

The FMCA Georgia Mountaineers are a group of mostly retired people who like to camp, enjoy the fellowship of Chapter members, and get away from the everyday activities of home.

Most of our members live in the north Georgia area, from Rome to Clayton down to Lawrenceville and Stockbridge, with a few from North & South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, and Mississippi. Our Chapter activities cover primarily north Georgia and travels range to mid Alabama, Pigeon Forge TN, Asheville NC, the east coast, and to north Florida. We rally for about four days at the end of the third week of each month, usually Wednesday to Sunday. We have around fifty five families in our group with usual attendance at our rallies ranging from 16 to 25 coaches. Our rally activities include telling tall tales, eating out, shopping, antiquing, sightseeing, campfires, and playing games (mainly Hand & Foot or dominoes) in the evening.

Our rally schedule is put together by our Wagon Master. Each rally has a host and co-host who plan the agenda. The agenda may include a cook out or pot luck supper. And, it usually has open periods so you may wander off at your own leisure to investigate the area. Since most of our rallies are in the north Georgia area, we get to enjoy spring time in the mountains. Our summer rallies are usually much cooler than other places in the South. And, our autumn rally is usually at the height of leaf peeping season. There is nothing more beautiful than the color of autumn leaves in the Smokies. We also have a Christmas Luncheon in December.

To join our Chapter you must first attend two rallies. After becoming a member you are not required to attend any set number of rallies during the year but are encouraged to attend as many as possible. Each member is required make their own rally reservations and pay for their own expenses, campground fees, etc. And, most of the time there are some rally fees, ranging from around \$5 to \$10 per person. This is to reimburse our hosts for out of pocket expenses. We require you to visit with our Chapter twice before you are invited to join. The best way to determine if a chapter is right for you, is to visit with them. These two visits are not for us to judge you, but for you to evaluate us. On your second visit, you are automatically given an application to join. We do not have a vote of acceptance or rejection, the decision is yours. We figure that if you are an FMCA member, then you qualify to join our Chapter. If you submit your application to join, you are automatically accepted and become Georgia Mountaineers at the end of your second visit. The decision to join is yours. The fee to join is \$35 per couple with an annual renewal fee of \$12.

Why should you join the Georgia Mountaineers? First of all, you can't beat the fellowship of folks like you with similar interests. Second, being a Chapter member provides the perfect reason to use your coach on a regular basis. Mainly, it is just plain fun! Contact Ted Barrett at 706-889-2004, email <u>Bears1031@gmail.com</u>.