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2023 Journey Overview

Inbound Eastern WASept. 13-18
Outbound Tuxtla-Gutierrez, MX Nov. 1-7 & 8-10

2024 Journey Preview

Inbound Manitoba, Canada..... May 1-7
Outbound Germany (2 clubs) Aug. 2024
Inbound St. Louis, MO Oct. 2024

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

**Lunch at Calhoun's on the River
Tuesday, August 22**



Friendship Force Knoxville--Let's meet for lunch!

Let's enjoy a meal, catch up, and get to know each other better. Order from the menu. Everyone pays for their own food and drinks. Guests are welcome!

Date: Tues., August 22

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Place: Calhoun's on the River, 400 Neyland Dr., Knoxville

RSVP by Aug. 15 to Jayne Raparelli

E-mail: jaynerap@aol.com

Phone: 423-871-1739

Note from the President

Thanks to FFK members Marsha and Art Mitchell who once again opened their lovely home to Friendship Force, this time for the July 25 program.

Marsha and Art, and hospitality chair Barbara Elder, had set up food, tables and chairs around the pool, but then had to suddenly change plans when the downpours began just as members were arriving. They pivoted and set up enough chairs inside. It worked! After the presentation, the sun was shining, and many of us went outdoors.

Mike McDonough and I enjoyed sharing our tent camping adventures across the U.S. with the 22 FFK members who attended. Thank you, Marsha, for asking us to give the program, and to everyone who was there.

Onward to this month. No program, but we're getting together for lunch on Aug. 22 at Calhoun's on the River. I hope to see you there!

Jayne Raparelli, President



Spokane to Knoxville

Come join in on the fun! FF Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho (Spokane) is coming to town. We've got some exciting venues planned, some new and some old. This is your invitation to come to any or all of them. The trip to Jonesborough is closed now. Western North Carolina has already ordered tickets and meals, and no more are available. Everything else is still open for a short time. The sign-up sheet was sent out earlier with a reminder. If you still need it, contact Diana and let her know what you're interested in. We hope many will be participating in at least the farewell dinner. Currently, 19 members will be participating in one or more activities.

Here are the highlights:

Sep 13, drive to Jonesborough for lunch from the Main Street Café and a performance at the International Storytelling Museum. If you have never been to Jonesborough, this is a good chance to see the oldest town in Tennessee.

Sep 14, visit the Spence Cabin at Elkmont in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park for a hike and picnic lunch. There are lots of options for the afternoon and/or dinner at the Apple Wood Farmhouse Restaurant in Pigeon Forge.

Sep 15, spend the day in Downtown Knoxville with a tour of the highlights of Gay St., Krutch Park, Market Square, Sunsphere and World's Fair Park. Lunch is at Barley's for the WDVX Blue Plate Special. Visit the East Tennessee History Center in the afternoon and/or join us for drinks atop the Hyatt.

Sep 16 is the free day for our ambassadors to choose what they would like to do. If you have suggestions and want to tag along, please let us know.

Sep 17, tour the Museum of Appalachia with lunch, then drive to Norris Dam and later the Lenoir Museum and Grist Mill. And if nothing else, please come to the Farewell Dinner at Cherokee Bluff Clubhouse. Bring a **potluck vegetable dish or a dessert**, look at the views of Knoxville, and bid good-bye to our friends from Spokane. The more, the merrier!

Get your order in now!

Diana Lopez, Host Coordinator,
dlopez@retiree.utk.edu



FFK Adventures for 2023 and 2024!

Incoming FF opportunities:

- **September 13-18, 2023:** Eleven ambassadors from the Spokane area will be visiting us. Come join available activities (see Diana Lopez’s article on page 2).



- **May 1-7, 2024:** FF Manitoba, Canada, will be our first incoming group for 2024. Please contact Leslie if you are willing to be a co-host coordinator for this incoming journey(badainesL@aol.com).

- **October 2024** (dates not yet determined): FF St. Louis. Please contact Leslie if you are willing to serve as co-host coordinator for this incoming group.

Outgoing Journeys:

- **October 31-November 8:** FF Knoxville to Tuzla-Gutierrez, Mexico. Nine ambassadors will be joining a German club in visiting this area. Many of this group will also be taking an optional post tour to the Mayan ruins of Palenque (see article on page 4).
- **August 2024** (dates not yet determined): FF Knoxville to Germany! We will spend two weeks visiting FF Hamburg and FF Metropole Ruhr. Barbara Elder has agreed to be Ambassador coordinator for this Journey.



Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

October Member Recruiting Meeting! Save the Date!



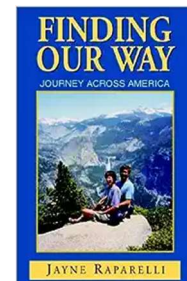
FFK is having an upcoming program to recruit new members scheduled for **October 24** called “Why We Travel & Why We Host” featuring Rick Steve's video and a panel presentation of FFK hosts.

More information will be coming soon! Please consider who you might invite to learn more about the Friendship Force organization!

Betsy Tonkin, Membership VP

Jayne Raparelli’s Book on Loan

For those who may want to read Jayne Raparelli's book, [Finding Our Way: Journey Across America](#) about Jayne and Mike's tent camping adventures, FFK member Joanne Hayden has a copy, and has offered to put people on a wait list. If interested, contact Joanne jiuppahayden@gmail.com to be signed up.



FFK Journey to Tuxtla-Gutierrez



The preparation for the FFK Journey to Tuxtla-Gutierrez is underway with five FFK members traveling. FF Tuxtla-Gutierrez has also invited a Friendship Force club from Germany for the same week so it will truly be an international experience! This journey is in two parts with the core activities taking place November 1-7, 2023, and a post-journey option from November 8-10, 2023.

Activities for the journey include Day of the Dead celebrations on November 2, 2023, trips to Chiapa de Corzo and San Cristobal, museums, a National Park, native villages, a botanic garden and a zoo. The post tour option is for two nights at the Chan-kah Resort Village hotel to visit the Mayan ruins in Palenque.



Knoxville members who are taking this journey should remember that FFI fees are due by August 30. Contact Leslie Badaines (badainesl@aol.com) for details.

Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

Travel/Friendship Quotes

“There is an unspoken bond you create with the friends you travel with.” Kristen Sarah

“Sometimes all you need is a great friend and thirst for adventure.” Unknown

“No road is long with good company.” Turkish proverb

2023 Upcoming Dates–Mark your Calendar

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

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

- August 22: Lunch at Calhoun’s on the River
RSVP by August 25th
- September 17: Farewell dinner for Inbound FF Eastern Washington
- October 24: FFK Member Recruiting Meeting

Check newsletter articles about each event for date, time and place.

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