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## 2026 Journeys

### Important Dates

Outbound to Taupo and Southland, New Zealand  
Nov 1-15

**FFK Website:** [www.friendshipforceknoxville.org](http://www.friendshipforceknoxville.org)

**Facebook:** Friendship Force of Knoxville

**E-mail:** FriendshipForceKnoxville@gmail.com

**FFI Website:** <https://my.friendshipforce.org>

## *Upcoming Presentation*

*Tuesday, May 26th at 6:30pm @ TVUUC*

Journey coordinator Carol Ann Johnson, along with FFK Ambassadors, will give their report on their recent trip to Tallahassee, FL in March, 2026. Four Knoxville ambassadors and two Des Moines, Iowa, ambassadors spent five days as guests of the Tallahassee Friendship Force Club. They enjoyed wonderful fellowship, learned about the flora and fauna of northern Florida, as well as the history of the area.



**Join us at 6:30pm for a 7pm start at TVUUC.**

## FFK Event for June, 2026

**Saturday, June 6th in Oak Ridge at 3pm**

Please make your plans now to join your FFK friends at the Flatwater Tales Storytelling Festival on Saturday, June 6 in Oak Ridge. Information, including ticket info, can be found at their website, <https://flatwatertales.com>. Dave and Ellen Greenwood highly recommend that you attend the entire festival—however, our Friendship Force group will get together on Saturday for the 3 p.m. session and the 7pm session, with dinner in-between at Hong's Asian Bistro.

Note: Although it is good to get your tickets ahead of time, it has always been easy to get tickets on the day of the performance if that is more convenient. You can also contact the Greenwoods for more information.

Thank you!  
Ellen and Dave Greenwood  
emg01@comcast.net

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### **Friendship Force Journeys, 2026**



### **Inbound: April 17-22 - FF Connecticut to FF Knoxville**

A group of nine Ambassadors from FF Connecticut visited Knoxville April 17- April 22. Guests enjoyed a warm welcome dinner at Highland Point Clubhouse with southern fried chicken and a moonshine sampling which went down very well thanks to Karen Scott! The group also took a city tour and visited to the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame - a big hit for our CT friends! Ambassadors also enjoyed their visit to Oak Ridge National Lab. The trip ended with a picnic and talk in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and a delicious Farewell dinner at the Abbey in Townsend. A big thanks to all members who attended events and especially to those who hosted small group dinners - Bill Cherry, Gary and Paulette Anderson, and Courtney Shea.



## Outbound journey # 26244 FF Knoxville to FF of Southland and Taupo New Zealand. November 1-15, 2026

There are still 3-4 spots available for the New Zealand trip. Currently, the official dates of the journey will be **FF Southland**: arriving November 1 and departing November 7 and **FF Taupo**: arriving November 9 - departing November 15. Leslie has contacted the travel agent used by the Greater Atlanta Club to discuss the possibility of a 6-day optional pre-tour of the South Island from October 26-November 1 (with transportation to the Southland club on November 1). This optional tour would not be a requirement, but might be a nice opportunity to see more of the country. The host clubs can accept 12 Ambassadors. The Taupo club on the North Island is willing to meet ambassadors in Rotorua, and provide a tour of sites in that area and transportation to Taupo.

Estimated costs at present, depending on oil/gasoline prices, are: Taupo \$750 NZ (approximately \$440 US); and the Southland club \$400 NZ (approximately \$235 4US). Air transportation, and required NZ entry fee of \$117 ( approximately \$68 US), is at your own cost as is lodging in Rotorua. FFI nightly fees for 12 nights also apply (\$300 US). Total Club and FFI costs **excluding** airfare, and required NZ entry: approximately \$975 US (plus the 6 day pre-tour of the South Island if selected).

Please let Leslie Badaines know if you are interested in this journey ([badainesL@aol.com](mailto:badainesL@aol.com)). Ambassador Applications can be found through this link: <https://helpcenter.friendshipforce.org/help/where-can-i-find-an-ambassador-application-and-agreement-form/>. You can print and manually complete and forward to [BadainesL@aol.com](mailto:BadainesL@aol.com), or you can fill it out as a fillable form. Please forward to  
BadainesL @aol.com.

— Leslie Badaines and Joan Turbyville



*Club Concerns Coordinator, Paulette Anderson,  
recently sent a card to long time member Laura Ford,  
who is now in Hospice Care.*

*FFK sends good wishes her way.*

