# CAMPINGOTODAY

THE VOICE OF FAMILY CAMPERS & RVERS

**SEPTEMBER 2025 ISSUE** 

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**Printable PDF** 









@officialfcrv

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

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• Recording Officer: Teresa Walorski

VP of Programs: <u>Ed Shaneyfelt</u>

VP of Planning & Development: <u>Daniel Tinter</u>

Comptroller: <u>Sandi Wingert</u>Past President: Shari Weber

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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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- · Youth, Teen, Adult and **Retiree Programs**

W.FCRV.ORG









### **From The President**

Here we are in September; WOW, how time is flying. I have been working on many items. In July the 2026 Huron Contract was put in place. Our Campvention 2026 will take place within one building for all activities. There is a kitchen which has 8 stoves and ovens. Four additional rooms are available for our use. The building is in a great location. The shower facilities are clean and well attended to each day. I was once again impressed by the potential of the Huron site. I tell you this to encourage you to get registered now for Campvention 2026. I also remind you that if you register by December 31, 2025, you will receive a discount. I hope to see you there.

I have been in discussions with Canada for 2027. I also am considering other locations as Canada has so few people within their region. They were encouraged by the states that confirmed that they would step up and help Canada with 2027. They are considering this, and I will keep you posted. This brings me to the point that we need to consider revamping Campvention going forward. I believe we need to assemble a team that is the core for Campvention and have that team in charge of Campvention using volunteers to fill in the team from the membership. I have had members suggest this and can see potential in this suggestion.

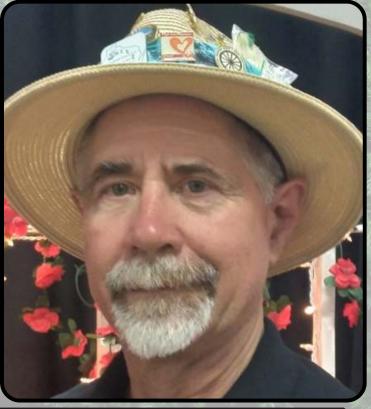
We as an organization have struggles that we must overcome if we are to survive. We had an in-depth discussion at the Executive / Advisory Council Meeting regarding membership dues and operating costs of FCRV. We as Trustees are working on a solution and will soon develop a recommendation to take to the Executive/Advisory council to keep FCRV going in the years to come. Many similar organizations' dues are \$100 or more. We will not be looking to raise dues to that level. The best solution would be for us to grow membership, but that is not the only answer. I believe that it must be a combination of member growth, dues increase, and a marketing campaign that uses modern methods and messaging for us to survive into the future. We have tried many things, and we must be willing to try something new.

This is the reason that I support Project Keystone and support the membership committee work which has been in process for over a year.

I hope that each of you enjoy the remainder of the 2025 camping season and enjoy the blessings bestowed on you and your families. The best memories are those formed around the campfire with friends and our family.

Gerry Pfirsch
FCRV International President





### **Welcome New Members**

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

Gehringer, Linda		MI	Referred By: Brenda Meyers	
Vickers, Randall	Vickers, DeeAnn	NC	Referred By: Ron Auspelnyer	
Martin, David	Martin, Kimberli	NE	Referred By: Joleen Baker	
Jordan, Ann		KS	Referred By: John Hendricks	
McClain, Nick	McClain, DeeDee	IN	Referred By: Gerry Pfirsch	



# **Trustee Meeting Notes**

These notes are now being stored in the Virtual Office by National and sent via email to the executive and advisory boards. These notes can and are encouraged to be shared throughout the organization. The archive and single page notes are set up as a shareable link that is viewable by any 3rd party.

A history of past minutes can be found **HERE**.



### Campvention 2026 - Huron, South Dakota

**More Info** 

<u>Register</u>

**Forms** 



### Click here for event info & registration

Join in on the discussion at the 2026 Campvention

Facebook group

Click the link above or scan the code below.



### CAMPVENTION 2026 "Where The Flock Gathers"

Heartland Region invites you to the 66th annual FCRV Campvention, to be held at the South Dakota State Fairgrounds at Huron July 5th to the 11th, 2026. Early bird days are July 3rd and 4th.

In addition to renewing old friendships and making new friends, you'll discover the rich cultural heritage, Native American and pioneer history, and the beautiful scenery of the Huron area. Huron's history is on display through its colorful outdoor murals as well as several historic museums and buildings. The city offers family entertainment (including a water park), numerous recreational opportunities, water activities (such as fishing, paddle boats, swimming), and walking trails.

Huron is located in the east central part of the state, but you are encouraged to come to Campvention early or stay late, to see the iconic Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorial tribute to the Native American tribal leader, both in southwest South Dakota; the 50-foot sculpture, "Dignity of Earth and Sky," along the Missouri River near Chamberlain; DeSmet, home of Laura Ingalls Wilder, about 35 miles from Huron; and the world's only Corn Palace (with exterior murals covered in corn, grains and grasses), in Mitchell, about 55 miles from Huron. And South Dakota has so much more to offer travelers!

Heartland Region 3 FCRVers are planning many familiar Campvention activities and adventures, along with special programs and activities focusing on local conservation and wildlife. They invite you to come and discover all that Campvention 2026, Huron and South Dakota have to offer!

### Retiree Rally 2026 - Mineola, Texas

### **More Info**

### **Register**



### Click here for event info & registration

Join in on the discussion at the 2026 Retiree Rally

Facebook group

Click the link above or scan the code below.



### Retiree Rally 2026 "Circle The Wagons"

Are you ready to join us to CIRCLE THE WAGONS next March? This rally is open to all members of FCRV, not just to retirees! There is so much fun awaiting you, so invite your camping friends and introduce them to our FCRV family. There is so much to see and do while you are there, and the amenities are 1st class! We will be updating you each month. The RV sites are very special as they are in front of the Center where we meet and form a double round ring that allows for SHORT WALKS. The sites have FULL HOOKUPs with BOTH 30 AND 50AMP, as we will CIRCLE THE WAGONS!

The 54th FCRV INTERNATIONAL RETIREE RALLY will be held at the Mineola Civic Center, 1150 N Newsom Street, Mineola, TX 75773.

Rally Dates: March 23 – March 29, 2026 Early Days: March 20th - March 22nd

Come early, as this is a fun place to explore!

We are excited to have Harlan Nigh and Lori Springer co-hosting with us. We are working on the details, and we have a good group of people who have offered to chair the committees. We need more volunteers to help make this a success. Please feel free to contact us with any help or suggestions.

Ken: <u>ken.andrews1348@gmail.com</u> Betty: <u>UBetUKen2@gmail.com</u>

We look forward to seeing you in Mineola, in March of

2026

Campvention 2025 was successful in our eyes. We took in enough money to pay all the bills and provide some to FCRV for operations. Central Registration checked in 133 units. Parking placed 123 rigs on sites throughout the grounds. The people who attended enjoyed campvention and participation in all of the events was amazing. We believe the changes that were made were successful. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of this campvention.

We had 6 vendors exhibit campvention. Many of these vendors, local businesses in Lebanon, and states and chapters donated some wonderful door prizes which were given out after evening programs. All who received a door prize were appreciative. Several of the vendors also provided seminars.

Ed Shaneyfelt, Chairperson Shari Weber, Co-Chairperson







Adult Games Report By Kathy Collier, Chair

Monday, we played ladder golf in an air-conditioned building!! We had about 30 people play singles and doubles. Stan Vozar of OH came away with first place singles and Dale Johnson of NY was his runner up.

Doubles it was Emily Fagerstrom AK and William Zaczek WY taking first with Jaynie Kutka WI and Sean McHale NY taking second.

Tuesday, we had to move about 26 bocce players to the morning due to the heat, there's no playing lawn bowling inside! Jackie Ollila MN and Ralph Dehaus claimed gold, followed by Loretta Hebert IL and Ed Shaneyfelt IN taking silver. Thanks to Brian Fagerstrom who led this event.

Thursday we were back inside and saw washers rolling with about 26 participants. Jeremy Spitulski MI took first; Wayne Copolillo NC took second.

Doubles were Jerry Zimmerman CT and Karen Snodgrass OH leading the pack with Gary Bex IN and Marty Enseleit NY in hot pursuit. (Yes, it was HOT)

Finally on Friday cornhole had about 37 people sign up. Leaders were Darris Douma NJ for singles with Jerremy Spitulski taking next.

Double it was (this will look familiar) Darris Douma NJ and Debbie Bence GA ahead of Chris Wheaton NY and David Shepard FL.

My sign-up sheets didn't make it, but Brian Fagerstrom saved the day (week)!! He was very instrumental in the pairings. Brothers Mike and Steve Burns, always helpful, came through, again. Karen and Robert Snodgrass were also there to help. I thank everyone who brought games. It helps so much, and I will be putting the call out again next year.









Campers Actively Moving In and Around Campvention 2025

By 2025 Convention CAMP Committee, Mark Brayman & Donald Lanoue

Greetings everyone,

So, we were an actively moving friends in Lebanon, Tennessee! The getup and go was evident this July as we gathered for our annual Campvention. The outside temperatures tried to slow us down but underestimated our FCRV members. From walking to paddling and from disc golf to biking our members showed up to participate! Of course, having an air-conditioned building for our fifth and final activity, Pickleball, sure helped with outstanding participation! We are thankful for those of you who showed up to participate and especially to members who stepped up to assist our program during Campvention. Below is a summary of the week's activities where movement exceeded expectations, friendships took hold and memories of fun will live on.

#### Walking:

Daily walks: 30 separate participants during the week traveling 81 miles.

Perpetual walking: 16 separate participants throughout the week covering 97 miles.

#### Pickleball:

Open court perpetual: 22 participants over the week covering 33 hours of aerobic exercise.

Beginner classes: A least 25 individuals participated in the two-hour class.

#### E-Bike/ bicycle:

13 participants traveled throughout the extensive fairground facilities and also through nearby farmland roads to complete this year's trek. A total of 111.5 miles were covered by the group. A better appreciation for the property and nearby neighborhood was an unexpected result.

#### Kayak/Canoe Paddle

23 participants took part in this year's off-site paddle. The beautiful Stone River area, just a few miles away, provided the perfect place and a wonderful local outfitter provided the means. Splashed river water kept us all cool while we paddled the flat-water river for just under 5 miles. This highly aerobic workout resulted in 46 hours of total paddling fun. Well done everyone!

#### Disc Golf:

4.5 miles of walking was completed by this year's participants.

While the turnout wasn't as expected, a rescheduled outdoor activity put in the same time slot and on the same field may have hindered our participation. Plans are to continue transporting the necessary equipment for this activity in the future in hopes of drawing a bigger crowd. Please consider joining in next time.

C.A.M.P. (Campers Activity Moving Program) continues to move FCRV members Forward. Please join in.









#### Wildlife Grants for Campvention 2025

This was my second year, and I am still learning about job of Wildlife Director. We had nine applications submitted this year and awarded three \$1,000 grants. We were looking for support for the care, rehabilitation and release of animals and birds. The amount awarded is determined by the interest earned the previous year and our limit was \$3,000 this year. The three awarded are:

- · West Wildlife Rehab in Ohio. Submitted by Shirley Dethlefson
- Black Pines Animal Sanctuary Indiana. Submitted by Angie Shaneyfelt
- Scouts Canada Attawandaron Camp in Ontario. Submitted by Rudy & Sharon Sandau

Wildlife 2025 Grant Summary

#### Friends of the Limberlost

Angie Shaneyfelt – Indiana

Friendsoftthelimberlost.org

Conservation and nature preserve Indiana Department of Natural Resources Limberlost Bird Sanctuary, Swamp Nature Preserves, and Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve. education and naturalist tours

#### West Wildlife Rehab

Shirley Dethlefson - Ohio

westwildlife.org

Find a local facility either to buy or build for a central location. Need a facility to house the intake animals rather than in the homes of the volunteers. Rehabilitate and release bats, cottontails, squirrels, opossums, raccoons, and foxes. They have added a songbird rehabilitator, cardinals, blue jays, robins, and others. Need a place to store animal and bird food, not in the homes.

#### **Black Pines Animal Sanctuary**

Angie Shaneyfelt - Indiana

bpsanctuary.org

It is a forever home for over seventy captive raised exotic wild animals. Housing for wolves, foxes, tigers, bobcats, and bears. They have a reptile house and avian building. Educating the public on exotic and wildlife

#### Scouts Canada - Attawandaron Camp

Rudy and Sharon Sandau - Ontario

**Attawandaron.com** 

Youth co-ed programming for over 70,000 between the ages of 5 and 26. To develop well rounded youth, better prepared for success in the world. Through the scouting program, youth express a sense of civic responsibility and environmental awareness with an emphasis on nature.

#### **Utopia Wildlife Rehabilitators**

Misty Stuckwisch - Indiana

**Utopiawildlife.org** 

All volunteer organization that provides for native Indiana wildlife, birds, raptors, and amphibians. They have rehabilitated and released thousands of animals. Their biggest need is for food and housing of the animals to be released or are ambassadors. Need assistance to rebuild the flight cage where the birds can build strength before release.

#### Sempervirens Fund

John Beck - California

Sempervirens.org

Connect forested lands and create wildlife corridors. Their work effects a wide variety of wildlife including several California species of special concern, Towsend's Western big-eared bat, San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat, mountain lion, San Francisco garter snake, Santa Cruz black salamander, Northern harrier. The Redwoods are home to species of wildlife and plants including marbled murrelet, coho salmon, red-legged frog.

#### Friends of Wehr

Javnie Kutka – Wisconsin

#### Friendsofwehr.org

Land management and restoration is an ongoing project. Remove invasive trees from the waterfront and use the funds to re-establish wet prairie and shrubcharr. The new area has access to a newly constructed bird blind. Prescribed burns have been conducted to remove invasive species and advance recovery of native plants to improve biodiversity and a better place for pollinators. Funds will be used to purchase oak trees to border the prairie.

#### Dakota Zoo

JeAnne Selby - North Dakota

#### **Dakotazoo.org**

Assist with veterinary care and rehabilitation of birds. The 90-acre facility houses more than 600 animals, birds, reptiles, and fish representing 125 species. Funding to help repurpose and renovate the existing Cooper's hawk exhibit. Serve as a small raptor rehabilitation facility, saw-whet owls, screech owls, kestrels, red tail hawks and others.

### **Crown Ridge Tiger Sanctuary**

Paul and Beth Standiford – Missouri

### **Crownridgetigers.com**

Established as a big cat rescue and educational facility providing long term care. To sustain the cost of caring, you may rent a room to get to know the cats better.

We appreciate the donations to the silent auction, the auction brought in \$873.00 for wildlife. The gift basket auction brought in \$120.00.

Judging of the photos and homemade bird houses was conducted by Linda English and Sandi Wingert.

#### Photo winners:

1st George Mitchell – Maryland Crab 2nd Kim Friscone – Bald Eagle 3rd George Mitchell – Osprey Thank you for submitting your photos.

#### Birdhouse winners:

1st Joe Wingert

2nd State of Connecticut

We only had two birdhouses to judge and thank you for your submission.

I want to give a thanks to Pat Wittmeyer for making arrangements for Ted from Harmony Wildlife Nashville to conduct a seminar and address the Ambassador lunch. Ted did a great job.

I am looking forward to being part of the team introducing Project Firestone, more information coming soon.

Tom & Cheryl Martinez
National Wildlife Director

### **Honey Wagon Recap**

By Daniel & Lynn Tinter, Chair

Honey wagon service was provided by 'On the Run Porta-John'. A minimum of 35 was required each day. We serviced 47 campers on Tuesday and 37 on Thursday. Thanks to all those that volunteered to help this process go smoothly.

#### **Religious Service**

By Linda English, Team Leader

A Christian worship service was led by Amy DeCamp. 50+ attended. We moved the location to the ED Building, which had AC for the comfort of the congregants. It was a very uplifting experience with Amy's message and singing.

#### **Campvention Youth Recap**

By Deena Felver & Valerie Semper, Chairs

The week for the youth started on Monday. We began with the youth showing up and playing with chalk outside. They also enjoyed the obstacle course that was set up. When we got done with the obstacle course they played with the hula hoops and chalk some more. Some of the older girls went inside to start making some craft items and the rest joined with the older ones helping them, they made sand necklaces and other craft items. They also played with games we had set up inside. All youth received a coupon for a free ice cream treat to use at Dream Dippers ice cream trailer that was there. There were 17 youths in attendance.

On Tuesday 14 youths showed up to the "Carnival". The kids wanted to play with chalk outside, so we did that first. After they got done playing with chalk we went inside and started the carnival games. There was a ring toss game where they had to throw rings onto animal bowling pins and when they ring one, they got a hug barrel drink. Then they could throw a hula hoop over an inflatable clown and won some candy. And there was a soft football game where they threw the football thru the hula hoop to win bubble gum. There was the mini bucket game where they had to bounce little bouncy balls in the mini buckets and won some stickers, and the last game was of course the fishbowl game, where they were to bounce ping pong balls in the fish bowls to win a little bag of goldfish. And there were fish in the bowls. There were also stuffed animals that they could pick from and win with some of the games. We passed out little goodie bags with circus suckers, stickers, and other items in them. When all were done playing the games we went back outside to enjoy popsicles and drawing with chalk again.

We did not do youth activities on Wednesday due to this being tour day to enjoy Nashville. On Thursday morning we started the day with everyone that came into the youth center getting a lei (even some adults got a lei) for "Hawaiian Day". We then played limbo to see how low the kids could go; they were creative and got very low to go under the bar. There were some teens in the center while we were playing so we wanted to see if they could limbo also. When they all made thru at least twice we played other Hawaiian games like throwing leis on an inflatable flamingo and throwing rings on a little flamingo and throwing bean bags in 3 buckets set up in a row. We had the bean bag baseball board set up and they played with it also. We ended the morning with popsicles and drawing with chalk and playing soccer with the kickballs outside. We had 14 youths in attendance.

On Thursday afternoon we had 11 youth enjoy the "Splash Pad with 3 other sprinklers" set up. We put up 2 10X10's for the adults to watch if they did not want to participate in water activities. We took a cooler with water and leftover hugs and snacks up to the water area so the kids could enjoy and stay hydrated.

All in all, I think the youth enjoyed themselves for the week. I do think the youth activities could be cut down to either 1 to 1 ½ hours as 2 hours is a little too much to keep them completely occupied.









### Teen Campvention 2025: A Week of Fun, Friendship & Firsts!

The teens showed up ready to roll at this year's Campvention—and they were not disappointed! With 13 teens registered, the week started with energy, laughter, and a strong sense of community.

Sunday Night: Kicking Things Off with a Bang

While parents filled out final forms, the teens made some joyful noise with the first Noise Parade of the week! This fun and inclusive icebreaker instantly bonded the group, setting a lighthearted tone for Campvention.

Monday Mayhem & Magic

Monday kicked off with high energy as they dove into Color Bomb Capture the Flag—a vibrant twist on a classic game. Teams were assigned at random, mixing and mingling for multiple exciting rounds. The laughter, splashes of color, and friendly competition created instant camaraderie and set the tone for a week.

Later that day, they served lunch to Campvention attendees. Their teamwork, kindness, and positive attitudes helped raise \$805 for local veterans—a meaningful and rewarding experience for all involved.

Tuesday: Teens Take on Nashville

Twelve teens and five chaperones hit the town for an unforgettable Urban Hike. Nashville was not ready! Highlights included the Parthenon, live music at Friends in Low Places, the Country Music Walk of Fame and Hall of Fame, the POW Pedestrian Bridge, Fort Nashborough, and a ride on the commuter train. It was a packed day full of laughter, steps (definitely over 3 miles!), and memories.











Wednesday Night: Let the (Silly) Games Begin!

The first-ever Teen Olympics and Silly Games were a massive hit! Events like TP Kentucky Derby, Silly Bowling, and Flip Cup Tic Tac Toe had everyone cheering. Teens formed their own teams, competed for plastic medals, and ended the night with huge smiles and Olympic Fanfare playing in the background.

Thursday: Waterpark Wonders

The teens made a splash at Nashville Shores Waterpark, riding slides and floating through the lazy river. Though they returned just in time for the TP Raffle, the day was a favorite for many and well worth the tight turnaround.

Friday: Farewell & Snacks

With activities wrapped up, teens helped clean the Teen Center (grudgingly, but they did it!) and enjoyed a low-key farewell party with snacks galore—generously donated leftovers from various Campvention events.

Weeklong Highlights & Thoughtful Touches

- Every teen received charms for bracelets, necklaces, or keychains—a now-cherished tradition that continues to be a fan favorite.
- Evening program time was left unscheduled, allowing teens to enjoy pickleball and downtime, while Teen Directors got to relax and take in the incredible nightly entertainment.

Teen participation was strong throughout the week, and the creative programming struck a great balance between structured events and free-time fun. From silly games to community service, from city adventures to waterpark thrills —2025 was a Campvention to remember.

Here's to another amazing year of friendship, laughter, and lifelong memories. Bring on 2026!

### Campvention Youth 'Camping Is' Awards By Barb McHale, National Youth Director

The annual Camping Is... coloring contest is for ages 0–4 with two judging categories 0–2 and 3–4. Each year there is a new version of the coloring page with the campvention logo to help distinguish the current from the past. It was posted in Camping Today as well as on the website. Unfortunately, this year there were no entries.

The youth Camping Is... poster contest is for youth in the following age groups, using age as of July 1 of the current year: 5–6, 7–8, 9–10 and 11–12.

We had no entries in the 5–6-year age category, three entries in the 7–8, four entries in the 9–10 and three entries in the 11–12 age group.

FCRV 2025 Camping Is... youth program contest results:

7-8:

1st Jordan Longberry, IN 2nd Layla Domanski, PA 3rd Jocelyn Jeffries, PA 9-10:

1st Braylee Jurrell, PA
2nd Sara Adileen Kratzer, PA
3rd Teagan Mira, CT
honorable mention Zoey Lewis McLeod, CT
11 -12:

1st Levi Wood, PA 2nd Avery Wood, NY 3rd Ariana LeKernee, PA

Many of the entries declared camping is awesome! We appreciate all who entered and hope to see more posters from our youth next year.







#### **Campvention Crafts Recap**

By Misty Stuckwisch, Chair

Crafts went very well in Tennessee . We had around 25 in each session. We had a nice, airconditioned building to use and that made a big difference! In our first session we made the TN magnet. Everyone seemed to like the idea, and I provided info where I purchased the supplies so they could do this at other state events. The second session was the beaded ink pen. This was fun and I believe everyone liked going through the beads and picking their favorite ones. We even had two men participate in the crafts. Crafts were \$5 each and after my expenses there was still a small credit that went back into the Campvention fund. My helpers were Chester & Sherry Nolan. Thank you to everyone who participated – I hope you had fun!







#### **Food Pantry Recap**

By Daniel & Lynn Tinter, Chair

Donations were collected for the Wilson County Help Center. For 36 years, this organization has served the residents of Wilson County with food, clothing, and financial assistance. Thanks to FCRV members we donated \$160 in cash and several bags of food items.

#### **Door Prize Report**

By Betty Andrews, Chair

One of the highlights of the evenings at Campvention is the Gift Basket Raffle! Everyone loves the thrill of winning a basket or a nice gift, and this year we received 60 donations from States, Regions, Clubs, Individuals, Vendors, Restaurants, one band, and an RV dealer. I went to different businesses after we arrived and was so thankful for many generous donations!

Here are the ones for the local businesses and vendors.

- Adventure Caravan (4) ~ Gifts plus they did 2
   Certificates at their table
- 2. Albright Tech Repair ~ Gift
- 3. Blue Compass RV (2) ~ Large Kits which were listed on sale for \$99 each
- 4. Belles Restaurant (1) ~ \$20 gift Card
- 5. Town Square Social Restaurant 1 ~ \$50 Gift Card
- 6.El Molino Mexican Restaurant 1 ~ \$25 gift Card
- 7. Mc Alister's Restaurant (8) ~ Diner gift Cards.
- 8. New Moon BBQ Restaurant (4) ~ \$40 gift cards
- 9. Eldorado Band ~Their CD

I went back to each restaurant with a personal thank you note that I wrote from FCRV. Each of the local businesses had a chance to know who we are and a little bit about FCRV. Many of our members continued to support the restaurants by dining there.

Each family that registered and attended the Campvention were put in the drawings. I was excited and felt that all the donated gifts were very nice and well received.









#### **Entertainment Recap**

By Connie Black, Chair

Monday night entertainment was Jeffrey Steele, an American country music singer and songwriter. Along with recording his own material, Steele has become a prolific Nashville songwriter, having cowritten more than 60 hit songs for such artists as Montgomery Gentry, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, LeAnn Rimes, Rascal Flatts, Billy Ray Cyrus, and others. It seemed like everyone enjoyed his music, because he played so many songs that they recognized. He also did a lot of storytelling in his career that was very interesting.

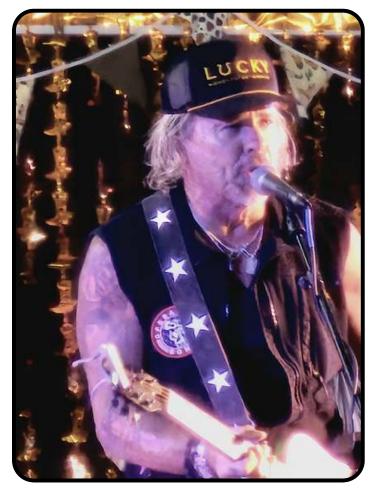
Tuesday evening was "Let's Make a Deal". We had a lot of participants in costume, and everyone seemed to enjoy it very much.

Wednesday night entertainment was "The Eldorado Band", a rockin' country band with powerful vocals, blazing guitars, honky-tonk piano, and a tight rhythm section. They played a great selection of 90's Country Music that everyone seemed to remember.

They also had some dancers to many of their songs.

Friday night entertainment was "Sweetn3", who is one of Middle Tennessee's top "go to" Classic Rock and Roll Cover Bands. They played folk, jazz, soul and country,

and they accepted many requests. I have never heard so many people singing along with any other band as we heard that night.









Campvention 2025 Family Activities Recap by Brian Fuller and Craig Weber, Chairpersons

There were over 200 participants in the Family Activities during Campvention 2025 in Lebanon. These activities included Card Bingo (the most popular event), two Country Line Dancing sessions, a Euchre Tournament, a Five Crowns Tournament, Chair Volleyball (using beach balls), and regular Bingo. In addition, numerous people worked on completing three 1000-piece puzzles and one 750-piece shaped puzzle. The nicely airconditioned building was also used at various times by people playing games they brought.

The winner of the Euchre Tournament was David Shepard from Florida. The winner (low score) of the Five Crowns Tournament was Joe Wingert, while the "better luck next time" award (i.e., high score) went to Paul Schlup. The final Bingo jackpot was won by Cindy D'Amato from Connecticut.









### **Hospitalities Recap**

By Loretta Hebert, Chair

We had 12 groups participate in Tuesday's **FCRV** hospitality night including trustees (keychains), Alabama (snow cones), Connecticut (Milano cookies), Illinois (Belvita snacks), Indiana (popcorn), Massachusetts (beverage), Michigan (fudge), Minnesota ("mosquito juice), New York (wine), Ohio (wet ones), South Carolina (salt water taffy) and Wisconsin (cheese). There was quite a variety of snacks and beverages provided. All guests were provided "human bingo" cards to find people to match the description in each square. Everyone who covered all their squares had to turn in their card for a chance to win a small prize (three prizes were given). We had over 175 cards returned. Everyone seemed to enjoy meeting many new people.









### Marketplace Recap

By Connie Black, Chair

There were 13 participants, most of which registered at Campvention. There were Only had 5 pre-registered. It seems that everyone enjoys Market Place and there were a lot of people who came through to see what all was there. We had a good variety verity of things to buy.









### **FCRV Seminar**

By Linda English, Team Leader

Shari Weber and Linda English led the seminar on the FCRV website, Discord, and Google virtual office. There were 40 in attendance with great interaction. Lots of questions and aha moments! Unfortunately, we did not finish our presentation on Monday, and it resumed Wednesday afternoon. We offered handouts they could pick up at Cox Cabin. The handout is also available in the Members section of the website.

### **Campvention Parade**

By Linda English, Team Leader

Rhonda O'Neal served as Parade Chair. Seven driving/walking 'units' participated in the Friday parade. Heat was a factor for the walkers. The entire parade route (the shady part) was lined with cheering people.









### **Tours at Campvention**

By Shari Weber, Campvention Co-Chair

There were over 100 people who participated in one of four tours taking place in Nashville on Wednesday at Campvention. Pre-registering for the different tours worked well with only a few glitches. Those were easily resolved. The tour companies provided great experiences and everyone appeared to have a great time. There were slight delays for a couple of the tours, but the operators stepped up and resolved all issues. Thank you to all of you who participated and made this a huge success.









#### **Pet Parade Recap**

By Linda DeCamp & Lou Tiley, Co-Chairs

The annual Pet Parade was a fun event this year for our attendees. 14 dogs, 2 cats, and a special Paw Patrol stuffy were entered in the competition. Participants showcased their pets in creative costumes and showed off their talent.

The event concluded with an award ceremony, where gift baskets were given out for "Judges Favorite", "Most Unique Pet", "Biggest Personality", "Cutest Trick", and "Best Pet/Owner Look-Alike". A special gift was given to "Skye" who was our Paw Patrol entry. Everyone received a certificate of participation!

A big thanks to those who took part in the Pet Parade. Audience members enjoyed seeing the participants show off their fur babies!











#### **TP Raffle**

By Kathy Howell and Jessica Hicks, Co-Chairs

All we can say is wow!! Our teens did an incredible job this year!! They had two off site adventures and the entire Campvention had a tour day thus limiting our ticket sale time. Even with time limits our teens sold over 3800 tickets!!

Those tickets were used to win some really great prizes. A week at a condo in Myrtle Beach SC, a Blackstone grill with accessories, a handmade quilt, a handmade Afghan, gift cards, an ice maker, a ninja juicer, a wagon, a pop-up canopy, a grandma/grandpa camping chair, a 2-person camping chair, and the list goes on and on!! Over 100 prizes were purchased or donated.

Thank you to every person that bought a ticket or two, that brought a prize to donate or belongs to a chapter that donated a prize. Without your support our teens wouldn't have the wonderful opportunities that they were able to experience.









#### **Campvention Softball Report**

By Angie Shaneyfelt, Chair

The Adults & Teens met for their annual softball game on Monday at 2:00. Nothing like being in the heat of the day in Lebanon, Tennessee, with temperatures feeling like 100 degrees!! We had 9 teens and 8 adults participating this year. After the first inning the Adults were in the lead 4-3. After the second inning, the teens tied it up 4-4. It had already been decided that we were only doing 2 innings because of the heat, so the adults may have gotten lucky this year. Well, maybe the teens got lucky as the adults had a special player show up (Fletcher Shaneyfelt) and he was very kind to the teens.

Teens participating were: Alexis Lum, Avery Wood, Connor Lum, Otto McIntosh, Donuel Gonzalez, Addison Carroll, Carter Wood, Peyton Berry & Gabriel Batista

Adults participating included: Marci McIntosh, Scott Semper, Jeff Robinson, Fletcher Shaneyfelt, Macey Stuckwisch, Geoff Stringer, Grant Harris & Barb McHale.

Pitcher for both teams: Ed Shaneyfelt & Catcher

for both teams: Sean McHale

Official for game was: Michael Burns

My assistant scorekeeper was Carol Hicks (thanks

for your help, Carol).

Until next year, when we play again!





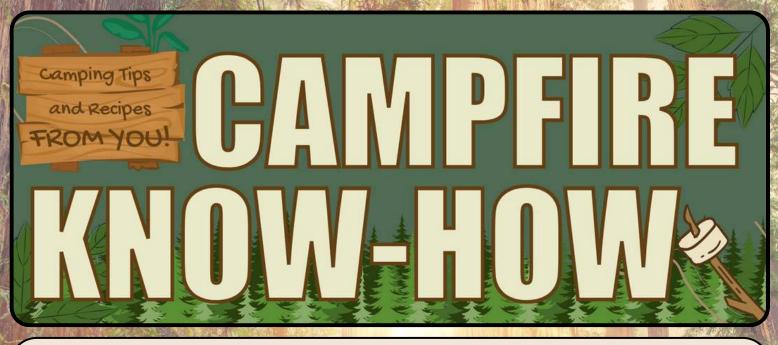




### **Dear RV**

The team at Dear RV has reached the time to say Good Bye! It was fun, but it is time to move on and move on to other things within FCRV. It is important that you know that we have had fun answering your questions. Your camping questions have faded away over the last months, and we feel that we have run our course. Bless each of you, and we will see you in the future at FCRV activities. One never knows what the future holds. If in the future you have questions for Dear RV, we will answer them.

Thanks for asking Dear RV



Campfire Know-How is looking for your best camping contributions! Share your favorite recipes, handy tips, activity ideas, or tried-and-true advice for life around the campfire. Got a funny camping story or meme you've created? We'd love to see those too! Submissions are welcome in any form; photos, artwork, videos, or written pieces. Let's hear from you and keep the spirit of camping alive!

Submit here: https://fcrv.org/campfire-know-how

# CAMPFIRE TREATS

### **INGREDIENTS**

- Marshmallows
- Chocolate
- Graham Crackers
- Skewers

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- Roast marshmallows over the campfire
- 2. Sandwich with chocolate and graham crackers
- 3. Enjoy!

# CAMPING TIP



Never leave a campfire unattended

Keep a water and a shovel nearby to extinguish it properly.









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: <a href="https://stores.inksoft.com/marshallcreations16/shop/home">https://stores.inksoft.com/marshallcreations16/shop/home</a>

Call or text: 410-533-0038 <u>Marshallcreations16@gmail.com</u>





### FAMILY CAMPERS & RVers 2026 CAMPVENTION

### "Where The Flock Gathers" July 5 - 11, 2026

### South Dakota State Fairgrounds 1060 3rd Street SW, Huron, SD 57350



or 701-400-1322.

Confirmations will be sent via Email.

Please allow a month for processing.

#### REGISTRATION:

One Family in the Unit

Mail checks and completed forms to:

FCRV Campvention 2026

Cheektowaga, NY 14225

137 Crandon Blvd.

Welcome to Campvention 2026. 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.

At Gate

\$400.00

\*\*Refund policy: If you are unable to attend, all except \$30 will be refunded AFTER the conclusion of 2026 Campvention.

Registration deadline May 15th - Pay before December 31, 2025, to receive a \$25 discount (\$340.00).

Registration

\$365.00

Extra Family in the Unit (separate pay)	\$185.00 \$205	5. <mark>0</mark> 0	
Week Drive-in Day Pass (July 5 - 11)	\$200.00 \$215	5.00	
Drive-in Day Pass (per day)	\$35.00 \$40	0.00	
to 8 p.m., and Sunday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.		111.93	will be open Friday at 12 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.
is this your first Campvention?:	_ Are you an FCRV	Memberr:	Member #:
Last Name:	First Nan	ne:	Spouse/Guest:
Address:			
City:	State/Pro	ovince:	Zip Code:
Phone #:	Email: _		
NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN YOUR UNIT:			
	ith: 9 – 12	Youth: 5 – 8	Total number of people in Unit:
**Please list the names and ages of all you			Transcourt collection period guita media. ■ Educatini III agricement coloquetta media.
		7.11	,
CAMPVENTION PARKING: (There will be n	nandige properties of the contract of the fill of the		S15 VALUE AND RESERVED AND RESE
Check if you are requesting a special need	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	ia Handicap parking p	root must be presented upon arrival.)
Please note the LENGTH of camping rig be Motorhome5 <sup>th</sup> Wheel		Don Ho	Number of clide outs
Electricity: 30 amp50 amp			st. Then first come, first served.)
**Bring extension cords. Water available.	Bring noses and Y C	onnectors.	
CAMPVENTION HELP: Would you like to he	eip with event(s)?	starr will follow up wit	n a contact if yes: Yes No
MAKE CHECKS DAVABLE TO: ECDV Campue	ntion 2026		For inquiries places call 216 920 2115



### 54th FCRV INTERNATIONAL RETIREE RALLY

### Mineola Civic Center Circle the Wagons in Mineola

1150 N Newsom Street, Mineola, TX 75773 Rally Dates: March 23 – March 29, 2026

Early Days: March 20th - March 22nd

Please complete the following: (Please Print)

Last Name	First	Spouse/Other				
Address	City	St/Pr	Code			
Mailing Address of Other	·	# of People I	n Unit			
Cell Phone #1	Cell Pho	ne #2				
Email Address						
Confirmation Send By: P	df Word	Mailed:				
Mailing Address If Differen	ent From Above:					
Registering For Campi	ng: On Grounds Off (	Grounds Camp	Pass			
111 No. 11-711-111-1111-111-111-111-11-11-1-1-1-1-1-	ılly? YesNo Ar					
	t have on file with the registrar					
REGISTRATION FORM	S MUST BE RECEIVED BEFO	RE MARCH 1, 2026 D	EADLINE.			
Registrations received a	fter March 1st or registering at t	he gate will incur an add	ditional \$35 fee.			
<u>Early Days</u> : Early days registration desk.	fee of \$45 per night per unit wi	Il be collected by the tre	easurer at the			
Included In The Fee: F a lot of fun.	ull Hook-Ups, (30/50 Amp), Ice	Cream Social, 2 Dinne	rs, Entertainment, and			
	Early Registration	At gate				
2 People In Unit 1 Person In Unit	\$350 \$320	\$385 \$355				
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	nit On Grounds as 2 <sup>nd</sup> Family I	n Unit or Staying off gro	unds:			
2 People 1 Person	\$110 \$ 80					
100 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FCI	RV/NCHA RETIREE RA	LLY			
Mail to: Mildred Pauwels, P.O. Box 193, Dana, N.C. 28724 NO CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED						
After the rally deadline o	be refunded if cancellation no f March 1, 2026, only the camp be made after the rally has end	ing fee will be refunded				
	• •	ou.	FOR REGISTRAR ONLY			
I Would Like To Volunte	eer For:		REG#			
			CASH			

AMT