



GEAR First Timer Info

We are excited that you are joining us at the rally!

Coming to your first rally is exciting, but you are not always sure what to expect. Your FIRST TIMER team is here to help! There are FAQ's on the main website at [GEAR-2024-FAQs](#) that have a lot of valuable information. Here are some important things we want to let you know:

Entrance Address

Western North Carolina Agricultural Center, 765 Boylston Hwy (Airport Rd), Fletcher, NC.

From Asheville:

Take I-26 East to Exit 40. Make a right turn off the ramp onto Airport Rd, 280. Turn left at Gate 7.

From Hendersonville:

Take I-26 West to Exit 40. Make a left turn off the ramp to Airport Rd, 290. The RV entrance is on the left at the left turn lane, Gate 7.

Arrival dates are Tuesday 10/22 and Wednesday 10/23 between the times of 8 AM-5 PM.
(For volunteers arriving early, check with your Chairperson.)

Parking

There are parking volunteers that have extensive experience in parking RVs - they will assist you. Have your parking credentials in your window. If you requested your credentials to be sent to Will Call, the parking volunteers will have them. Click on the [Basic Hand Signals](#) to review the hand signals the parking volunteers will use with you.

First Timer Decal & Ribbons

Make sure that you put the First Timer Decal (provided in your packet) on your window so everyone can see it. You might have been to another FMCA rally, but it is important to let us know this is your first GEAR rally. Also, place the red First Timer ribbon to the bottom of your name tag, so others can welcome you. Please plan to attend the "First Timers" meeting on Wednesday at 3PM in the Davis Building.

Ask Me Buttons

There are many volunteers wearing ASK Me buttons. They will be able to answer your questions during the event, or they will find someone who can...just in case you stump them!

Things You Don't Want To Miss!

There are a lot of great things on the schedule. Here are a few that you won't want to miss!

- **Craft Seminar Sign Ups – Wednesday @10 AM – 3 PM (Boone Building)**
Get there earlier rather than later to sign up for a craft(s). The sign-up slots for registering go FAST! Some classes/seminars require a small fee to do the craft. Bring some cash.
- **First Timer Meeting – Wednesday @3 PM (Davis Building)**
A very important event for you! You will learn lots of things about the rally, what to expect and how to get the most out of the many, many events that are happening at GEAR.
- **Chapter Fair – Wednesday (following the First Timer Meeting)**
FMCA has hundreds of RV groups, referred to as "chapters," that members can join. The Chapter Fair is a great time to learn about some of the individual chapters in our Greater Eastern Area, giving you an inside look at some of the fun things these chapters do. Find a chapter based on your geography, hobby, type of RV owned... or start your own!
- **Talent Show – Wednesday night**
This event is going to be very special as other FMCA members will be showcasing their talent. Come sing along, clap along, laugh and participate. It's a don't miss event!
- **Entertainment – Thursday, Friday and Saturday night**
Free entertainment is available each of these evenings. Bring your snacks, and/or drinks. It's a great place to meet people.
- **Ladies Luncheon – Saturday at Noon (Boone Building)**
Prior registration is required to attend.
- **Ice Cream Social – Saturday**
Volunteers serve up ice cream and toppings. Yummina! Lines might be long, but there's always enough for everyone.
- **Dog Parade – Date and Time will be on the Schedule**
Have a dog? Come join the parade! Last year's parade was a huge hit with dozens of dogs, many in costume. Proud owners pranced their dogs around the grounds with large crowds to cheer them on. Bring your dog(s) and join in!
- **Craft Show – Saturday 2-5:30 PM (Davis Building)**
An opportunity to see and purchase some fantastic crafts made by fellow FMCA members.