



## FIRST TIME VISITOR GENERAL RALLY INFO

This is to provide some additional information for our First Time Visitors so they are better prepared for what to expect when they arrive at our rally. While our rallies officially begin on Wednesday, some members show up on Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday and others on Wednesday. Also some may stay a few days later and do some other sightseeing after the rally. You are welcome to do the same. We usually have two couples (sometimes just one) that share the hosting duty for each rally. One of their coaches will have a *Georgia Mountaineer* banner stretched across the front. After you check in and get set up, if no one has greeted you yet, find the host coach with the banner, knock on their door, and introduce yourself. A Rally Agenda is usually published about a week before the rally. If there are any changes in it, they are usually announced at the beginning of the rally, or during the week. If you are not there to get the change, the Rally Hosts will try and contact you on your cell phone.

Often times our rally agenda may include a Salad Supper or Pot Luck Dinner. For the Salad Suppers you need to bring a salad dish for sharing. It does not have to be big enough for everyone, just big enough to share with a few. It can be any type of salad, a vegetable, potato, macaroni, congealed, or whatever. For the Pot Luck Dinners, any dish will do, even a desert. Sometimes the hosts may prepare a main entree for a meal and everyone else are asked to bring an accompanying dish or desert. At all of these meals, you will need to bring your own eating utensils, plates, and drinks. For Sunday morning coffee, you need to bring your favorite coffee cup or mug, if you don't want to drink from a styrofoam cup.

The planned events on the agenda are optional, but usually everyone attends, with a few exceptions. If you are not going to participate in an event, please let the Rally Hosts know, as they need that information for an accurate head count, especially if going to a restaurant or a prepared meal. If there is no planned event or meal scheduled, you are on your own with the freedom to do whatever you like. Usually, many of the attendees wind up picking a place and going together or eating together anyway. During the free time between meals, some of the attendees may find an antique store to browse while others may find a shopping Center. The men may go one way while the women go another. If the weather is nice, a group will usually form outside under someone's awning or shade tree to just chat and be sociable. If you see such a group, grab your folding chair and attend, as everyone is welcome. Plus, if we have a business meeting scheduled, you are also welcome to attend it. You may join in the discussions, but you cannot vote.

In the evening we usually have games or just a gathering in the clubhouse. If you like to play come join in. Even if you don't play cards, you may still want to attend the club house in the evening. There may be someone else there not doing anything either. Sometime we have a campfire to share and tell tall tales.

Our rallies are normally "You pay as you go." You make your own reservations and pay your own campground fees. And, the Chapter has a "Rally Fee." It is currently set at \$10.00 per person. The Rally Fee is to reimburse our hosts if they prepare a meal or have some other expenses for something that is shared by the group, e.g., snacks for the Meet & Greet, pastries for coffee on Sunday. They are not reimbursed for the time and effort it takes to set up, organize, and execute the agenda. Our Visitors do not pay any rally fees -- you are our Guests.

As for your tow car, if you want some independence, I would bring it. However, most all our members bring their tow car and they always car pool together to the various places we go. They usually, and especially, invite any visitors to ride with them. That said, you do not need your tow car, but make your decision on your own needs and wishes.

Anytime you attend a rally with us, when you call the campground to make reservations, always tell them you are with the Georgia Mountaineers. This will ensure you are parked with our Chapter, plus you will receive any rally discount off the campground fee. **Our Wagon Master sets up our schedule a year in advance. The campgrounds usually hold about 20 campsites for our chapter members and visitors to make reservations. About 30 days prior to the rally, all unreserved campsites are released back for general public use. This way the campground does not lose out on any business and we do not have to pay for any campsites not reserved by our attendees. So, it is best to make reservations at least 35 days in advance of any of our rallies.** It is always easier to make a reservation and later cancel, than it is to wait until the last minute and then be unable to get them. **Plus, as a visitor, please email the president and wagon master to let them know you will be there.**

Hope this general info helps a little. In the meantime, if you have any questions, just email the president.