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2025 Journey Preview

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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>

FF Los Angeles Welcome Dinner Speaker

Kimberly Dawn Smith will be the guest speaker at the FF Los Angeles Welcome Dinner at the First Presbyterian Church on April 24. Kimberly is a citizen at Eastern Band Cherokee and Knoxville resident. She will be speaking on the Eastern Band Cherokee culture and the concept of Tali Elohi. Tali Elohi, translating to "**Two Worlds**" in English, reflects the dual identity Native Americans navigate daily. Balancing life in an urban setting while staying rooted in culture is challenging. Tali Elohi is a voice for Indigenous People, Ancestors, and homelands in one world, while in the other, a modern way to uphold culture, traditions, and engagement.



Details for this event will be in the program which will be sent electronically to those who signed up to go to the dinner.

Some photos of Spring in East Tennessee



Note from the President



Our March program regarding time visiting Colombia was given by a friend of Bruce and Janis Robinson, Raúl Rivero. Raúl was a delightful speaker and he shared highlights of the places he visited while in Colombia, especially notating the varying elevations of the country, the botanical gardens and the breathtaking salt cathedral. The program was well attended, and we were able to help celebrate the speaker's birthday with cake provided by the Robinsons.

I also want to add a special "thank you" to the Robinsons who invited guests to attend the program. This is a superb way to expose others to our club and hopefully lead to new members for the club. I encourage each of you to bring guests to our programs and events so that we may foster interest in individuals to join the club. The month of April will provide wonderful opportunities for FFK to be visible in the community with the inbound journey's daily activities as well as the welcome and farewell dinners.

Additionally, when you are out and about, wear your Friendship Force Knoxville apparel if you have any. If you are meeting at a public place regarding Friendship Force business, wear your badges, even if there are only 2 meeting participants. Have the FFK contact business cards ready to hand to others. We need to actively promote the club and be seen as an organization to generate interest.

We completed our first inbound journey this month with FF Greater Harrisburg and have wished them well for the remainder of their journey to Birmingham, Alabama. Although this was a short journey, good times were had by all, and many new friendships were cultivated. Excitement continues to grow as we anticipate the arrival of our next inbound journey, FF Los Angeles, April 24 -29. I look forward to seeing many of you at the activities planned for this journey!

Karen Scott, President

March 25th Meeting Photos

Dr. Raúl Rivero spoke on his life living in the country of Colombia. He has now returned to the U.S. and shared photos and discussed the magnificent natural beauty and the culture of Colombia as well what it was like to live there.

A native of Venezuela, Dr. Rivero received his doctoral degree in botany in the U.S. and has served on the botany faculty of several universities and has done botanical research in several countries. He now enjoys teaching Spanish and botany at Pellissippi State and other local universities and colleges.



Dr. Rivero



Raúl and Bruce Robinson



Guests from L to R: Ted Buel, A. M. Lindsey, BE Colway, Dr. Al Legendre & Janis Robinson

The FFK 2025 & 2026 Journeys

2025 Journeys

The next inbound journey, **FF Los Angeles (#25133)**, will begin on April 24. The Los Angeles ambassadors will arrive the evening before and will be staying at the La Quinta Inn by the airport. Activities for this inbound group include:

- Thursday, April 24: Welcome dinner at First Presbyterian Church;
- Friday, April 25: ORNL bus tour of Oak Ridge, led by our own Art Mitchell, followed by lunch at Deans Restaurant and a visit to the Oak Ridge History Center followed by small group dinners;
- Saturday, April 26: City tour led by Mike McDonough (with possible Dolly sitings), the Blue Plate Special; lunch at the Downtown Grill and Brewery, a visit to the East TN History Museum, and a production of “The Play that Goes Wrong” at UT’s Clarence Brown Theater.
- Sunday, April 27: Free day
- Monday, April 28: we take our ambassadors to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, with a talk about how the park came to exist, by Gary Anderson. The Farewell dinner for our guests will be at the Abbey in Townsend.

Our first outbound trip of 2025 is June 1-7 to **FF Spokane(new official club name) # 25097**. Eleven ambassadors will be going on this journey.

Our next outbound journey to is going to **Stratford/St Mary’s, Canada (#25096)** is full and ready to go. The dates for this journey are September 22-29.

2026 Journeys

Our 2026 Journey assignments from FFI have just come in and here are our assignments!

Inbound:

- April - Connecticut, USA to Knoxville, USA

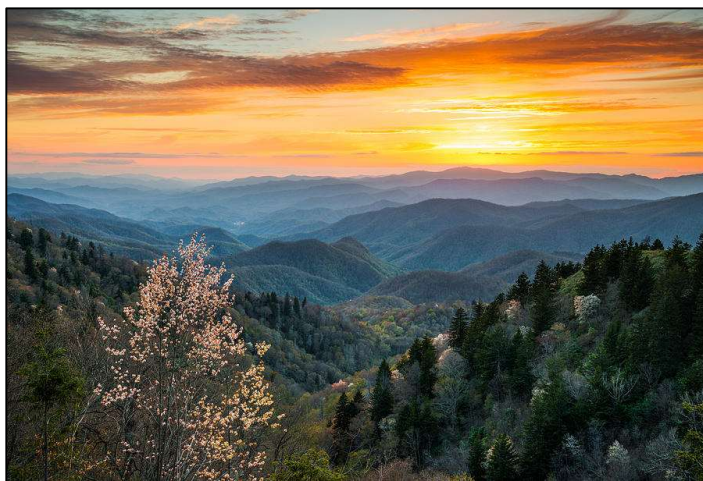
Outbound:

- May - Knoxville, USA to The Villages, FL, USA
- November - Knoxville, USA to Southland and Taupo, New Zealand

Leslie Badaines, Acting Journey Chair

East TN Spring Sunset in the
Great Smoky Mountains!

Photo by Dave Allen



FF Greater Harrisburg to Knoxville Photos

Five FF Greater Harrisburg ambassadors will have departed for FF Birmingham on Tuesday, April 8, after a whirlwind 3- night stay in Knoxville. The ambassadors arrived on Saturday afternoon and after dinner with their hosts headed to a UT Theater Lab production of “Failure, A Love Story.” Despite a rainy Sunday, we enjoyed a delicious lunch and ride on the Volunteer Princess, and time at the East TN History Center. On Monday, the group toured the Sunsphere, enjoyed Mighty Musical Monday listening to Freddy Brabson play the mighty Wurlitzer, and an excellent performance by Knoxville singer-songwriter Brian Clay. Afterwards, the ambassadors enjoyed lunch at Bistro at the Bijou, followed by a tour of the historic Tennessee Theater. The full day was capped with a southern style Farewell dinner (and moonshine tasting).



The Volunteer Princess



On the Volunteer Princess from L to R: Pat Baughman, Liz Gregor, Marsha Mitchell, Carol Ann Johnson, Art Mitchell, Katie McFarland, Debra Good, Mary Dupont, Janis Robinson, Karen Scott, Barbara Elder, Leslie Badaines



At the Sunsphere



The Tennessee Theatre Tour



The Mighty Wurlitzer organ



Farewell Dinner L to R: Debra Good, Katie McFarland, Pat Baughman, Mary Dupont, Laraine Hicks



FFK President Karen Scott sharing the history of Moonshine



Ambassadors Debra Good (host Carol Ann Johnson not shown) & Katie McFarland (host Barbara Elder)



Ambassador Pat Baughman (host Tammy Enix)



Ambassadors Laraine Hicks & Mary Dupont (hosts Janis & Bruce Robinson)

Member Profile: Joan Turbyville

How long have you lived in Knoxville/or some other city?

Originally from Michigan, Joan moved to Tennessee in 1971 living in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Norris, Roane County, then back to Knoxville.

What current or past career/jobs have you had?

Joan received her undergraduate degree from Central Michigan University and taught 5th grade for a while then Middle School in Social Studies and English. After earning her master's degree in education administration from UT, Joan became the principal at St. Joseph School in Fountain City and, then, Cherokee Middle School in Kingston, TN, retiring in 2010.



After retirement, Joan volunteered at CASA of East Tennessee, with hospice, tutored kids in Roane County and worked with the Lion's Club helping people obtain glasses. She also served as the interim principal at Sacred Heart Catholic School when she retired a second time.

How did you hear about FFK?

After talking with Betsy Tonkin, Joan joined Friendship Force Knoxville in 2024.

What interests/hobbies do you have?

Recently, Joan joined a knitting group and has been studying Polish.

Is there anything else you'd like us to know about you?

Joan and her husband Jerry raised seven children which included a step-daughter, sons of their own and three adopted children: two girls and one boy. Her grandson Josh Turbyville is a kicker for the UT Football team. Currently, Joan lives in Highland Point with her beagle Lucy and is the President of the HOA.

What Friendship Force Knoxville activities have you participated in?

Joan's participation in FFK includes hosting a Polish Mayor for Open World and an ambassador from FF St. Louis. At the end of April, a FF Los Angeles ambassador will be staying with her.

Where were some interesting places you have traveled to?

Because of his work, Joan's husband traveled extensively and Joan accompanied him to, among other places, Thailand, Israel, Mexico and various locations in the United States. The Turbyvilles also went on a cruise to Alaska in 2012 and a Danube River Cruise in 2018. More recently through her church, Joan has been to France, Poland and Italy.



Travel/Friendship Quotes



“Glimmers are those small moments in our day that bring joy, peace, or gratitude. When we train our brains to notice them, something profound happens - we begin to shift from focusing on the negative to appreciating the positive.” From “The Danish Way” Instagram feed

“May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds.” Edward Abbey, American author and essayist

“So often you have to run away from home and visit other homes first before you can clearly see your own.” Sandra Cisneros, American writer

“Wherever you go becomes a part of you somehow.” Anita Desai, Indian novelist

2025 Upcoming Dates—Mark your Calendar

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

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.

Upcoming FFK General Events

- No General Events for April due to the inbound journeys from FF Greater Harrisburg and FF Los Angeles
- May 27: Special FFK Meeting about Club Future

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	OPEN POSITION
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

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