

**FMCA**

*Your RVing Family*



FMCA'S 103<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & RV EXPO

# A FIRST-TIMER'S GUIDE

**JULY 7-10, 2021**

CAM-PLEX MULTI-EVENT FACILITIES • GILLETTE, WYOMING

# Welcome To Your First International Convention!

We are thrilled that you'll be joining us for this great event and hope that you are excited to be joining thousands of other like-minded RVers in Gillette. 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 Gillette . . .**

- Review the contents in your Confirmation Packet. Make sure you received two parking credentials (Parking card and Date of Entry card), your First Timer window placard, and name badges for those attending. If you received incorrect credentials or there is a problem with your badges, contact 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 provide a general idea of what to expect when you arrive, where to place your coach credentials in the windshield, etc.
- Visit [FMCA.com/Events](http://FMCA.com/Events) for information regarding the event. Beginning several months prior and leading up to the event, the site will be updated with stories about things to do in the Gillette area, as well as more event-specific information, the featured entertainment slated, event and seminar schedules, and a list of vendors.
- You'll have the opportunity to make lots of 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 Gillette or as you near the site, empty your gray and black holding tanks and fill your freshwater tank. If you did not register for a full-service site, a dump station and fresh water will be available on site, and septic and water 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 and/or filling these tanks.

## **Arriving In Gillette**

- Your parking credentials will indicate the type of parking you chose when you registered. Follow the directions included in the Confirmation Packet to get to your parking area. The Arrival Area is where you can pick up Will Call credentials or wait for friends with whom you would like to park.
- Prior to arrival, make sure your parking credentials are affixed to your windshield so the Parking Team volunteers can quickly identify the type of parking you requested.

- 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.
- Follow the Parking Team volunteer to your spot and park as directed. If there's a problem, have it resolved after you are parked, so as 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.
- Once parked and settled in, be sure to complete the Locator Link found on [FMCA.com/Locator](https://www.fmca.com/locator). Complete the information so we can find you in case of an emergency. If you need assistance with this process, make a note of your parking location and visit the Information Center in the Wyoming Center for assistance with your location entry.

### Getting Started

- The event program located in your welcome bag, includes all the information needed to navigate the convention. Perhaps the most important part for a first-time attendee is the Grounds Services section, which provides nuts-and-bolts information about the event. The program also 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 found on [FMCA.com](https://www.fmca.com) and the FMCA Event App for your smart phones will be available 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 FMCA Daily Newsletter, the Text Messaging Service, and the FMCA Event App.
- 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 grounds maps. Use the map to familiarize yourself with the grounds. Since the majority of 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. Also, make use of the trams system to get from the parking lots into the main 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 with the number of activities taking place 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 own personal list of "things to do." This will help you stay on track and assure that you do not miss a seminar or activity that may have drawn you to Gillette in the first place.

## Seminars

There are many reasons RV owners attend FMCA International Conventions, but the one cited most is the seminar program. These sessions give attendees the opportunity to learn more about their RVs and the lifestyle possibilities that it affords. The array of educational opportunities extend from super technical to just plain fun. However, as a first-time attendee, there are certain 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
- Top Five Things That Will Go Wrong
- FMCA Benefits and FMCAassist
- Towing Roundtable
- Supplemental Towed Car Braking
- Steering/Suspensions — Coach Ride And Handling
- Waste Management—It All Goes Downhill
- Maps And Apps For RV Trip Planning
- RV Fire Safety
- Understanding RV Air Brakes
- Engine Maintenance (Cummins)
- Testing/Understanding Air Brakes

## Orientation For First-Time Attendees and Chapter Fair

**Tuesday, July 6, 3:00 p.m.**

### Central Pavilion

During this seminar, presented before the event officially begins, first-time attendees will be introduced to the fun, spirit, activities, and opportunities at the “Spirit Of Wyoming” convention. Be sure to bring your program and map (included in your Welcome Bag) and wear your “First Time Attendee” ribbon. Discover what an FMCA International Convention is all about.

## Mentoring Program

We know how hard it is being a first-timer and not knowing how “to do” an FMCA convention. That’s why we developed the FMCA Mentoring Program. These veteran convention-goers, identified by their bright yellow and blue “FMCA Events 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 “Spirit Of Wyoming” experience fun and exciting.

## Questions Before The Event?

Since this is your first time attending an FMCA International Convention, you are bound to have questions — and lots of them. Hopefully many were answered in this guide or in the Gillette Confirmation Guide. If not, another source is the “FAQs” page or “Information Central” that can be found by visiting [FMCA.com|Events](http://FMCA.com|Events). Still no luck? Check out one of our First-Timer YouTube videos on [FMCA.com](http://FMCA.com) in which we answer questions from first-timers. Or give us a call at (800) 543-3622 or send an e-mail to [convention@fmca.com](mailto:convention@fmca.com) and we’ll be happy help answer your questions. Enjoy the event!