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2025 Journey Preview

Inbound FF Harrisburg, PA	Apr. 5-8
Inbound FF Los Angeles, CA	Apr. 24-29
Outbound FF E. Washington/N. Idaho	June 1-7
Outbound Stratford/St. Marys, Ontario, Canada	Sept. 22-29

Club Website: www.friendshipforceknoxville.org
FFK on Facebook: Friendship Force of Knoxville
Club E-mail: FriendshipForceKnoxville@gmail.com
My Friendship Force: <https://my.friendshipforce.org>

January 28, 2025, Program

At our January 28th meeting, Bruce and Janis Robinson will show photos and discuss their recent off-highway jeep adventures in Utah and Colorado. The 8,000+ miles of "jeep trails" in the two states support a strong culture of jeeping. Most of these rustic roads were built to access the long-since abandoned 23,000 mines in Colorado alone. Venturing on these roads offers incredible mountain and valley vistas – bare red rock mountains above the tree line, massive, weathered mine buildings, abandoned towns, and pine and birch forests.



Bruce and Janis will also talk about the best practices and ethics of off-roading. Plus, they enjoyed a wonderful performance of "Young Frankenstein" the musical at the Crede Repertory theater built in the mining boom days.

Details about the Meeting

Date:Tuesday, January 28th

Time:11:30 a.m. This will be a Bring Your Own Brown Bag lunch with the program following at noon.
**Note the earlier start time.**

Place:Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (TVUUC)
2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919

From Sonja:

The unpredictable weather is the reason we will be meeting at 11:30 a.m. this month. Please bring your own lunch including a beverage. The Robinson's presentation: Off-road Jeeping in Utah and Colorado promises to be an exciting program. See you soon!

Sonja DuBois, Program Chairperson

Note from the President



Hello and welcome to Friendship Force Knoxville 2025! 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. See the article regarding the program for January on page 1. Plans are underway for inbound journeys from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Los Angeles, California, both in April. Outbound journeys are planned for Spokane, Washington in June and to Stratford-St. Marys, Canada in September.

Whether hosting or traveling, each journey involves a lot of planning and coordination. There is work to be done! We need your help! New members 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. Working on a committee or two is a great way to get to know your fellow FFK members and although it is called "working" there is a lot of fun and fellowship that goes along with working on a committee!

Karen Scott, President

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025!

Membership renewal time is here! FFK Membership Dues are **\$50 per member**. Make checks payable to *Friendship Force of Knoxville* and mail to:

Marsha Mitchell
407 Doublehead Lane
Knoxville, TN 37909

Dues are due RIGHT NOW. The renewal form is on the last page of this newsletter, it is also attached to the e-mail with this newsletter and is also available on the FFK web page in the "About Us" section towards the bottom of the webpage. The webpage address can be found at the top right on page 1 below the list of journeys.

Journeys for 2025!



Incoming Journeys

Greater Harrisburg, Journey # 25292, April 5-depart April 8, 2025:
Five ambassadors are coming for the 3-night Harrisburg visit. The itinerary is set. Hosts are committed.

Los Angeles, Journey # 25133, April 24- depart April 29, 2025:
A draft itinerary has been set. The number of Ambassadors is unknown at present. We currently have hosts available for eight. We are in need of day hosts and small group dinner hosts. If you are willing to assist, please contact Leslie Badaines (badainesL@aol.com)

Outgoing Journeys

Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho (AKA.Spokane), Journey 4#25097 June 1-7, 2025:
The application process has started and is going quickly! See the article on page 4.

Stratford/St. Mary's, Canada September 22-29, 2025:

See the article below. Karen Scott is the coordinator for this journey. Please contact Karen if you are interested in attending (kas491423@gmail.com).

Leslie Badaines, Acting Journey Chairperson

FFK to Stratford-St. Marys, Canada, Journey

This journey is scheduled for **September 22 to September 29, 2025.**

The cost has been estimated but not finalized as approximately \$400 per person Canadian plus the FFI Fee of \$25 per day in US dollars. The club has indicated that it can host 14 ambassadors depending on the mix of individual ambassadors and couples.

As we will be there during the Stratford Festival, attending a live theater performance is a must. The Stratford-St Marys club is suggesting that we see a performance of Annie which will be held in the Stratford Theatre. They are hoping to get significantly discounted tickets, but that depends on our response by February 2 as to the number of ambassadors that will be attending. Therefore, if you are interested in participating in this journey, please let me know as soon as possible.



St Marys Logo

FFK will start taking applications early in 2025 and will send out an e-mail with details. **Please let Karen Scott know by email at: kas491423@gmail.com or by phone at: 810-515-0780 as soon as possible if you believe this is a journey that would interest you.**

It will be an exciting and fun filled journey making new friends in Stratford and St. Marys, Canada.

Karen Scott, Ambassador Coordinator

FFK Journey to FF Spokane



The Friendship Force club of Knoxville (FFK) will journey to the Spokane region club June 1-7, 2025. We will do and see so many interesting things. Downtown Spokane has a beautiful park and waterfall plus notable buildings and museums. The area is also home to mountains, lakes, wineries, mines, historical sites and theaters.

Currently, nine people have already sent their application and paid for the Journey. There is space for a total of 12-13 ambassadors and six people from other clubs have expressed interest. We will probably be traveling with friends from San Antonio, St. Louis and Des Moines.

Some details are:

- The journey number is 25097.
- Spokane can accept about 12-13 ambassadors.
- Costs should run about \$300-\$350 plus FFI fees of \$25/day for a total of \$425-\$475.
- Ambassadors should arrive by 4 PM, Sunday, June 1 and do not plan to leave before the morning of Saturday, June 7.

Below is additional information. **Please see the deadlines at the bottom of this article.**

Application: If you want to go on the journey, you must submit a formal application. We will gladly send you one when you are ready if you do not already have one and a copy is available from the FFK Website on the “Journeys” page.

Airport: Spokane is served by several major airlines.

Hikes and walks: The distance of hikes and walks at the locations on the itinerary should only be about 25-30 minutes. While they may not be flat, they should not be difficult.

DEADLINES: February 15 is the target date to submit your application and the \$25 application fee. This fee is non-refundable but will apply to the journey fees. Submit the application to:

- If submitting electronically: janisrobinson27@gmail.com
- If submitting a hard copy: Janis Robinson, 7911 Woodland Brae, Knoxville, TN 37919
- Submit your \$25 application fee to Marsha Mitchell, 407 Doublehead Lane, Knoxville, TN 37909
- **April 1** is the target deadline to submit the balance of your journey



Looking forward to traveling with you!

Janis & Bruce Robinson, Ambassador Co-coordinators

Special Journey with FF Memphis

FF Memphis is offering a special journey that will follow the “Blues Trail” through Memphis and the Mid-South area stopping at key sites. Basic information is below and the itinerary can be found on the “Journey” page of the FFK Website towards the bottom.



Explore the History of the Blues with the FF of Memphis

Date: June 10-17, 2025

Journey: #25243

Cost: \$775 (plus meals)

Cost of \$775 includes:

- 5 nights of home hosting
- two-night's lodging in Clarksdale, MS
- transportation
- Entrance fees to sights listed on itinerary
- Host club fees
- FFI fees

Cost does not include:

- Transportation to Memphis
- Most meals, estimated to cost an additional \$200
- travel insurance

Honoring President Carter



President Jimmy Carter passed away on December 29, 2024. He and his wife Rosalynn were key to the founding of Friendship Force International. FFI has written a tribute to the Carters telling the history of their involvement and the influence they provided for the organization's success. A copy of this tribute can be found on the Friendship Force Knoxville website on the “Journey” webpage after the list of our journeys.

Odyssey Anew by Maya Anthony

Beneath the vast and open sky,
Every step, a new goodbye.
Horizons wide, my heart does leap,
In every journey's promise, deep.



Mountains high and valleys low,
To places only brave hearts go.
Each new path, a story spun,
Ending only when it's done

Footprints on a foreign shore,
Adventure calls, forevermore.
With every mile, my spirit free,
Embracing the world, a traveler be.



Travel/Friendship Quotes

“The bond of our common humanity is stronger than the divisiveness of our fears and prejudices.” Jimmy Carter, 39th President of the United States

“I wish travel therapy was covered by my health insurance.” Anonymous

“Contrary to what the politicians and religious leaders would like us to believe, the world won't be made safer by creating barriers between people.” Michael Palin, traveler, author, comedian

“See the world through the eyes of your inner child. The eyes that sparkle in awe and amazement as they see love, magic and mystery in the most ordinary things.” Henna Sohail, author

“The worst thing about being a tourist is having other tourists recognize you as a tourist.” Russell Baker, American writer and satirist

“It's not an easy option. The essence of travel is letting go of habit and prejudice and relishing the unfamiliar. Food you've never eaten before, a language you've never spoken before, religion that mystifies, customs that confuse, politics that perplex, all question everyday assumptions about how you live your life.” Michael Palin, British writer and comedian



2025 Upcoming Dates—Mark your Calendar

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

Feb. 11	Mar. 11	Apr. 8
May 13	June 10	July 8
Aug. 12	Sept. 9	Oct. 14
Nov. 11	Dec. no mtg	

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

FFK members can request a copy of Board meeting minutes from Janis Robinson via email at FriendshipForceKnoxville@gmail.com

Upcoming FFK General Events

- **January 28:** Bruce & Janis Robinson on jeeping in Utah and Colorado; see info on pg. 1

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

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

2025 Club Officers & Chairpersons

Officers:

President	Karen Scott
Vice President.....	Barbara Elder
Secretary	Carol Ann Johnson
Treasurer.....	Marsha Mitchell

Committee Chairpersons:

Program Chairperson	Sonja DuBois
Membership Chairperson	Barbara Elder
Journey Chairperson	OPEN POSITION
Communications Chairperson	Janis Robinson
Club Concerns	Paulette Anderson
Historian	Karen Swander
Hospitality Chairperson.....	OPEN POSITION

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



**2025 Friendship Force Knoxville
Membership Application/Renewal**

Friendship Force Knoxville (FFK) anticipates continuing normal activities in 2025. Dues for new and renewing members for 2025 are \$50/person which includes the \$30/person dues we pay for each member to Friendship Force International (FFI). These FFI dues are required and are included in your FFK dues.

In order to update your contact information, we ask that everyone complete the following **Membership Application/Renewal** form. We will send all members an email with a **Member Interest Survey** after the first of the year to assist the club in utilizing the skills and talents of our members.

Please return the completed Membership Application/Renewal form to the address below. Be sure to include a check for \$50.

Make checks payable to Friendship Force of Knoxville and send them to:

Marsha Mitchell, 407 Doublehead Lane, Knoxville TN 37909

You may also scan the form and email it to globalmarsha@gmail.com.

The deadline for membership renewal for 2025 is Dec. 31, 2024. (Regrettably, in early 2025, we will need to drop folks from the membership roster who have not renewed given that payment is due to FFI for all members no later than January 15, 2025.)

Please note: by submitting this application or renewal, you agree to support the goals and purposes of FFI and FFK and to abide by the Bylaws of Friendship Force Knoxville.

Please Print. Circle either application or renewal.

First name _____ Middle initial ____ Last name _____

If your current contact information in the directory is correct, please so note below.

New member--Name you would like on your name tag: _____

Street address: _____

City, state, and zip code: _____

Cell phone: Area Code _____ Number _____

Home phone: Area Code _____ Number _____

E-mail: _____

In accordance with sections of our charter with Friendship Force International relating to data protection, please note the information above will be included in a member directory provided to all Friendship Force of Knoxville members. An electronic contact/e-mail list will also be provided to committee chairs, members, and the Board of Directors.

November 12, 2024