



EMPIRE STATE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF FCRV



AUGUST 2024

Northeast Regional Campout Scheduled for Next Month!

Because so many of us were involved in the successful operations of the recently completed International Campvention, it was difficult to renew friendships and make connections with new attendees. All we could do while scurrying from one job to the next was give a cheerful wave and a promise to talk later. Now that the rally is over, we find we still want to reconnect with our friends. So, we will be having a very casual Northeast Regional Campout on the weekend of September 20-22, 2024, at Frances Slocum State Park, just north of Wilkes-Barre, PA. Interested participants are encouraged to use Reserve America to book their sites. Some sites we have already obtained are 4,6,8 and 15. While we will be having a shared pancake breakfast on Saturday morning, most of the schedule remains open so we can simply enjoy each other's company, share a cup of coffee, and sit around a shared campfire at night. Of course, with this bunch, you never know what activities might pop up, so be ready for anything 😊

We hope to see you there!



We had a party and invited a lot of friends!

Opening Ceremonies with Camden Continental Fife and



Drum Corps



Teens Gear up for Ropes Course

Getting the grounds ready for company





Opening Ceremonies



Yeah, we had a little rain....



Our own Barb McHale in the Talent show



And then there was the rest of the Steering Committee.....



Central New York stepped up to host the annual **International Campvention**, a rally hosting FCRV members from across North America. We hosted several hundred members, and fed them, entertained them, informed them and treated them to activities, sports, movement and entertainment as only NYSA and friends can do. It began with the **Camden Continentals** formally opening our Campvention with marvelous fife and drum performances. The state flags were marched in, representing the states and provinces from attending members, followed by our ribbon cutting ceremony.

Throughout the rest of the week, we had **sports** like ladder golf, washer toss and cornhole, informational **seminars** on the history of central New York, beekeeping, RV Safety, and Invasive Species, to name a few. We had line dancing, trivia contests, hospitalities, professional entertainers, trailer parties and food. There were a variety of **Teen** activities including tie-dying T-shirts, volunteer work at Wolf Mountain Nature Center, then taking on the challenge of the high ropes course at nearby Root Farm. Finally, they went bowling, and in between found time to help with the Teen float, then march in the FCRV parade. At one point during the week, they were so worn out they asked for the pizza to be delivered early so they could go to bed! And they also looked ahead to next year by selling tickets for the TP Raffle; those funds will be used to pay for next year's Teen activities, just as this year's fun was covered by last year's Teen TP Raffle. Many thanks to **Kathy Howell** and her daughter **Jessica**, and the rest of the crew, for doing the heavy lifting on this function, as they were responsible for obtaining the raffle items, getting the

supplies in place, and setting up the display of raffle items for our members to browse. Thank you for all your hard work!

Not to be left out, **Barb McHale** oversaw all the **Youth** Activities, and kept our theme of “*Remembering our Past, Celebrating our Future*” as a mainstay of the week’s activities. There was a lot of paint, water, sun and fun for the youth of FCRV, and it all served to get our kids involved, and keep them happy during the week. Many Thanks to Barb and her team!

Yes, at the beginning of the week it was unseasonably HOT (I mean really, 94 degrees in JUNE?!?!?) there was some rain early in the week, and yes, we lost power for a few hours, but the two tornadoes that struck central NY managed to stay away from the Herkimer County Fairgrounds, so we wore our pretty rainboots, cleaned up, and kept going. The **C.A.M.P.** committee did a fantastic job coordinating a kayak outing, disc golf, perpetual hiking, a cycling trip....wow, you just could not keep up with the **Braymans** and their team as they really worked the area and helped the **Campers Actively Moving Program** live up to its name.

If I were to attempt to name all the “**worker bees**” who stepped up in any capacity during the rally, and in the months leading up to it, I would miss a bunch, and I don’t want to do that. Suffice to say that Co-Chairmen Debbie Swanson and Carl Fromholzer (pushed from behind from his amazing wife Sue) attended to details, solved problems and worked hard to make this Campvention a wonderful time for our guests. Many thanks to everyone else who stepped up in every capacity. **THANK YOU!**

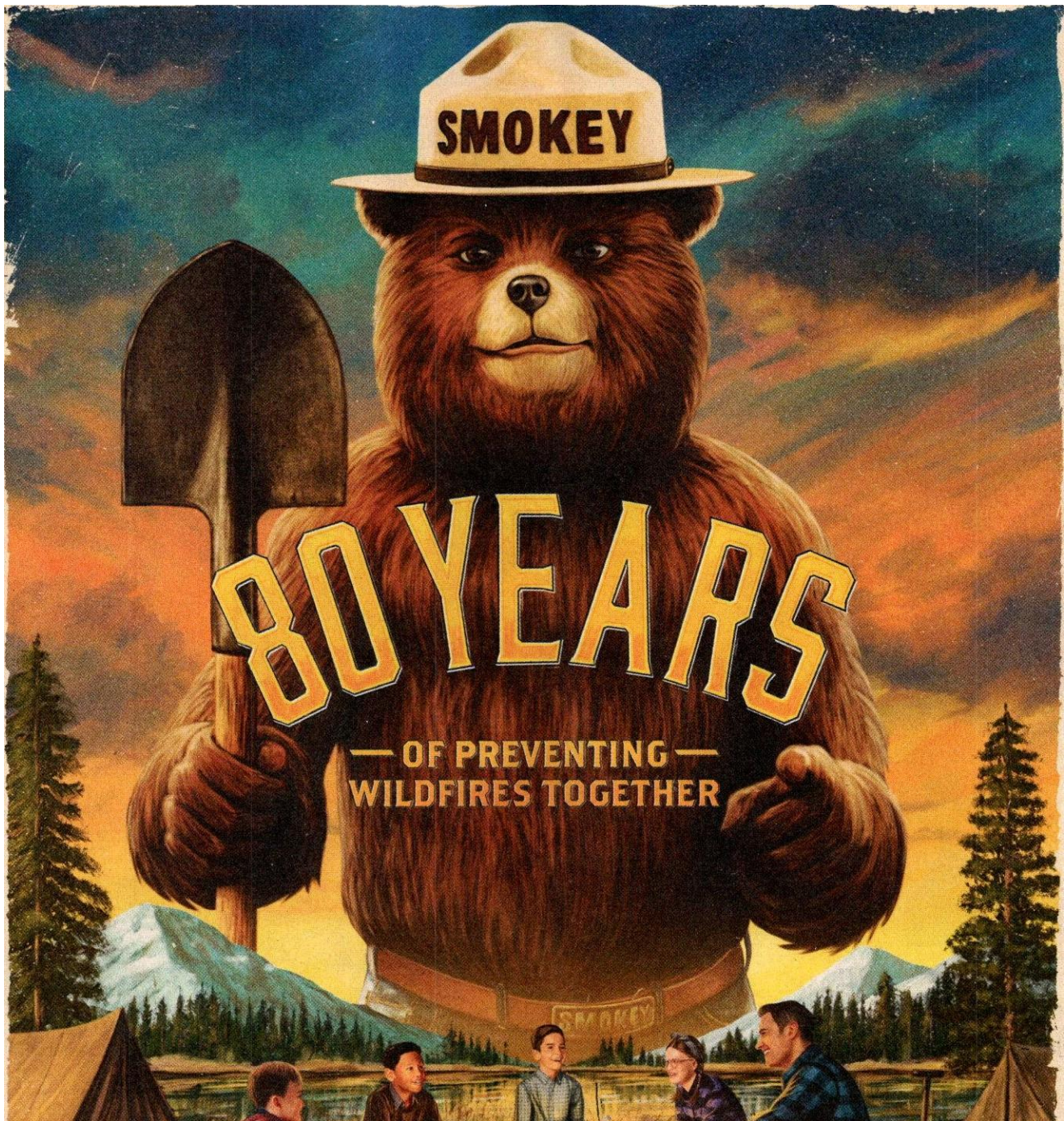
Next year’s rally will be held in Lebanon, Tennessee, at the Wilson County Fairgrounds. The dates will be July 20-26, 2025, with early days being July 18-19. Additional information can be found by visiting www.fcrv.org and checking out Campvention 2025 under the Events tab. The registration page is already up and ready. Hope to see you next year, in the “*Spirit of Friendship*”!

Many more pictures from this year’s Campvention can be found at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/8ik8VUQxo6GyX7M68>

Holiday Greetings Available for Winter Empire State News

As has been done in the past, we will be making the opportunity to send holiday greetings to your fellow New York State members. For a fee of \$5.00 you can submit a business card size ad, or have a simple one created for you by the ESN editor. These ads will run in the Winter issue of our newsletter. Payments can be made by sending a check for \$5.00, payable to NYSA to Pat Wittmeyer, 50 Victory Avenue, Hamburg, NY 14075. Be sure to include a note about what you want to say, or even better, your own *camera ready* artwork. No greeting will be run without payment. Deadline is Friday, November 15, 2024.





Eighty Years and Still Going Strong

A disturbing trend has been growing lately, and it has nothing to do with Tiktok. Campers are going to bed at the end of the day, leaving their campfires to slowly burn out during the night. Not just glowing embers, but fully involved campfires that will last for three to four more hours as they burn down.

All it takes is a breeze to stir up the flames, and sparks to travel off to nearby dry leaves and someone is dealing with a grassfire, or worse. We've all heard the stories of how some wildfires out west, which over time have destroyed millions of acres of forests and property, were started by campers and their fires. While we definitely do not have the same threat levels that they contend with, an errant spark could land on your awning, or that of a nearby camper, and leave a nasty hole in it.

Some folks like to teach new campers that you start a campfire with a bucket of water. It doesn't make any sense until you drill home the safety point. ALWAYS have a bucket of water near a campfire. Accidents, burns and other problems can happen around fire in an instant, and water does much to stop, or at least interrupt the problem.

So in honor of Smokey Bear's 80th birthday, keep a bucket of water around every campfire, and please put them out at the end of the evening, or when you're walking away from them for the day.

Yeah, "Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires"

[NYSA SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

NYSA of FCRV offers college scholarships to members, their children and legal dependents, and independent members; all of whom must pay NYSA dues and are current in their membership with FCRV. Must be a member for a minimum of one year. Scholarships are awarded for two and four year accredited institutions of higher learning. Scholarships are awarded at the annual state campout in May and may vary in amount of the award.

To apply, email me at kathkev@roadrunner.com with the subject of "NYSA scholarship application". Include: your name, your/family FCRV membership name and number, and the date you/they joined. Also include your email address, phone contact info, and mailing address. I will send you an application that you print and return by USPS mail, with supporting documents. Applications must be received by May 1. Mail early.

Sincerely, Kathy Collier

[For National Scholarship Info](#)

Visit the national FCRV website at www.fcrv.org/programs2/national-programs/scholarship/

The timeline for requesting applications is anytime after 12/1 to 4/1. The deadline for submitting completed Applications is April 15th.

Important dates for 2024/2025:

Sept. 20-22: N.E. Regional
Campout

Nov. 15: Deadline for Holiday
Greetings

Mar. 24-30: National Retiree
Rally in Dothan, Alabama

Editor's Note:

The ESN is also now available on the FCRV website in the "Newsletters" section under New York.

The ESN will now be published 3x per year.

The due dates will be as follows:

Summer Issue – June 15 (Published in July)

Spring Issue – March 15 (Published in April)

Holiday Issue – November 15 (Published Dec.)

Please send reports via email whenever possible. Please try to submit articles near the due date, and Placing ESN first in the subject line of your message is always helpful. SEND ARTICLES, UPDATED ADDRESSES AND INFORMATION TO:

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**"Where Strangers Become Friends,
and Friends Become Family"**

WWW.FCRV.ORG

