



FIRST-TIMER'S GUIDE



FRVA 110th International Convention & RV Expo



FAMILY RV
ASSOCIATION | EST 1963



Welcome To Your First International Convention!

First-Timers Arrive: March 10 • Departure: March 16 By 12 pm

We are thrilled that you'll be joining us for this great event and hope you are excited to be joining thousands of other like-minded RVers in Perry. This booklet is designed to help guide you through your first international convention and provide information you might only learn through experience.

Before Departing For Perry . . .

- Review the contents in your Confirmation Packet. Make sure you received a Parking card and a Date of Entry card, your Check-In & Location QR Code card (with correct name), your First Timer window placard, and name badges for those attending. If you received incorrect credentials or if there is a problem with your badges, call the Events Department at (800) 543-3622.
- Read the Confirmation Guide included in your Confirmation Packet. This booklet includes information that will make for a worry-free journey to the grounds and provides a general idea of what to expect when you arrive, where to place your RV credentials in the windshield, etc.
- Visit FRVA.com for information regarding the event. Beginning several months prior and leading up to the event, the site will be updated with information about things to do in the Perry area and more event-specific information. We'll post activities that have been planned, the featured entertainment, event and seminar schedules, and a list of vendors.
- You'll have the opportunity to make many new friends at the event, but why not invite other RV-owning friends to register and join in the fun? By coming with others you know, you'll be able to share the experience with friends with whom you are familiar and comfortable.
- Before heading to Perry or as you near the site, empty your gray and black holding tanks. Septic service from a contracted company will be available for a fee if you need the service(s). But you'll find it will be much easier once you arrive if you don't have to worry about emptying your tanks.

Arriving In Perry

If you arrive day(s) early or after 5:00 p.m., proceed to the Welcome Area

- Your parking credentials will indicate the type of parking you chose when you registered. Follow the directions in the Confirmation Guide to get to your parking area or to the Welcome Area. The Welcome Area is also where you can pick up Will Call credentials or wait for friends with whom you would like to park.
- Prior to arrival, tape your parking credentials to your windshield so the Parking Team volunteers can quickly identify the type of parking you requested. Once parked, tape the QR Code Card to your windshield/window so it can be scanned.

- Upon arrival, if you have a towed vehicle (car), please unhook it and have your co-pilot or another member of your party drive it separately so as not to hold up the parking operation once you arrive at your parking site. We will have a location for you to unhook if you are unable to do so before arriving.
- Follow the Parking Team volunteer to your spot and park as directed. If there's a problem, have it resolved after you are parked to allow the parking operation to flow smoothly. If you believe you've been parked in an incorrect area, exit your RV, find one of the Parking Team volunteers, and calmly discuss your situation. If the issue cannot be resolved in the parking area, ask to be taken to the Information Center to speak with someone at the information/registration desk.

Getting Started

- The event program included in your National Indoor RV Centers Welcome Bag has all the information needed to navigate the convention. The program includes the schedule of events; descriptions for the seminars; a list of vendors and where they can be located; and much more. An electronic version of the program will be available on FRVA.com several weeks prior to the event for early planning purposes. Take note of the Program Change/Add sheet in your Welcome Bag. During the show, program changes will appear in the *Buccaneer Bulletin* newsletter, the Text Messaging Service, and the FRVA Event App.
- Visit the FRVA Information Center in McGill Marketplace where you can pick up your pre-ordered Convention T-Shirt or tumbler. Sign-up for games, septic or water service, preview the craft photos, and purchase available Ladies' Luncheon tickets. Find out what to do while in Perry, and more!
- Be sure to stop by the "Yo-Ho-Ho Hangout," also in McGill Marketplace, to visit with other first-timers and attendees on Monday and Tuesday before the start of the show. Have fun playing games, hamming it up at the photo booth, meeting others, and relaxing in a friendly setting.
- For many, including convention veterans, one of the most difficult parts of the experience is figuring out where seminar rooms and activity areas are located. Included in your Welcome Bag will be two fold-out ShadePro Supplemental Grounds Maps. Use the map to familiarize yourself with the grounds. Since most attendees are parked a day or two before the event starts, you might find it helpful to tour the grounds to orient yourself with the locations of the various activity areas. If you have a bike, bring it. It's the best way to get around.
- As you review the schedule, you may be overwhelmed by the number of activities during the event. You will want to do it all; resist that temptation. It's impossible. With more than 100 seminars scheduled, a large selection of RVs to look through, a vast array of products to check out in the exhibit hall, entertainment, social gatherings, and time spent enjoying the company of other attendees, you'll find that your days will disappear quickly. So, as you review the schedule, highlight those activities that mean the most to you and create your list of "things to do." This will help ensure you do not miss a seminar or activity that may have drawn you to Perry in the first place.

Seminars

There are many reasons RV owners attend FRVA International Conventions, but the one cited most is the seminar program. These sessions allow attendees the opportunity to learn more about their RVs and the lifestyle possibilities that they afford. The array of educational opportunities extends from super technical to just plain fun. However, as a first-time attendee, there are specific seminars that you or your traveling partner (or both) should make every effort to attend. Below is a list of those seminars.

- **Ask The Experts**
- **Engine Maintenance (Cummins)**
- **RV Driving Safety Tips**
- **FRVA Benefits and FRVAssist**
- **Supplemental Towed Car Braking**
- **One Hour With A Tech**
- **Solar Power Essentials**
- **RV Fire Safety For Your Safe Travel**
- **Co-Pilot The Right Seat**
- **Mike Sokol's Seminars**
- **RV Weight And Tire Safety**
- **Generator Maintenance**
- **Tire Knowledge and TPMS**
- **RV Fire Safety**
- **RV There Yet? (Georgia Grown Building)**
- **RV Essentials/RV Curious**
- **Properly Matching Trucks To...**

Orientation For First-Time Attendees

Tuesday, March 11 at 2:00 p.m. — Reaves Arena

Presented by FRVA National President Paul Mitchell before the event officially begins, first-time attendees will be introduced to the fun, spirit, activities, and opportunities at the **"Lafitte's Lost Treasure"** convention. Be sure to bring your program and map (included in your Welcome Bag) and wear your **"First Timer" ribbon**. **Discover what an FRVA International Convention is all about.**

Mentoring Program

We know how being a first-timer and not knowing how "to do" an FRVA convention is difficult. That's why we developed the FRVA Mentoring Program. These veteran convention-goers, identified by their white "FMCA Mentor" button, can help answer your questions and provide guidance through their own experience. Don't be shy; these volunteers are ready and willing to help make your "Lafitte's Lost Treasure" experience fun and exciting.

Questions Before The Event?

Since this is your first time attending an FRVAA International Convention, you are bound to have questions. Hopefully, many of your answers were in this or the Perry Confirmation Guide. If not, another source is the "FAQs" page found by visiting FRVA.com. And Check out one of our First-Timer YouTube videos on FMCA.com in which we answer questions from first-timers. Or call us at (800) 543-3622 or send an e-mail to convention@FMCA.com, and we'll be happy to help answer your questions. Enjoy the event!