

In This Issue

Pg	Article
1	FFK May 23rd Event at UT Botanical Garden
2	Note from the President
2	More Programs for 2023
2	Completing the Host Application Form
3	We Have More Journeys for 2023
3	Happy Anniversary to FFK
4	FF Knoxville to FF Tuxtla-Gutierrez
4	Inbound Western Colorado Photos
5	Travel/Friendship Quotes
5	Upcoming Dates--Mark Your Calendar
5	2023 Officers & Committee Chairs

2023 Journey Overview

Outbound Western CO.....	June 11-17
Inbound Eastern WA	September 13-18
Outbound Tuxtla-Gutierrez, MX	November 1-8
More Journey details on pages 4-5	

2024 Journey Preview

Outbound Germany (2 clubs)	TBD
Inbound St. Louis, MO	TBD

Club Website: www.friendshipforceknoxville.org
My Friendship Force: <https://my.friendshipforce.org>
FFK on Facebook: Friendship Force of Knoxville

FFK May 23rd Event at UT Botanical Garden!

On **May 23**, fourteen FFK members will visit the UT Botanical Garden with a knowledgeable member of their staff. The tour, which begins at 1:30 p.m., will cover information about the official State Botanical Garden (the one at UT!) and let us know about the two other extensions of the garden elsewhere in the state. We can even request specific instruction on any (plant-related) topic. Do you have a burning desire to learn about a particularly exotic and/or esoteric plant? Here's your chance to pick the brain of a real expert!



More people are welcome and need only to show up with \$8 for the tour. You can also meet for lunch -- no formal reservations needed.

Our plan is to meet for lunch at 11:30 am at the nearby FieldHouse Social restaurant in the UT Commons and walk about a half a mile to the gardens. The tour will start around 1:30 pm.

Date: Tuesday May 23 – Lunch & Tour Event

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. Lunch at FieldHouse Social
2525 University Commons Way, Knoxville, TN 37996

Tour: 1:30 p.m. UT Botanical Garden
2518 Jacob Dr, Knoxville, TN 37996 (off of Neyland Drive)

Note from the President



Friendship Force Knoxville kicked off our 2023 journeys by hosting ambassadors from the Western Colorado club who were joined by ambassadors from Dayton, Ohio, Denver, Colorado, Richmond, Virginia, and Sarasota, Florida Friendship Force clubs. Many thanks to host coordinators Leslie Badaines and Betsy Tonkin who did a great job putting the inbound journey all together, as well as every FFK member who helped in any way. The journey was a big success.

Later this month we'll tour a gem in our own backyard—the UT Botanical Gardens. In June we're back journeying, this time we'll be the ambassadors, hosted by the Western Colorado club.

There will be other opportunities this year to host and travel, but whether you can be a host or ambassador, I hope you can attend our monthly programs, now offered during the daytime and the evening.

Jayne Raparelli, President

More Programs for 2023

June 27: World traveler and FFK member Diana Lopez is finally back in town! Yay! We've all been wondering, "Where on earth is she, how is she getting around and how much luggage did she take"? All will be revealed at the June meeting to be held at TVUUC at 6:30 pm.



July 25: Jayne Raparelli & Mike McDonough will tell us about their tent camping Grand Tour of the U.S. Please note the change in place and time.
Place: Art and Marsha Mitchell's home at 407 Doublehead Lane, Knoxville.
Time: 4 p.m: social time with cheese, wine, and light refreshments.
4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. program

Watch next month's newsletter for more details.

Marsha Mitchell, Program Chair

Completing the Host Application Form Online

FFI has made filling out the Host Application Form easier than ever! The link below takes you to a process that will ask you for information and your answers will automatically be entered into the PDF form. The form first goes to FFI and then, a link to the document is sent to you. You will be able to file this document, make additions or corrections and send the form to the Journey Coordinator.

Be sure to have the following information available before starting the process:

- Your FFI Member Number can be found in your Profile on the My Friendship Force website after you sign in. The profile can be found by clicking on the profile icon on the upper right of the page.
OR
- FFK Club Number: US2348

Fill out the information online at: <https://tinyurl.com/4k9hmx3j>

We Have More Journeys for 2023



Thanks to all who made the recent FF Western Colorado, Inbound Journey, a success! Betsy and I could not have done it without the support of so many of you: hosts, daily program leaders, day hosts, small group dinner hosts, and those of you who made the Welcome and Farewell dinners successful. Thanks go without saying, (but I will anyway), to the FFK Board for your support. The feedback we received from the Western Colorado Ambassadors was extremely positive.

And now many of us are on to FF Western Colorado! The outbound Journey, (# 23192), is **June 11-17, 2023**: Janis and Bruce Robinson are the Host Coordinators for this outbound Journey. Nine of us will visit this club, which is close to the Utah border; we will spend a day at Arches National Park along with visiting other interesting sites of the area.



September 13-18, 2023, FF of Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho (Journey #23219) will be our guests. There are 11 ambassadors who will visit Western North Carolina first and then come to Knoxville. We have planned the exchange to take place with a joint meeting of the clubs in Jonesborough for lunch and a storytelling performance. Allison Lindsay from FFI will talk during lunch about Individual Journeys. The board approved the journey budget which includes covering the cost of lunch and performance for the hosts who drive to Jonesborough. Diana Lopez, Host coordinator for this journey, is still looking for home hosts, small group dinner hosts, and day hosts/drivers. Please complete the host application if you can home host or contact Diana at dlopez@retiree.utk.edu if you can assist in other ways.

November 1-8, 2023 we will be heading to Tuxtla-Gutierrez, in the Mexican State of Chiapas (Journey # 23186). This is our international visit of the year, and the host club has offered us an optional post trip to the Mayan ruins of Palenque. A flyer with additional information was sent to all last week. If you would like to participate, please email your ambassador application to badainesl@aol.com. The application is a fillable form that can be found on the my.friendshipforce.org website. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1m-qgu45NZIWiqulj6PYB8W_sgNq5bs5j/view

The deadline to apply is May 30, 2023.

We have received our assigned journeys for 2024 and look forward to an incoming domestic visit from FF St. Louis in the Fall of 2024, and an international visit to two clubs in Germany (FF Hamburg e.V. and Metropole Ruhr. Metropole Ruhr is in North Rhein Westfalia. Hamburg has Germany's largest port.

Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

Happy Birthday to Friendship Force Knoxville

Tuesday, May 16, is the Anniversary of Friendship Force Knoxville founded in 1981. Give a cheer and raise a glass to celebrate our club.



Check out the various historical Anniversary Booklets on the FFK website – click on History (you may need to click on “MORE” first, then “HISTORY”).

Friendship Force of Knoxville to Friendship Force of Tuxtla-Gutierrez

Journey Number: 23186

Dates: November 1-8, 2023 (7 nights)

Optional post tour: November 8-10, 2023, to the Mayan ruins of Palenque, and Roberto Barrios National Park (2 nights)



Itinerary November 1-7, 2023, includes:

- Arrive November 1, 2023 (Day of the Dead celebration November 2, 2023)
- Welcome Party
- Tour by boat on Grijalva River
- Travel by van or bus for one night in hotel Casa Mexicana (breakfast included), in order to visit the towns of Chiapa de Corzo and San Cristobal (lunch in San Cristobal included); While in San Cristobal visit Casa Na-Bolom, a museum dedicated to the history and culture of the Lacandon Jungle; and the textile Museum, Centro de textiles del Mundo Maya.
- Visit two National Parks: Lagunas de Montebello and Sumidero Canyon
- Visit San Juan Chamula and Zinacantan, two native villages in the highlands
- Visit museums in Tuxtla such as a craft museum, botanic garden and Miguel Alvarez del Toro Zoo
- Cost: FF Tuxtla-Gutierrez \$300, Plus FFI fee of \$175 (total \$475). Transportation and some meals not included.

Post Tour Option to Palenque Mayan ruins November 8-10

- Transportation by van; 2 nights at Chan-kah Resort Village hotel in the jungle of Palenque; English guide to the Mayan ruins of Palenque; traditional buffet dinner at area restaurant; Museum visit; and visit to two beautiful waterfalls Cascadas Roberto Barrios and Misol Ha.
- Depart for Home November 10, 2023
- Cost \$450

Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

Inbound FF Western Colorado Photos

AND how to see more! The FFK Club's Facebook page has so many more photos of the inbound journey activities with our ambassadors from FF Western Colorado. When you sign on to Facebook, search "Friendship Force of Knoxville" to see more photos. Here's a sample!



Visit to SunSphere w/Randy Tyree



Lunch at Spence Cabin in the GSMNP



Club Presidents: Jayne Raparelli, FFK & Nancy Wood, FFWC

Travel & Friendship Quotes

“I remember every stone, every tree, the scent of heather. Even when the thunder growled in the distance, and the windswept up the valley in fitful gusts, oh, it was beautiful home sweet home.” Beatrix Potter

“There's not a word yet, for old friends who've just met.” Jim Henson

“The wish to travel seems to me characteristically human: the desire to move, to satisfy your curiosity or ease your fears, to change the circumstances of your life, to be a stranger, to make a friend, to experience an exotic landscape, to risk the unknown.” Paul Theroux

“Did you ever notice that the first piece of luggage on the carousel never belongs to anyone?” Erma Bombeck

2023 Upcoming Dates—Mark your Calendar

Virtual Board Meetings (2nd Tuesday, 2 p.m.)

No June Mtg	July 11	Aug. 8
Sept. 12	Oct. 10	Nov. 14
No Dec. Mtg		

NOTE: If you are interested in attending the virtual Board Meetings, please e-mail Betsy Tonkin (betst@mac.com) for the Zoom link.

Upcoming FFK General Events (4th Tuesday)

- May 23: UT Botanical Gardens (tour begins at 1:30 p.m.); see notice on page 1
- June 27: Diana Lopez on traveling the world
- July 25: Jayne Raparelli & Mike McDonough on their U.S. tent camping journey.
- August: No meeting
- September: Inbound FF Eastern Washington

Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, 37919

These dates and more are on the
FFK *Calendar* web page.

2023 Club Officers & Chairs

President:Jayne Raparelli
 Vice President:Betsy Tonkin
 Secretary:Mike McDonough
 Treasurer:Bill Cherry
 Membership Chair:Betsy Tonkin
 Program Chair:.....Marsha Mitchell
 Communications Chair:Janis Robinson
 Webmaster:Ray Simko
 Newsletter Editor:Janis Robinson
 Journey Coordinator:Leslie Badaines
 Hospitality Chair:.....Barbara Elder
 Club Concerns:Paulette Anderson
 Historian:Betsy Tonkin

Host & Ambassador Coordinators are listed on the
FFK *About Us* web page

