



Early Bird Arrival - Sunday, August 18, 2013

ARRIVAL - Check in at the **Garden of the Gods Campground**, www.ColoradoCampground.com (The campground has requested that all fees be paid in full one month in advance of the rally. Please contact the Campground Office for details at (719) 475-9450 or (800) 248-94551.) Setup your RV, rest, relax or explore the area. Meet and visit with other RV Owners and friends.

Other Optional Day Activity Suggestions:

A Visit to Tom & Frank's Home - Open House 12 PM - 4 PM (47 miles from the Campground, via I-25 North)

- **Visit Tom & Frank's Home**; 5569 N. Lariat Drive, Castle Rock, CO; (303) 997-6828; (Exit 187 on I-25, then east (away from the mountains .8 mile). They will be home 12 PM - 4PM, and will have tea, sodas, beer, and drinks with appetizers.

A Visit to Excellent Shops

- **Outlets at Castle Rock** (43 miles from the Campground via I-25 North)
5050 Factory Shops Blvd, Castle Rock, CO; <http://www.outletsatcastlerock.com>; (303) 688-4495; (Exit 182 on I-25, then turn left toward mountains 1 block, then turn right at second block). They have an estimated 100 shops to look at.
- **Cabela's Sporting Goods**; (50 miles from the Camp[ground]) ; Opens July 2013; (Exit 193 on I-25, then one block west)
- **IKEA** (55 miles from the Campground via I-25 North)
9800 E. IKEA Way, Centennial, CO; (888) 888-4532; (Exit 194 on I-25, then head west one block; turn right on S. Chester St., then east on E. Otero Ave)

Another Option

- **Ghost Town Wild West Museum** (2 miles from the Campground)
400 South 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO; (719) 634-0696; (Exit 141 on I-25, then 1.5 miles west on Highway 24; Hours 10 AM - 6 PM, Daily; Admission: Adults \$ 6.50, with \$1 off Coupons. (Coupons are good for four adults and are in your welcome packet.) www.ghosttownmuseum.com; (1-2 hours)

6:00 PM - Opening/Rally and Dessert Social at the picnic pavilion. Please bring a favorite dessert and recipe along with your own table service and drink. Our recipes will be added to our Ameri-Camp Family Cookbook by Susan Crowson, who is doing a magnificent job.

Monday, August 19, 2013

The cost of all Monday and Tuesday events and admissions, including restaurant meals, will be your own (pay as you go).

8:50 AM - Please form a caravan and/or carpool, if you wish, near the pavilion.

9:00 AM - Leave for Garden of the Gods Visitor Center & Museum; (3 miles from the Campground) 1805 North 30th Street, Colorado Springs, CO; (719) 634-6666; Hours 8AM-8PM; Admission to Theater \$5.00 for an exciting 14 minute HD big screen show; Balcony Café; www.gardenofgods.com; Minimal walking, mostly a self-guided auto tour. (2 to 2 ½ hours)

11:30 AM - 12:50 PM Lunch on your own. Return to the campground and have lunch or visit nearby restaurants. As there are no restaurants near or at the next attraction, it would be best to eat in campground or nearby restaurants. (Please see the listings of recommended restaurants in your Welcome Packet.)

12:50 PM - Please form a caravan and/or carpool, if you wish, near the pavilion.

1:00 PM Western Museum of Mining and Industry; (16 miles from the Campground); 225 Northgate Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO; (719) 488-0880; (Exit 156A on I-25, turn right, opposite North entrance to the US Air Force Academy; Hours 9AM-4PM; Admission \$8.00, Seniors 60 + \$6.00; www.wmmi.org (Please bring your \$ 1.00 Internet Coupon in your welcome packet.) (1 hour 15 minutes, and the North Gate of the US Air Force Academy is directly across the road.)

Please see Special Instructions in your Welcome Packet for Entering this Military Base. All you will need to enter the US Air Force Academy is a valid driver's license when entering the North Gate.

2:20 PM- Please meet in the parking lot of the Western Museum and Industry.

2:30 PM - Leave for US Air Force Academy; (17 miles from the Campground)

We will enter the North Gate of the US Air Force Academy. This is directly across I-25 from the Western Museum of Mining and Industry. (Exit 156B on I-25); Hours 8AM -6 PM and Visitor's Center hours are 9 AM -5 PM; We will visit the B-52 exhibit first, then Visitor's Center to include their movie and their multi-faith Chapel. Admission Free; (2-3 hours)

7:00 PM - Pot Luck Dinner

Pot Luck dinner is in the pavilion reserved for our rally on Monday and Tuesday. Those with the last name beginning with A thru M please bring a meat dish and those with the last name beginning with N thru Z please bring a side dish. Please bring your own table service and drink. Again recipes will be collected for our Ameri-Camp Family Cookbook by Susan Crowson, who is doing a magnificent job. Also please bring your excellent left over desserts.

After dinner, we'd love to hear any of your classic tales about camping, a favorite vacation, or life in general.

Tuesday, August 20, 2013

The cost of all Monday and Tuesday events and admissions, including restaurant meals, will be your own (pay as you go).

8:50 AM Please form a caravan and/or carpool, if you wish, near the pavilion.

9:00 AM - Leave for **Cave of the Winds** - (4 miles from the Campground)

100 Cave of the Winds Road, Manitou Springs, CO; Hours 9 AM-9 PM; Admission \$14.00; (719) 685-5444; www.caveofthewinds.com

Cave temperatures are approximately 54 degrees year round. So bring a light jacket or sweater. Walking will not be extensive. (1 hour)

10:20 AM Please meet in the parking lot of the Cave of the Winds

10:30 AM - Leave for **Miramont Castle Museum** - (2 miles from the Campground)

9 Capital Hill Ave, Manitou Springs, CO; (719) 685-1011, (719) 884-4109; 14,000 square feet home built in 1895; Hours 9 AM -5 PM; Admission \$ 9.00, Seniors 60+ \$7.00; www.miramontcastle.org; (1 hour and 30 minutes)

12:00 PM - 1:20 PM Return to campground and have lunch or visit nearby restaurants. (Please see the listings of recommended restaurants in your Welcome Packet.)

1:20 PM Please form a caravan and/or carpool, if you wish, near the pavilion.

1:30 PM - Leave for **Manitou Springs Cliff Dwellings**; (2 miles from the Campground); 10 Cliff Dwelling Road, Manitou Springs, CO; (800) 354-9971, (719) 685-5242 Architecture of Ancient Ancestral Anasazi Indians; Two museums, Several Gift Shops; Admisssion is \$ 9.50, Seniors 60 + \$ 8.50 ; Hours 9AM -6PM; www.cliffdwellingsmuseum.com; (1-2 hours)

6:00 PM - Pot Luck Dinner

Pot Luck dinner is in the pavilion reserved for our rally. Those with the last name beginning with N thru Z please bring a meat dish and those with the last name beginning with A thru M please bring a side dish. Please bring your own table service and drink. Again recipes will be collected for our Ameri-Camp Family Cookbook by Susan Crowson. Also please bring your excellent left over desserts.

7:00 PM - Barbershop Chorus in the pavilion. Homer Sterner is the President of the Monroe Chapter. He has arranged for us to hear a wonderfully talented local Barbershop Chorus of 25 men from the America The Beautiful Chorus from Colorado Springs. The entire campground has been invited to attend this special event.

Wednesday, August 21, 2013

8:20 AM - Please form a caravan and/or carpool, if possible, (as space is very limited at Pikes Peak Parking), near the pavilion.

8:30 AM - Leave for Pikes Peak Cog Railway - (3 miles from Campground)

515 Ruxton Ave, Manitou Springs, CO; (719) 685-5401; the world's highest cog railway; train has been operating for 100 years; the top of Pikes Peak is 14,115 feet, somewhat hard to breathe, but go slowly and you will have no problem; www.cograilway.com; The train will leave the station at 9:20 AM sharp.

PLEASE DON'T BE LATE!!! They will not wait for late arrivals.

The top of Pikes Peak is at an elevation of 14,115 feet. So bring a jacket. Air is thinner at the top, so just maintain slow deep breathing while admiring the magnificent views. They have a small snack bar at the lower train station where you board. You can get sandwiches, sodas and bottled water there, or you can bring your own bottled water.

The train which brings you to the top is the same train for the return trip. At the top, they sell water and sodas and their specialty is a free donut with your free coupon in your Welcome Packet. Train tickets are \$35 adults, which has been included as an option in your registration fee. Reservations must be made well in advance of this date, as high tourist season will fill the trains. We will make the reservations for those wanting to make this trip. (4 hours)

1:30 PM - 2:20 PM Lunch on your own. Return to the campground and have lunch or visit nearby restaurants. . (Please see the listings of recommended restaurants in your Welcome Packet.)

2:20 PM - Please form a caravan and/or carpool, if you wish, near the pavilion.

2:30 AM Leave for Cheyenne Mountain Zoo - (3 miles from Campground)

4230 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Road, Colorado Springs, CO; (719) 633-9925;

Hours 9 AM-6 PM; Admission is \$17.25, Seniors 65+ \$15.25; www.cmzoo.org; (About 3-4 hours)

Thursday, August 22, 2013

8:50 AM - Please form a caravan and/or carpool, if you wish, near the pavilion.

9:00 AM Leave for Pro-Rodeo Hall of Fame - (7 miles from Campground); 101 Pro Rodeo Dr., Colorado Springs; (719) 528-4764.

The Pro-Rodeo Hall of Fame and Museum of the American Cowboy exists to educate the public about rodeo, its history, and its impact on Western American culture. The Hall of Fame will also provide recognition to rodeo notables of the past, present, and serve as an inspiration for the future.

They have displays of historic Cowboy gear and clothing. They also have displays of western art and a Sculpture Garden, plus a Hall of Champions. Hours 9 AM - 5 PM. Cost \$6.00, Seniors \$ 5.00 per adult. (2 hours)

11:30 AM - 12:50 PM Return to the campground and have lunch or visit nearby restaurants. . (Please see the listings of recommended restaurants in your Welcome Packet.)

12:50 PM - Please form a caravan and/or carpool, if you wish, near the pavilion.

1:00 PM Leave for Seven Falls - (3 miles from Campground)
2850 S. Cheyenne Canyon Road, Colorado Springs, CO;
(719) 631-0765. This is the only waterfall in Colorado to make the National Geographic's list of international waterfalls. There are seven distinct waterfalls here. You can walk 225 steps up to the top via trails or take the in-mountain elevator. There are three Gift Shops and a Snack Bar. (2 hours)

5:50 PM - Please form a caravan and/or carpool, if you wish, near the pavilion.

6:00 PM - Leave for Edelweiss Restaurant; 34 E. Ramona Ave., CO; (719) 63302220;
www.Edelweissrest.com; German & Continental restaurant serving German Salads and Breads; Schnitzels, Cordon Bleu, Sausages, Steaks, Goulash and Veal. The restaurant will provide individual checks for your meals and drinks. Please tell the waitress who is coupled with whom. We will have a private room. Enjoy! (See map for this restaurant in your Welcome Packet.)

Friday, August 23, 2013

8:50 AM - Please form a caravan and/or carpool, if you wish, near the pavilion.

9:00 AM - Leave for Cripple Creek and Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad - Cripple Creek is located 45 miles southwest of Colorado Springs. Train station is at end of Bennett Avenue in Cripple Creek, CO. Train departs from Midland Terminal Depot every 45 minutes. (719) 689-2640. GPS Coordinates:38.747211,-105.186828

The locomotive is a 15 ton iron horse of the 0-4-0 type steam engine. The track goes south out of Cripple Creek, past the old Midland Terminal Wye over a reconstructed trestle, past many historic mines and terminates near the deserted mining camp of Anaconda, and then returns back to Cripple Creek. This unique four mile round trip includes an interesting and educational narration on the rich history only a dynamic gold town could produce. Also stops for special points of interest, impressive photo spots, and Echo valley.

Costs are \$11 per adult. (45 minutes)

11:00 AM - 1:20 PM Explore Cripple Creek. Spend the next few hours exploring on your own the history and attractions in Cripple Creek, visiting their shops, casinos, playing slot machines, and selecting a restaurant to have lunch.

1:30 PM - Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine - 9388 Colorado Highway 67, one mile north of Cripple Creek, Cripple Creek, CO. We will meet in the parking lot of the mine, prior to entering the mine. (719) 689-2466.

This underground tour takes us down 1,000 feet. It shows the evolution of underground mining methods. We will see gold veins. The trip will be via an air powered train. We will all receive a free gold ore sample. There is the Hard Rock Diner on site, for light sandwiches and fries. The diner offers a 10% on food after taking the mine tour. This mine was started, operated, and owned by Mollie Kathleen Gortner. It produced \$ 5 million in gold from 1891 to 1961.

Cost is \$ 18 per adult, or \$16 for a group of 25 or more. (1 hour)

2:30 PM - Cripple Creek Heritage Center ; 9283 S. Highway 67, Cripple Creek, CO; (877) 858 -4653; The Center will help us learn about the region's rich and colorful gold mining history and today's mining activities. They have 11,600 feet of interactive and educational exhibits.

Cost is free. (1 ½ - 2 hours)

Saturday, August 24, 2013

7:50 AM - Please form a caravan and/or carpool, if you wish, near the pavilion.

8:00 AM - Leave for **Florissant Fossil Beds National Park** - (29 miles from Campground); 15807 Country Road 1, Florissant, CO; (719) 748-3253.

Beneath a grassy mountain valley in central Colorado lies one of the richest and most diverse fossil deposits in the world. Petrified redwood stumps up to 14 feet wide and thousands of detailed fossils of insects and plants reveal the story of a very different, prehistoric Colorado.

The fossils, rocks, hills, and valleys that make up Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument reveal to us an ancient story of redwood forests, volcanic eruptions, and a climate much different than today. In addition to a rich ancient history, the Florissant valley also contains the stories of prehistoric hunting and gathering Paleo-Indians, the Ute and Jicarilla Apache peoples, the travels of a pioneer nation, and of early scientists making their way through discovery into a different time.

The major exhibits are within easy walking distance. There are also major trail to walk, if you like.

Cost is \$3.00 per adult or if you have one, use your Golden Age Passport for free entry for up to four people.

1:00 PM Open Activities

While we have left this afternoon for open activities, we strongly recommend that you might consider some of these Colorado Springs landmarks.

- **North Pole, the Home of Santa Workshop**; (7 miles from the Campground); 5050 Pike Peak Highway, Cascade Chipita Park, CO; Seniors 6+ free, call (719) 684-9432 for hours, and prices.
- **Old Colorado** - (3 miles from Campground); 2431 W Colorado Ave Colorado Springs, CO 80904; (719) 577-4112
- **US Olympics Training Center** - (6 miles from Campground); 1750 E Boulder St, Colorado Springs, CO; (719) 866-4618
- **Space Foundation Visitor's Center** - (5 miles from Campground); 4425 Arrowswest Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80907; (719) 576-8000
- **Academy Riding Stables** - (1/2 mile from Campground); 4 El Paso Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80904; (719) 633-5667

6:00 PM - Fond Farewell. Campfire and dinner from the Campground's BBQ vendor. Plus, various store bought half gallon containers of ice cream with various toppings will be furnished by the rally.

Hugs all. Thanks for coming to Colorado Springs, Colorado. God speed on your trip home, and be safe. Let's plan on meeting next year for the 2014 Ameri-Camp Rally.

Please remember the word **Life** is not a noun. It is a verb. "**Live it to the fullest**" and "**enjoy**". Slide into Home Base, on your last day here, bruised and battered, and then say, "God that was fun!!!"

Blyth, Nevin, Tom & Frank