positions up for election in March. Those positions are Vice President Planning & Development, Comptroller, and Vice President Operations. There will be biographies with pictures and platforms in the February issue of "Camping Today". The ballots must be returned by April 15th. The newly elected Trustees will be installed at the annual meeting at Campvention in Lebanon, Tennessee. Their term will begin at that time.

Members of FCRV are entitled to one vote which is monitored by membership numbers. All memberships will receive a ballot for Vice President Planning & Development and Comptroller. The Executive Board and Advisory Council will receive a ballot for Vice President Operations. Ballots will be distributed by email. The email address the National Office has on file for your membership will be used.

Prior to March you should make sure your email is correct in the National Database. This can be done through your State/Provincial or Regional Director. If you are unable to reach these people contact the National Office directly. If you have blocked email from the National Office for any reason, this block will prevent the election email. You can unblock an email address by going to Settings in your email software, then Filters,(or Security & Privacy), then Blocked Addresses. Select the sender you want to unblock (fcrvoffice@gmail.com) and click Unblock selected addresses.

Be sure to read the February issue of "Camping Today" to learn about the candidates and their platforms.

NCHA/FCRV Hank Nathan Scholarship 2025 Is Open

NCHA/FCRV Hank Nathan Scholarship 2025 Is Open

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

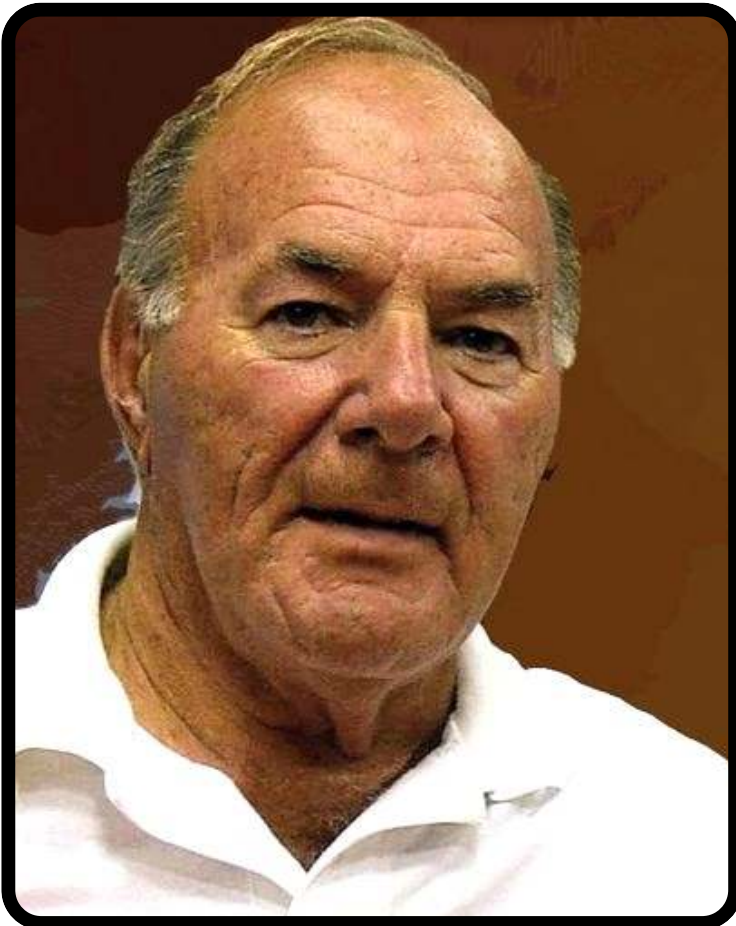
Applications can only be requested and accepted through this web portal:

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

Words of Suggestion: Your LETTER OF INTRODUCTION AND 2 LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Contact them early in the process; but, after you have read the application thoroughly. Details are in the application. At least one recommendation must be from a member of FCRV.

Past Conservation Director: Al Quivey

Al Quivey, Past National Conservation Director, passed away January 3, 2025 in Ohio. Al and his first wife Jo served as National Conservation Directors from 1988 to 2000 after previously serving as Ohio's Conservation Chairmen. Jo passed away in April, 2002. Al was a member of the Escapees, Swiss Wheelers of Sugarcreek, Ohio, Buckeye Bacon Burners, Texas FCRV Winter Texans, and a charter member of the YARs Chapter. Al and Gail, his second wife who survives him, were full-timers for many years.



Sunday School with Jimmy Carter

Sunday School with Jimmy Carter

By: Clare Gunning, New York

Editor's note: While this event took place a long time ago, when we saw this family had visited Plains, GA and met Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter, we asked for an article on their experience. It is an honor to meet a Past President of the United States. We hope you enjoy reading this.

In 1998 we attended the National Campvention in Perry, Georgia. As was our normal plan, we looked over all the places we could visit while in Perry. Our son has always been a history nut so he pointed out that former President Jimmy Carter was from Georgia and lived in Plains, Georgia which was two hours from Campvention.

We headed to Plains on Saturday. Our first stop there was the General Store that you've seen on the news recently. It's the central meeting place in Plains. It had quite the collection of memorabilia and souvenirs for purchase. I still have the fridge magnet I bought that day. There was quite a selection of Billy Beers.

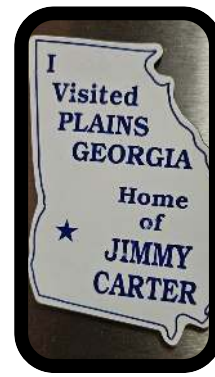
We inquired where Jimmy Carter lived and was there any way to see it. We were told there was a "tour" we could go on. A childhood friend of Jimmy's could take us. While we waited for him to show up we "enjoyed" some boiled peanuts and drinks. I liked the peanuts. The rest of the family didn't. When our guide showed up, he took us in his van on an hour plus tour of Plains. He talked a mile a minute. We have a video of the whole thing. He gave us a whole history of Plains, the industry before and after the Carter presidency, told us about the job he got with the news corp that set up in the town for the four years Jimmy was president. He took us inside the Carter compound. He was the only one who was cleared by the secret service to take people through. here are motion detectors and cameras everywhere and are monitored by the secret service. He was not allowed to stop, but he drove as slow as he could so Bob could keep taking his video.

We saw the house. Their cars were there. We learned that they had made arrangements to give all the property to the National Park Service. He told us how every weekend that Jimmy was there he taught Sunday School at the Maranatha Baptist Church. It was open to anyone who wanted to attend. It was a great tour.

On the way back to Campvention all I kept hearing from Jason was how we should go to the Sunday School the next morning. I told Jason I was not going to set the alarm. I didn't want to get up and out so early. If God wanted me to get up early to get back to Plains for Sunday School, he'd have to wake me. Well guess who woke up! We got there a half hour early for 10am Sunday School, and it was crowded. We got the last 4 seats in the back row. Boy were we underdressed! Hey, we were on vacation and not Baptist so we didn't know what we were in for.

We listened to Jimmy Carter preach Sunday School for an hour and that was followed by an hour or more service. After that was concluded, Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter went outside. The secret service set up ropes and an area for the public to form a line and each person got to meet the Carters and then pose for a picture with them. An agent took your camera and took one shot. It holds a place of pride in our den. To this day when I see that picture I recall Jason shoving my daughter, Melanie, out of the way so he could stand next to Jimmy Carter.

A wonderful man has left us. We'll always have this memory, and we gladly share it with you.



Welcome New Members

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

Morinello, John	Morinello, Kathleen	NY	Referred by: Joe & Patricia Wittmeyer
Shutts, Emmett	Shutts, Elizabeth	CT	Referred by: Northeast RV & Camping Show Email
Coleman, Gary	Coleman, Eva	IN	Referred by: Anne Zacek
McKinnon, Michael	McKinnon, Mary	IL	Referred by: Craig & Barb Davelis
Zaczek, William	Zaczek, Anne	WY	Referred by: Bill & Jane Thrasher
Bence, Ken	Bence, Debbie	GA	Referred by: Bill & Ann Zaczek
Orfitelli, Gino		CT	Referred by: Cindy D'Amato
Tammen, John	Tammen, Sandra	CO	Referred by: Chapter - Good Timers





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Retiree Rally 2025 - Dothan, Alabama



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

Are you ready to have an exciting time? We await your registrations 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, and 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/>.

[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.



Retiree Rally 2025 - Dothan, Alabama

Games in Dothan - Update

By: Shari & Craig Weber Games Co-Chairs

Spring into games in Dothan, Alabama. There will be several table games at the rally in addition to outdoor games. All games can be enjoyed in a reasonable amount of time, allowing you to enjoy the other activities available.

This month we are featuring two of our outdoor games which draw eager players. Ladder Golf is featured this month. It is played with goals having three rungs, like a ladder. The player throws 3 golf ball bolas (2 golf balls joined with a nylon rope leaving the balls 13" apart) which are thrown from 15' from the goal. Players throw alternately with opponents. Scoring is achieved by wrapping the bola around one of the rungs on the goal. Points are scored 3 points for the top rung, 2 points for the middle rung, and 1 point for the bottom rung. At the rally the game is modified to allow play in a timely manner by having each player throw 10 times and accumulate their score.

Cornhole is a game played on two angled boards with a 6-inch hole in each placed 9 inches from the top and 12 inches from either side. The boards are 27 feet apart (older and physically impaired players may throw from 21 feet). Players stand on one side of the board and toss bags filled with corn toward the board opposite them. Points are scored for bags that go in the hole (3 points) and bags that stay on the board (1 point). We will have 10 throws for each player. We will switch ends after 5 throws. All points will accumulate. There will be first and second place awards. The retirees do not own these boards, so we ask that you bring your boards so we can play.

Additional information about games is available at <https://fcrv.org> click on Members in the menu bar, then Programs, then Adult Activities, then the specific game where you will find the specs for the cornhole boards or Ladder Golf.

Please send questions to shari.fcrv.pastpres@gmail.com.

Tuesday Night Entertainment Announced - New

By: Reba Ray, Entertainment Chair

We are again looking forward to going back to Dothan, Alabama for the 2025 Retiree Rally.

We have some good entertainment set up for you and hope you will all enjoy it.

Tuesday night, March 25, the "ONE MAN BAND" from New Orleans, Louisiana will be featured

Brian Belknap is a multi-instrumentalist and songwriter in the mold of Lucinda Williams and Townes Van Zandt. His music — a rough blend of broke-down folk, junk-country blues, and gut-bucket gospel, rendered on accordion, slide guitar, and mandolin — is a product of the rich cultures of Chicago, San Francisco and New Orleans, all cities he has called home. Belknap's latest offering, *In Lieu of Flowers*, finds him in the capable hands of producer Mike Coykendall (M. Ward, She & Him, Bright Eyes, Blitzen Trapper). The record is about coping with loss (both personal and collective), and finding redemption in a world in its own time of reckoning.

A lifelong veteran of several music scenes, Belknap holds a special place in his music community. His real-life history indeed reads like that of a bygone era. Leaving a troubled home at an early age, he thumbed cross country making what money he could by playing on the streets. Finding factory work, he honed his skills practicing in boiler rooms and on loading docks during lunch breaks, organizing when he could against the horrible working conditions where he often found himself.

In the 90s, Belknap founded a band called Turpentine, during SF's heyday of folk, bluegrass, and country. Turpentine was soon sharing the stage with the likes of Cake, Calexico, and Train. He currently resides in New Orleans, performs as a One-Man Band and is the subject of an upcoming documentary by Director Adam Rifkin (Detroit Rock City, The Last Movie Star).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNNc8xYPJPA>

Retiree Rally 2025 - Dothan, Alabama

Visit Opelika, Alabama - **New**

By: Barb Turner, Publicity Chair

As 2025 FCRV International Retiree Rally attendees, visiting Opelika, Alabama, about 2 hours north of Dothan might be of interest. Opelika, once known as 'The Trading Center of East Alabama', is situated at the juncture of the Piedmont Upland and East Gulf Coast Plain physiographic sections. Opelika means 'big swamp' in the Muskeghean language spoken by the region's Native Americans.

<https://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/opelika/>

Following the Treaty of Cusseta by the United States and the Creek Nation, the first white settlers arrived in the area. "This treaty placed the land and all other Creek territories east of the Mississippi River under the possession of the United State government. Though the territory now belonged to the United States, Opelika kept its Creek name."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opelika,_Alabama

Settlement was slow until the late 1840s when Opelika quickly became a commercial center with the coming of the railroad, the Montgomery & West Point Railroad Company, which served as the major means of transportation for unprocessed cotton. "The town nearly doubled in size between 1870 and 1900. Downtown was packed with saloons catering to the railroad workers and other men. Gunfire in the street by intoxicated patrons resulted in the railroads directing their passengers to duck between the windows when their trains passed through town.

"In 1882, two factions claimed to rule the city government, one known as the 'Bar room' headed by Mayor Dunbar, a saloon keeper, and another known as the 'Citizens'. In a riot in late November–December of that year, a dozen men were wounded. In the end, a few were killed. The Citizens had claimed control of the city via the elections, but Dunbar refused to give up. After continued violence, the state legislature revoked the city's charter, and the governor sent in the militia to restore order.

The legislature appointed five commissioners to manage the city, a situation that continued until 1899. That year, the legislature restored the city's charter."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opelika,_Alabama

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6fLgknPKeE&t=20s> offers a glimpse into Opelika's history.

What to expect when visiting this historic railroad town.....

Walk the Train Tracks: Today you can see the historic railroad tracks and the freight trains that still run along them in downtown Opelika.

Hit up the Downtown Shops: There's a store for everything, from size-inclusive women's clothing and accessories (Studio 3:19) to new and used vinyl records (10,000 Hz) to home and gift ideas (Southern Crossing). After you've exercised your credit card downtown, take it for one final hurrah at nearby Angel's Antiques and Flea Market, which offers 68,000 square feet of one-of-a-kind finds.

Explore the Northside Historic District: The residential neighborhood is filled with beautiful turn-of-the-century homes that have been lovingly restored to match their original appearance. Take a stroll along the charming streets and marvel at their grandeur.

Go on a Street Art Scavenger Hunt: The walls of the town reflect Opelika's colorful past and a bright future with murals. Be sure to snap photos in front of the 'Bless You' wall, yellow umbrella, butterfly, and 'Greetings from Opelika' mural. Each is an Instagram moment waiting to happen!

Visit the Salem-Shotwell Covered Bridge: This enchanting bridge is known for its iconic lattice trusses and wooden roof is also known as the Pea Ridge Covered Bridge. The structure is one of only five remaining covered bridges in Alabama that dates to 1950 or before. Built in 1900, the bridge leads into the Opelika Municipal Park, where a mini train called the Rocky Brook Rocket runs seasonally and families often gather for play dates and picnics.

Visit <https://www.southernliving.com/opelika-al-7098297> for more details of what to 'see & do' in Opelika.



Retiree Rally 2025 - Dothan, Alabama



Also, visit the following links to plan your trip to Opelika:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xenp00LmGzU>

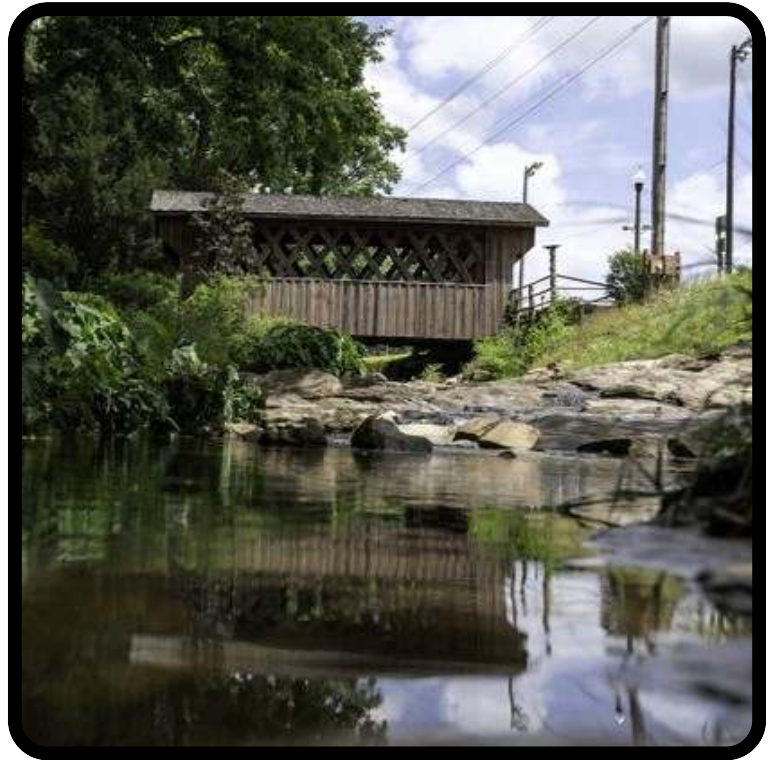
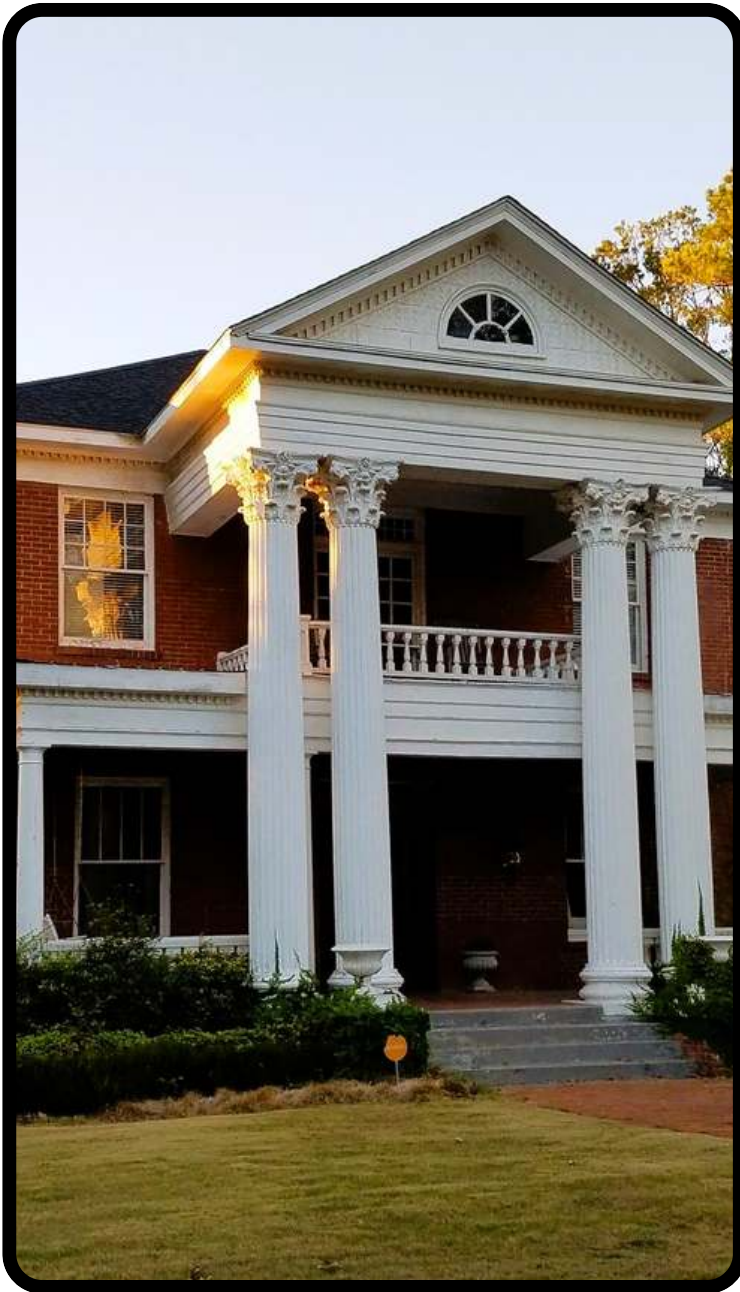
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVeGBtvHa2o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzEnk3hJPw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6fLgknPKeE>

Registration for the 2025 International Retiree Rally continues. Get registered! See you in Dothan March 24-30, 2025!



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 Chairs Info - **Update**

By: Shari Weber, Campvention Co-Chair

Even if you missed the sale price available until the end of December, there is still plenty of time to register for the Campvention in Lebanon, Tennessee in July. The price for camping and activities from July 20 to July 26 is now \$350. Early days starting July 18th are \$30 per night. Registration forms are available at <https://fcrv.org/campvention-2025/>.

The entire Campvention team is putting together a fantastic week for you. They are excited to present unique and fun experiences during our week together. The sound man we have engaged has lots of contacts in Nashville and is helping us with selecting our evening entertainment.

Some of you are concerned about Tennessee being too hot in July. We cannot predict the weather this far in advance, but looking at the weather in Lebanon in July 2024. Daytime average highs are in the upper 80's and average night time temperatures cool to the low 70's. All our buildings are air conditioned, and most sites will have 50 amp electric. We will be comfortable in Lebanon.

We will have a parade at Campvention! Watch future issues of "Camping Today" for details.

Campvention 2025 - Lebanon, Tennessee

Anticipating a very successful 2025 International Campvention. - **New**

By: Rick Walorski, 2025 Campvention Volunteer Coordinator

The FCRV membership consists of optimistic, good-natured people. Our membership is made up of individuals, couples, and families. We have Veterans, Retirees, and Working campers. Oh, and, we have pet owners, too! We are just a bunch of Happy Campers!

The FCRV International Campvention is your chance to broaden your relationships with Fellow Happy Campers! Many FCRV members truly enjoy camping with their Local Chapter members. If you want to diversify your camping experience with a road trip, please consider coming to our 2025 International Campvention. Our Campers know that they get more out of their Campvention experience by signing up for volunteer activities.

Some volunteers simply enjoy the company of their fellow campers at our Campventions. Some members truly enjoy the sense of belonging by participating more in the activities. Some relish the camaraderie by working with a team of people with the common goal of making the Campvention experience enjoyable to other members. Most members know that driving the Campvention trams is the best way to renew old acquaintances and make new friends. Volunteers are rarely bored since they usually are finding something to do.

A wise woman once told me that the Future of FCRV relies on the capable hands and hearts of our Volunteers! Plan on volunteering this year to enhance your 2025 International Campvention experience.

Why do you volunteer at the FCRV International Campventions? Send your testimonial to me (Rick Walorski) an email to Walorskihome@comcast.net. I look forward to reading your reasons for volunteering for the FCRV International Campventions!

Hoping to see you all this year in Lebanon Tennessee for our 2025 International Campvention.
Happy Camping!

TP Raffle - **Update**

By: Kathy Howell, TP Raffle Chair

The holiday season is over, and that is sad. But if you live in a cold climate like me, you are now looking forward to the camping season!!! Only six months until Campvention 2025. That is going to go by in the blink of an eye!!!

My daughter Jessica is busy working deals for us to bring some great prizes for the raffle. But we do need some help!! As you think about your camping plans for the upcoming season, please consider bringing and donating a prize to the TP raffle. It doesn't need to be a large item; small items work wonderfully. Gift cards are very easy to transport!! The item doesn't need to be camping related, but it doesn't hurt if it is related. Are you a crafter and would like to donate an item? We would love it!!!

We have such fun doing this event, interacting with the teens, seeing how they change from year to year, watching our group go through the raffle prizes to see where they will place their tickets, and the joy on their faces when their ticket number is called.

If you have any ideas of prizes you would like to see in the raffle, drop me an email at Kathleen.howell.RN@gmail.com. We will see what we can do!!

Adult and Family Activities - **New**

By: Brian Fuller, Adult & Family Activities Co-Chair

While at Campvention, be sure to check out the schedule for Adult and Family Activities. Co-chairs Craig Weber and Brian Fuller haven't worked out all of the planned activities yet, but they are sure to include fan favorites such as Bingo, Card Bingo, and a Euchre tournament. Also, the activity center will be open throughout the day for anyone to drop in and work on a jigsaw puzzle or play a variety of card and board games that will be available, or to play their own games.

Campvention 2025 - Lebanon, Tennessee

Opening Flag Ceremony - **New**

By: *Connie Black, Flag Ceremony Chair*

Plans are underway for the Opening Flag Ceremony for Campvention 2025. States, Provinces, and chapter flags that plan to attend should bring a 3' by 5' flag, flagpole and flag stand. Flags will be displayed all week at the stage. The US Flag, Canadian Flag, and the FCRV Flag will be displayed on stage. State, province, and chapter flags will be displayed on the floor.

Opening Flag Ceremony Rehearsal will take place on Sunday late afternoon at the stage. Flag bearers should bring their flag, flagpole, and flag stands to the practice. The time of the Closing Ceremony rehearsal will be in the Program Book and will take place on Friday.



Visit Franklin, Tennessee, Where Future History was Influenced. - **New**

By: *Barb Turner, Publicity Chair*

If history interests you, you might want to visit Franklin, Tennessee from Lebanon, Tennessee, site of the 2025 FCRV Campvention July 20-26, 2025. Franklin is about 50 miles from our Campvention site.

Franklin was founded on October 26, 1799, by Abram Maury Jr. He named the town after Benjamin Franklin; the town developed on both sides of the Harpeth River which is a tributary of the Cumberland River. In the 19th century, Franklin, as the county seat, was the trading and judicial center for primarily rural Williamson County and remained so well into the 20th century as the county remained rural and agricultural in nature. This area is part of Middle Tennessee, and farmers prospered in the pre-Civil War years with the cultivation of tobacco and hemp as commodity crops, and raising of livestock.

[.https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franklin,_Tennessee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franklin,_Tennessee)
"The Tennessee state flag has three stars representing the three regions of Tennessee. In 1796, Tennessee became the 16th state to join the Union of the United States. In 1861, it was the last to leave the Union, and in 1866, it was the first Confederate state to rejoin the Union States at the end of the Civil War. All of these dates are important but not as impactful as the one night when almost 10,000 soldiers were injured or died in a five-hour Battle of Franklin in Middle Tennessee.

"Pre-Civil War, Tennessee was divided, with western citizens on the side of the Confederates, eastern citizens firmly planted on the Union side, and Middle Tennessee citizens having loyalties to one or the other. The division was so predominant that there were two referendums on secession before entering the Civil War on the Confederate side.

"The cities of Franklin and Spring Hill are in the middle of the state, 13 miles apart. Carnton, Carter House, and Rippa Villa tell the stories of those fateful two days at the end of November 1864." Visit <https://www.downshiftingpro.com/battle-of-franklin-trust/> to learn more about this period of the local history.

Campvention 2025 - Lebanon, Tennessee

In 2016 the FCRV Travalong visited Franklin and discovered the historical events that occurred in the area. The Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864 is little known but was a significant event.

To perhaps prepare, you might want to read *The Widow of the South*, a novel by Robert Hicks, based on the true story of Carrie McGavock. During the Civil War's Battle of Franklin, a five-hour bloodbath with 9,200 casualties, McGavock's home was turned into a field hospital where four generals died. For 40 years she tended the private cemetery on her property where more than 1,000 were laid to rest.

Carnton was built around 1826 by Randal McGavock, an early settler in Middle Tennessee. By the time of the Civil War, Carnton was home to John and Carrie McGavock, and it was a large working farm. Over forty enslaved people lived and worked at Carnton in the years leading up to the Civil War. On November 30, 1864, the site was witness to the Battle of Franklin. Carnton became the largest field hospital in the area following the terrible battle, and in 1866 the McGavock Confederate Cemetery was established nearby. Today the cemetery holds the remains of nearly 1,500 Southern soldiers. It is the largest privately held Confederate cemetery

in the United States. 780 of the soldiers' identities are known today, leaving 558 as unknown but not forgotten. The family and enslaved cemeteries are also on site.

The Battle of Franklin was one of the fiercest battles of the Civil War. It was one of the worst defeats of the Confederacy. 63,000 troops were involved. 30,000 Union. 33,000 Confederates. The two opposing forces stretching across two miles clashed in Franklin, centered around the Carter House. Visit <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/10-facts-battle-franklin> to learn 10 important facts about the Battle of Franklin.

Two facts stand out for me. First, "several elements of the ensuing battle are worthy of comparison with Lee's assault on July 3, 1863. At Gettysburg, 12,000 Confederates attacked over a mile of open ground following a 150-gun bombardment of a Union line protected by a low stone wall. They reached their objective and held out for around thirty minutes before being

repulsed, leaving about 1,415 dead or mortally wounded on both sides. At Franklin, 20,000 Confederates, supported by just one battery, advanced over two miles of open ground and struck a Union line made up of three tiers of sturdy breastworks and abatis that in most places stood about eight feet high. The Army of Tennessee pierced the center of this line and held their position for over three hours, resulting in over 2,000 combined fatalities. Such bravery and ferocity so late in the war shocked and saddened many observers--Private Sam Watkins of the 1st Tennessee called it 'the blackest page in the history of the war'."

The second, "The course of World War II could have been greatly altered at the Battle of Franklin. Arthur MacArthur, Jr., 'The Boy Colonel', was a novelty in the Union Army. He had enlisted in the 24th Wisconsin Infantry regiment underage at the beginning of the war, but had already made an impressive name for himself. At the Battle of Missionary Ridge on November 25, 1863, as an eighteen-year-old first lieutenant, MacArthur had seized the regimental colors from a decapitated comrade and led the charge that broke a seemingly unbreakable line. He was awarded the Medal of Honor and promoted to colonel. At Franklin, now leading the 24th Wisconsin of Opdycke's brigade in the middle of the reserve line, MacArthur and his men, with a shout of "Up, Wisconsin!" plunged into the melee at the Carter House after the initial Confederate charge splintered the Union defenses. MacArthur was shot off of his horse almost immediately. Bleeding from the shoulder, he drew his saber and began cutting his way through the melee towards a ragged Southern flag waving above the fray, under which MacArthur came face-to-face with a Confederate officer. The Southerner leveled his pistol and shot MacArthur in the chest. MacArthur kept his feet and ran his opponent through, but the falling officer fired once more and hit MacArthur in the leg. Gravely wounded, MacArthur was nearly trampled before his men dragged him to safety. Miraculously, the young colonel survived his wounds and the war. His son Douglas became one of the United States' top generals in World War II and Korea. To this day, Arthur and Douglas are the only father and son pair besides Theodore Roosevelt and Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. to have won the Medal of Honor."

Campvention 2025 - Lebanon, Tennessee

Plan on visiting Franklin, Tennessee, “a lesser-known but very enchanting Southern destination, complete with Civil War sites, elevated food and beverage offerings, unique local businesses, artsy hamlets, and so much more.”

<https://www.travelawaits.com/2489242/franklin-tennessee-best-kept-secret/>

Get registered at <https://fcrv.org/campvention-2025/> for Campvention 2025; enjoy Campvention & explore the area the end of July.

<https://franklinis.com/20-must-do-activities-in-franklin-tennessee/>

<https://franklinis.com/20-must-do-activities-in-franklin-tennessee/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franklin,_Tennessee

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

<https://www.downshiftingpro.com/battle-of-franklin-trust/>

https://www.williamsonscene.com/community/willco_history/battle-of-franklin-descendants-meet-to-share-histories/article_8d23748c-3bb8-5130-a98c-1c6f1ad128e5.html

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnton>

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/beyond-battle-arthur-macarthur-jr>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZiLoKpWqQ8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9kNuy6DsMc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3Oglil7KCA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZiLoKpWqQ8&t=10s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIsK208X1Xc>

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



Event Schedule & Recaps



[Click Here For Full Event Calendar]

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
January 10 at 5:00 AM · 🌐

Eight couples from the Tri-County Travellers attended a weekend of "dry camping" and live music at the Pleasant Valley Trout Farm near Sparta, Ontario. All profits from... See more

Boost this post to get more reach for Family Campers & RVers - FCRV. [Boost post](#)

👍👍👍 Marci McIntosh, Woodland Wookies and 27 others 7 comments 2 shares

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
January 4 at 9:00 AM · 🌐

Dakota Zoo, Bismarck, ND has received a \$500 national FCRV wildlife refuge grant. Zoo Director Terry Lincoln said the money will be used to replenish medical & x-ray su... See more

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👍👍👍 Marci McIntosh and 11 others 1 comment 1 share

2025 FCRV

www.fcrv.org



Event Schedule & Recaps

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
January 8 at 5:00 AM · 🌐

Rocky Toppers campout was in Elk Meadows Campground in Estes Park, CO. The location is near the Rocky Mountain National Park. The group also enjoyed the Long's Peak Sco... [See more](#)

Boost this post to get more reach for Family Campers & RVers - FCRV. [Boost post](#)

👍 Marci McIntosh, Woodland Wookies and 11 others 1 comment 1 share

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
Yesterday at 5:00 AM · 🌐

Pitch 'n' Pull friends camped at Pomme De Terre State Park in Missouri. We took in the lake area, prepared campfire meals, went bowling, browsed flea markets, and enjoyed area restaurants.

Boost this post to get more reach for Family Campers & RVers - FCRV. [Boost post](#)

👍 Woodland Wookies and 16 others 2 comments 1 share

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
January 6 at 5:00 AM · 🌐

Colorado Eagles held a potluck lunch at the lovely home of one of our members. Great fellowship, food and games! And a beautiful swimming pool to enjoy. Several guests ... [See more](#)

Boost this post to get more reach for Family Campers & RVers - FCRV. [Boost post](#)

👍 Marci McIntosh and 7 others

Family Campers & RVers - FCRV
Yesterday at 5:00 AM · 🌐

Pitch 'n' Pull friends camped at Pomme De Terre State Park in Missouri. We took in the lake area, prepared campfire meals, went bowling, browsed flea markets, and enjoyed area restaurants.

Boost this post to get more reach for Family Campers & RVers - FCRV. [Boost post](#)

👍 Woodland Wookies and 16 others 2 comments 1 share



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,
We have our RV in storage winterized for the winter, but snow often will remain on the roof. A Chapter member said we should always remove the snow, and another said that it does not need to be removed. Who is correct?
Thanks for your input, Questioning

Dear Questioning,
I think in a way both are correct. Here is why I say that. It truly depends on the extent of the snow load. It is like your house, the roof is designed and engineered to withstand a snow load of a set amount. If the snow load exceeds the design, the roof will fail. Having said this, if you make it a point to remove every snow from the roof, you have the chance of damaging your roofing material leading to costly roof repairs. As you see, this requires a balance of action. I live in an area where we can have heavy snows. The snow can be light and fluffy or very heavy and wet. I only remove the snow when I feel the roof is in danger, a personal decision. You also must keep in mind that the roof WILL be very slippery, increasing the possibility of falls. I do encourage you to check your roof after snow or rain events.
Thanks for asking Dear RV

Dear RV,
Do I need to check my RV tires during storage?
Wondering

Dear Wondering,
It is always good to check your tires when you have the rig in storage. There is nothing worse than going to get the rig out of storage and not being able to complete the task because of a flat tire. There is also the possible cost of replacing a tire that sat flat over winter causing extensive damage to the tire. I say check that they are not flat, covering them helps, according to some, from the elements and ensures that they are properly aired up before moving the rig.
Hope this helps and thanks for asking Dear RV

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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2024

2023

2022

2021

[December 2024](#)

[December 2023](#)

[December 2022](#)

[December 2021](#)

[November 2024](#)

[November 2023](#)

[November 2022](#)

[November 2021](#)

[October 2024](#)

[October 2023](#)

[October 2022](#)

[October 2021](#)

[September 2024](#)

[September 2023](#)

[September 2022](#)

[September 2021](#)

[August 2024](#)

[August 2023](#)

[August 2022](#)

[July 2024](#)

[July 2023](#)

[July 2022](#)

[June 2024](#)

[June 2023](#)

[June 2022](#)

[May 2024](#)

[May 2023](#)

[May 2022](#)

[April 2024](#)

[April 2021](#)

[April 2022](#)

[March 2024](#)

[March 2023](#)

[March 2022](#)

[February 2024](#)

[February 2023](#)

[February 2022](#)

[January 2024](#)

[January 2023](#)

[January 2022](#)





FAMILY CAMPERS & RVers 2025 CAMPVENTION

“Spirit of Friendship”

July 20-26, 2025

James E Ward Agricultural Center

945 E Baddour Pkwy, Lebanon, TN 37087



REGISTRATION:

Welcome to Campvention 2025. Everyone must complete a registration form, including second families and camp day passes. Submit payment with the completed form. All funds shall be in US currency, including checks and money orders. There will be room for you if you decide to come at the last minute. Simply bring this registration form with you.

****Refund policy:** If you are unable to attend, all except \$25 will be refunded AFTER the conclusion of 2025 Campvention.

Registration deadline May 15th - Pay before December 31, 2024, to receive a \$25 discount (\$325.00).

	<u>Registration</u>	<u>At Gate</u>
One Family in the Unit	\$350.00	\$385.00
Extra Family in the Unit (separate pay)	\$180.00	\$200.00
Week Drive-in Day Pass (June23-29)	\$175.00	\$190.00
Drive-in Day Pass (per day)	\$30.00	\$35.00

Early Bird Days: July 18 - 19 @ \$30/night (pay upon arrival – cash/check). The gates will be open Friday at 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Are you an FCRV member: Yes No Please provide your Member # if known: _____

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

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____ 2ndEmail: _____

Is this your first Campvention? Yes No Are you a Veteran and what branch? _____

Number of people in your unit: Adults: _____ Teens: _____ Youth: 9 – 12 _____ Youth: 5 – 8 _____

Total number of people in Unit: _____

****Please list the names and ages of all youth and teens on the back of this form.**

We would like to help with event(s) at Campvention. Staff will follow up with a contact if yes: Yes No

CAMPVENTION PARKING: (There will be no special needs sites available at the gate.)

Check if you are requesting a special needs site: _____ (Valid Handicap parking proof must be presented upon arrival.)

Please note the LENGTH of camping rig behind type:

Motorhome _____ 5th Wheel _____ Travel Trailer _____ Pop-Up _____ Number of slide outs _____

Electricity: 30 amp _____ 50 amp _____ (50amp is limited. Handicap first. Then first come, first served.)

****Bring extension cords. Water available. Bring hoses and Y connectors.**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FCRV Campvention 2025 Funds

Mail checks and completed forms to:

FCRV Campvention 2025

137 Crandon Blvd.

Cheektowaga, NY 14225

For inquiries please call (716)668-6242.

Confirmations will be sent via Email.

Please allow a month for Processing.



53rd FCRV INTERNATIONAL RETIREE RALLY
National Peanut Festival Fairground
5622 Hwy 231 S, Dothan, Alabama 36301
Rally Dates: March 24 – March 30, 2025
Early Days: March Wednesday 19th - Sunday 23rd

Please Complete All Of The Following: (Please Print)

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse/Other _____

Address _____ City _____ St/Pr _____ Code _____

Mailing Address of Other: _____ # of People In Unit _____

Cell Phone #1 _____ Cell Phone #2 _____

Email Address _____ Confirmation Send By: Pdf _____ Word _____

Mailed: _____ Mailing Address If Different From Above: _____

Registering For Camping: On Grounds _____ Off Grounds _____ Camp Pass _____

Is this your first retiree rally? **Yes** _____ **no** _____ Are you a veteran? **Yes** _____ **no** _____

Special Needs: Must have on file with the registrar: License registration including handicap Plate, or handicap placard. This area is reserved for wheelchairs, walkers, or those with limited mobility.

REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE MARCH 1, 2025 DEADLINE.

Registrations received after March 1st or registering at the gate will incur an additional \$25 fee.

Early Days: Early days fee of \$40 per night per unit will be collected by the treasurer at the registration desk.

Included In The Fee: Full Hook-Ups, (30/50 Amp), Ice Cream Social, 2 Dinners, Entertainment, and a lot of fun.

	Early Registration	At gate
2 People In Unit	\$350	\$375
1 Person In Unit	\$320	\$345

Camp Pass Staying In Unit On Grounds As 2nd Family In Unit:

2 People	\$110
1 Person	\$80

I Would Like To Volunteer For:

Camp Pass Staying Off Grounds:

2 People	\$110
1 Person	\$80

Refunds: All but \$35 will be refunded if cancellation notice is received two weeks prior to the rally. After the rally deadline of March 1, 2025, only the camping fee will be refunded. A refund requested after the rally starts will be made after the rally has ended.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FCRV/NCHA RETIREE RALLY

Mail to: Mildred Pauwels, P.O. Box 193, Dana, N.C. 28724

NO CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED