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2024 Journey Preview

Outbound Central North Carolina.....	April 4-7
Inbound Manitoba, Canada.....	May 1-8
Outbound Germany (2 clubs)	Aug. 13-27
FF Hamburg & FF Metropole Ruhr	
Open World.....	Sept. 27-Oct. 29
Inbound St. Louis, MO	Oct. 24-29

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

What happened South of the Border won't stay South of the Border for long.

Many of us were unable to go to Mexico with FFK in November. Fortunately, those who did complete the journey are willing to share their joy, the sights seen and the friendships gained. Come to our general meeting on **January 23** to hear all about it from members, Leslie Badaines, Barbara Elder and Bill Cherry. They are absolutely giddy about the whole thing but are keeping it under their sombreros until the great reveal. Feel free to dress the part and enjoy the celebration!



Seal of Mexico

Come and hear all about it, wear your Mexican attire, and enjoy Mexican food, drink and music!



Date: January 23, 2024

Time: 6:00 for supper and social; 7:00 for the meeting and presentation

Where: Pelanchos Mexican Grill
1516 Downtown West Blvd
Knoxville, TN 37919

Note: Members and guests attending will order from the menu and pay for their food and beverages. The management is giving us the room for free but asks for a \$12 minimum order per person to make ends meet.

Click on this link to see the boundless menu and photos of tasty food!

<https://knoxville.pelanchos.com/knoxville-pelanchos-mexican-grill-knoxville-food-menu>

Marsha Mitchell, Program Coordinator

Note from the President

Welcome to Friendship Force Knoxville 2024! We look forward to an exciting and busy year of journeys, programs and activities.

For those of you who are new to FFK, and as a reminder to all of us, the mission of Friendship Force is to connect people to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate us. Primarily through home-hosting and meaningful travel experiences and sharing those experiences through our programs and activities, we learn about other cultures, develop a better understanding of our world, and discover our shared humanity. That mission is an integral part of our journeys as well as our programs and other activities.



Programs or activities open to all members are already planned for January through March. (See those programs described on page 1 and below.) Plans are underway for an inbound journey from Manitoba, Canada, in May, traveling on an outbound journey to two German clubs in August, hosting an Open World delegation of Polish Mayors in late September, and welcoming an inbound journey from St. Louis in October. Whether hosting or traveling, each journey involves a lot of planning and coordination. There is work to be done! We need your help!

You will receive a member survey in the next two weeks asking how you would like to participate in FFK's activities. We need every member to step up and contribute in some way. Please respond promptly to the survey and take an active role in making the FFK experience the best it can be for all our members. There is work to be done - and good times working together ahead!

Betsy Tonkin, President

A Look Ahead at FFK 2024 Programs



The **February 27th** program will feature Bruce and Janis Robinson talking about their adventures in the Southwest US in the years between 2019 and 2023. They will tell us stories about their visits to National Parks, State Parks, a ranch as well as natural and historical sites. The meeting will be at the TVUUC.

Sneak peek: March 26 we're visiting historic Dandridge, TN!!! It's a short drive to downtown where we will enjoy a scrumptious lunch in an historic inn, followed by a tour conducted by the town's knowledgeable historian. Are you in already? [Email or text Marsha \(globalmarsha@gmail.com or 865-335-3875\)](mailto:globalmarsha@gmail.com) with a quick RSVP. Come one; come all!



Marsha Mitchell, Program Coordinator

2024 Journeys!

Welcome to the New Year, everyone! The following is a list of journeys for 2024, including a new short outbound journey for April.

Outgoing Journeys

Thursday, April 4- departing Sunday, April 7, 2024, FF Central North Carolina. This club encompasses the area around Winston- Salem and Greensboro. The FF Central NC club can host about 12 ambassadors. The approximate cost will be under \$200 plus a \$25 nightly fee to FF International. The itinerary is still being developed, but some of the sites in the area include Yadkin Valley wineries, Reynolda House and Museum, Old Salem Museum and Gardens, International Civil Rights Center and Museum, and Revolutionary war battlefields.



August 13-27, 2024, FF Hamburg e.V. and FF Metropole Ruhr, Germany. These two clubs can host up to 10 ambassadors. The approximate cost per club is \$275 US dollars, plus a \$25 per night fee to FF International. The itinerary will be available soon and will include boat rides, museums and gardens. If you are interested in this journey, please send your application to Barbara Elder (barbara5448@bellsouth.net). A \$25 non-refundable deposit will also need to be sent to Treasurer Bill Cherry at 7511 Little River Drive, Knoxville 37920.

Incoming Journeys

May 1-8, 2024, FF Manitoba, Canada. Help is still needed for this incoming journey. If you are able to assist as a driver/day host, or host a small group dinner, please contact host coordinators Leslie Badaines (badainesL@aol.com) or Karen Scott (kas491423@gmail.com).



September 27 to October 5, 2024, Open World, Mayors of Poland! Courtney Shea has agreed to be coordinator for this incoming group which, typically, consists of 5-7 individuals (including an interpreter and facilitator). If you are interested in hosting or helping, please let Courtney know (courtshea@aol.com).

FF St Louis, Missouri will be visiting us October 24- 29, 2024. Home host, day hosts/drivers and small group dinner hosts are needed. Please contact Leslie (badainesL@aol.com), or Manfred Grote (wheelgrote@aol.com) if you are willing to assist.



Leslie Badaines, Journey Coordinator

Travel/Friendship Quotes

“Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, 'It will be happier.' Lord Alfred Tennyson

“The most beautiful in the world is, of course, the world itself.” Wallace Stevens

“Jobs fill your pocket, but adventures fill your soul.” Jamie Lyn Beatty

“It is not down in any map; true places never are.” – Herman Melville

“I’m in love with cities I’ve never been to and people I’ve never met.” – John Green

2024 Upcoming Dates–Mark your Calendar

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

Feb 13	June 11	Oct 8
Mar 12	July 9	Nov 12
Apr 9	Aug 13	Dec: No meeting
May 14	Sept 10	

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

- January 23: Tutxla-Guitterez Presentation,
- February 27: Bruce & Janis Robinson about their travels to the Southwest
- March 26: Historic Dandridge, TN

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

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

2024 Club Officers & Chairs

Officers:

President:	Betsy Tonkin
Vice President:	Tammy Enix
Secretary:.....	Karen Scott
Treasurer:.....	Bill Cherry

Committee Chairs:

Program Chair:	Marsha Mitchell
Membership Chair:.....	Tammy Enix
Journey Coordinator:	Leslie Badaines
Communications Chair:.....	Janis Robinson
Club Concerns:	Paulette Anderson
Historian:	Karen Swander
Hospitality Chair:	OPEN POSITION

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

