



friendship force

KNOXVILLE

“Gateway to Worldwide Friendship”

FFK Website: www.Friendshipforceknoxville.org

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Journey Overviews

2021

Inbound San Antonio, TX Oct. 22-27, 2021

2022

Inbound Des Moines, IA Apr. 2022

Outbound Romania..... May/June 2022

Outbound Lower Columbia Club Jun./Jul. 2022

Inbound St. Louis, MO..... Sept. 2022

Outbound Australia:

North Moreton Oct. 21-28

Gold Coast..... Oct. 28-Nov. 4

Note from the President



We're about to host 11 ambassadors from the San Antonio Friendship Force Club! This will be our first inbound Friendship Force journey in two years. The group arrives this Friday, Oct. 22, and that evening we're having a Welcome Dinner at the Cherokee Bluff Clubhouse. I hope to see many of you there.

The host week, Friday through Tuesday, will be filled with activities, and many opportunities for hosts and ambassadors to learn about each other and make great memories.

If you are wondering what hosting is really like, come to the November general membership event when the FFK San Antonio hosts will talk about their experiences.

There will be another opportunity to host in April 2022 when the Greater Des Moines, Iowa, Friendship Force Club visits Knoxville.

We hope to be traveling again in the summer and fall 2022. Stay tuned for information in future newsletters and emails.

I hope to see you soon in person!

Jayne Raparelli, President

FF San Antonio Visits Knoxville October 22-27

After two years, we are finally hosting an inbound domestic Friendship Force Club journey! We are looking forward to meeting nine members of the San Antonio Friendship Force Club and two from the Austin Club, who will visit Knoxville and East

Tennessee, Oct. 22-27. The San Antonio Planning Committee invites you to read the itinerary below and see when you can join the fun. Please note if reservations and payment are needed for a particular activity.

Friday, Oct. 22— 6 p.m. Welcome Dinner at Cherokee Bluff Clubhouse, 1839 Cherokee Bluff Dr., Knoxville. We will have a local band perform at this potluck event. Everyone is welcome to attend and meet our ambassadors. You do not have to be a host to attend!

Saturday, Oct. 23—Downtown Knoxville Walking Tour given by FFK member Mike McDonough. Lunch on your own. Highlights: Tennessee Woman Suffrage Memorial, Burn Memorial, Market Square, the WDVX Blue Plate Special and the East Tennessee History Center.

Sunday, Oct. 24—Norris Dam and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). We suggest ambassadors may want to visit the Museum of Appalachia, 2819 Andersonville Highway in Clinton (senior admission is \$15) in the morning and meet for lunch at 11:00 a.m.

After lunch, we will visit the Overlook and learn about Norris Dam and TVA from FFK member Ron Mayer. We'll tour nearby Lenoir Museum, 2121 Norris Freeway, Norris, to see the early artifacts of East Tennessee, and enjoy a jam session. The day also includes a visit to the 18th century Rice Grist Mill.

Monday, Oct. 25—

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

We've rented the Spence Cabin in the Elkmont Historic District of

the GSMNP for the day where we'll gather for lunch and hear a talk about the Park and the Elkmont District. We'll visit the Swimming Hole, take an easy hike along the picturesque Little River Trail, and tour the renovated early 20th century cabins. We will have a *pre-ordered lunch*



at the Spence Cabin. If you wish to order a lunch, email Leslie Badaines badainesl@aol.com

Tuesday, Oct. 26—Farewell Dinner, 6 p.m., Calhoun's on the River, 400 Neyland Dr., Knoxville. **Reservations and payment required by Oct. 19.**

Private Room with View: We have reserved a private room on the second floor overlooking the Tennessee River. Access via stairs and an elevator. Calhoun's will set up a few tables and chairs on our patio for those who wish to eat outdoors due to Covid concerns.



Buffet Menu: Pulled Pork Barbeque, Grilled Chicken, Cinnamon Apples, Creamed Corn, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Biscuits, Corn Muffins, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Iced Tea, Coffee, Water.

There will be a cash bar.

Cost: \$30 per attendee.

To make a reservation:

* Email Mike McDonough jaynerap@aol.com and let him know how many will attend.

* Send a check payable to Friendship Force Knoxville to our club treasurer, Bruce Robinson, PO Box 53104 Knoxville, TN 37950.

Member Profile: Susana Navarro-Valenti

Susana joined FFK in Sept 2020. She is our newest and very enthusiastic member. The Mishu's, who are our oldest members and her good friends and neighbors introduced her to Friendship Force. Susana was born and raised and schooled in Mexico. After that she moved to the US to obtain her master's and PhD degrees at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in nuclear engineering. Following graduation, she worked at Oak Ridge National Labs for 3 years. Susana then formed her own company, Navarro Research which employs 700 people. It is a contractor for department of energy, NASA, and department of defense. Her interests aside from work are hiking locally and travel. Pre-pandemic she went to Egypt and took her niece for her fifteenth birthday along with six

others to Europe. Susana said they had a blast and want to do it again. Together with her busy work schedule, her FFK activities include Program Committee for which she wrote an article about the Mishu's, hosted a small dinner party, and is doing the same for the incoming San Antonio group.

Helen Bachrach
FFK Membership Committee

Completion of 2021 Journeys and Preparation for 2022 and 2023

Ambassadors to San Antonio completed their journey successfully and learned much about that city. We will be welcoming the San Antonio club to Knoxville from Oct 22-27. Everyone is vaccinated and feels fairly comfortable sharing homes and meals with each other. The journey committee has planned an exciting itinerary for our visitors that includes: a full day downtown with a walking tour, a visit to the East TN History Museum, and music at the Blue Plate Special; a tour of Norris Dam and the Lenoir Museum; a day in the Smoky mountains with an easy hike and lunchtime at Spence Cabin in Elkmont. Plan to attend the welcome potluck dinner (Oct 22) at the Cherokee Bluff Clubhouse, and/or farewell dinner (Oct 26), at Calhoun's on the River (reservations are required by Oct 19). We hope that many members will join with us in welcoming our visitors. This will conclude our journeys for 2021.

For next year plans are being made for international trips to Romania and Australia, and a domestic journey to the Lower Columbia club in Washington. FFK will also be hosting a couple of domestic clubs, Des Moines coming in April and St Louis in September. We also hope to host an Open World visit of a delegation of judges from Uzbekistan.

FFI will be requesting hosting capabilities for 2023 and shortly after asking for our requests for international journeys. The Journey Committee will be asking the membership for suggestions. Where would you like to go? A poll will be

emailed in November, so be thinking about locations in the world you would like to visit.

We still need your help in planning our journeys for 2022 and 2023. There are many opportunities



to get involved, either hosting overnight or day, hosting small dinner parties for the ambassadors and their hosts, serving on the planning committees,

being an ambassador. We have a wonderful journey committee with experienced people to help new coordinators. You are never alone in the planning. Please consider serving as a coordinator. You won't regret it!

Here are the details and contacts:

2022 Des Moines Inbound – Apr 2022. Journey #22509. Contact Mike McDonough, jaynerap@aol.com.

2022 Romania Outbound – May/Jun 2022. Contact Diana Lopez, dlopez@utk.edu.

2022 St Louis, MO Inbound – Sep 2022. Journey #21162. Phyllis Driver, pndriver@comcast.net.

2022 Lower Columbia Outbound – Late June. Journey #22637. Need an ambassador coordinator.

2022 Australia Outbound – North Moreton, Oct 21-28, 2022; Gold Coast, Oct 28-Nov 4, 2022. Journey #22408. Contact Leslie Badaines, badainesl@aol.com.

Leslie Badaines and Diana Lopez

Journey Co-coordinators

Look Back on the Sept. 28th Meeting Journey to Napa Sonoma

The Friendship Force Knoxville members who were Ambassadors to Napa Sonoma, shared their experiences on their outbound journey from September 8 through 13. Twenty-one members and one guest attended this virtual meeting learning not only about the activities the group participated in but also how an outbound journey is created and implemented.

Six members from Friendship Force Knoxville met their fellow Friendship Force ambassadors from New York City, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and Atlanta for this first outbound journey since 2019.

FFK November 16th Event: Hosting San Antonians

Join us for the FFK Program Event when FFK members who hosted ambassadors from the San Antonio Friendship Force Club will share their recent experiences showing the San Antonians a wonderful time in the Knoxville area and describe how an Inbound Journey works. This was our club's first Inbound Journey since 2019 with a theme of Mountains and Music. The program will follow a very brief annual membership meeting, including election of officers.

Travel/Autumn Quotations

“Listen! The wind is rising and the air is wild with leaves. AUTUMN is here.” Wild Woman Sisterhood

“Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has never watched them dancing on a windy day.” Shira Jamir

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.” Albert Camus

I’ve noticed the squirrels are beginning to gather nuts for winter. A couple of my friends are missing... Is everyone in a safe place?



“In Life, it is not where you go, but who you travel with.” *Charles Schultz*

Upcoming Dates–Mark your calendars

Virtual Board Meetings:

- November 9, 2:00 p.m.

NOTE: Please e-mail Diana Lopez for the link (dlopez@utk.edu) if you want to attend.

Upcoming FFK Virtual General Events (6:30 p.m. Social; 7:00 p.m. Program):

- November 16: Officer elections & program on San Antonio: Inbound Journey

Upcoming FFK In-person Event

- December 11: FFK 40th Anniversary & Holiday Party at the Highland Point Clubhouse; Save the date – more information coming!

Dinners for Inbound Ambassadors:

- October 22: Welcome dinner for San Antonio inbound Ambassadors
- October 26: Farewell dinner for San Antonio inbound Ambassadors; **RSVP Required**

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

Club Officers & Chairs

President:	Jayne Raparelli
Vice-President:	Betsy Tonkin
Secretary:	Barbara Elder
Treasurer:	Bruce Robinson
Past President:	Kaye Bultemeier
Newsletter Editor:	Janis Robinson
Webmasters:	Ray Simko & Jonathan Hash
Hospitality Chair:	Sandy Kehne
Program & Membership Co-chairs:	Betsy Tonkin & Helen Bachrach
Club Concerns:	Renee Ioannides
Journey Co-coordinators:	Diana Lopez & Leslie Badaines
Historian:	Jonathan Hash