



HOW & WHY TO JOIN A CHAPTER

The Sunshine State Camping Club got started in 1969 when a handful of RVers put Good Samaritan bumper stickers on the road and in campgrounds on their rigs so fellow members would know they could get help on the road. From this small Club we grew. In the early days, Good Sam Members spread the word at RV parks and other Club events. Soon everyone wanted to know how to get a Good Sam “smiling face” decal.

In 2022 Good Sams Headquarters elected to dissolve state representatives and take over control of the management of all states. As a result, in 2023, Florida (and other states) revamped the state program to accommodate the fellowship of campers and chapters. We are now called the SUNSHINE STATE CAMPING CLUB. (Note: some chapters elected to retain their “Sams” chapter name for a one-year term pending a name change.)

WHAT IS A Sunshine State Camping Club CHAPTER?

All Sunshine State Camping Club members are encouraged to join a local Chapter for wholesome, increased outdoor fun, fellowship, travel, touring places of interest, potluck dinners, and other interesting camping activities. We strongly encourage the young along with the young-at-heart to join a chapter. This creates new and long-lasting friendships and memories. Chapter members usually meet once a month for a campout get-together or other Chapter activities such as service projects or support of local charities. Some of the Florida Chapters only meet October through May because their members are comprised of “workcampers” or “snowbirds”.

A Chapter is made up with a varying number of rigs, each Chapter determining its own membership size, and are composed of their own elected officers. They camp together, play together, and give support in times of need. The more you become involved in a Chapter the more satisfying the experience. The reasons for belonging to a local chapter is for the fun, fellowship, games, travel, eating, craft, love of the outdoors, camping, etc. Chapters support each other by having monthly campouts. The more members who are involved, the more things the chapter can do. Many chapters support local charities; most all the chapters support National and Florida Charities: Dogs for Better Lives, and Camp Boggy Creek.

HOW TO JOIN A CHAPTER

Each chapter has its own individual membership requirements but Florida is continuing to stepping forward with state membership to support the chapters and maintain exposure to all campers. If you are not a member of Sunshine State Camping Club please click on our Chapter Information link to find a chapter nearby.

We strongly encourage you to visit with several chapters before you decide which chapter you want to join. Some chapters are into volunteering, others travel to lots of out of state places together, while others just enjoy spending time together relaxing. Chapter life is what you choose to make of it. The chapters all have

a weekend that they usually camp, but most will also change their schedule around depending on member's needs and events they want to attend. All chapters have a guest program that allows you to camp with them for a few visits without becoming a member. This allows you to get to know them and allows them to meet you. Be sure to talk to a few presidents in your area. They will tell you about their chapter and when and where the next campout will be. Deciding which chapters to visit can take a little time. Click on the Chapters & Presidents page on this website. Do not be overwhelmed when you open the page as we have many chapters in Florida. You can quickly narrow that list down to chapters near your area by looking at chapter names and president's towns or clicking the Map of Florida Chapters. Some chapters are named for their area such as Palm Coast Ramblers. Look at the president's towns and choose one in your area. Remember most chapters have members from a large area and travel to lots of different campgrounds in the area. If you are still not sure of what chapters to contact feel free to call or email:

Joe & Debbie Weston, State Directors at 407-417-7560 or forestjr@bellsouth.net

They will be happy to help you with locations. After you have been to visit and decide which chapter you want to join it is very easy. Just let them know you are interested, and most will have you fill out an application and they will take it from there.

WHAT IS A Sunshine State Camping Club RALLY ALL ABOUT?

A rally is a statewide campout open to all. Florida has two Rallies a year; Spring Samboree in April and Fall Rally in November, a camping adventure on a grand scale – all done by State Staff and volunteers. A multiple day event with an emphasis on fun! Meeting new and old friends!

There are major events like Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Entertainment nights, Bingo nights and Sunday Worship. There are also all types of indoor/outdoor game competitions. There are vendors of special interest to RVers, seminars, special products for the ladies and crafts.

The Florida Rallies are unique from many other State Rallies. We have Bingo two nights, vendors often join up for you to review their wares and learn about other RV related areas such as some equipment, tours, etc.

We pride ourselves on being a friendly, outgoing group and encourage new campers to attend. You need not be a **Sunshine State Camping Club** member to attend but we challenge you to leave without wanting to be a member!

The camping experience is one of a kind! And it is a safe and hospitable environment for the whole family!

