

The Good Sam Club

The Good Sam Club takes its name from the term "good Samaritan". The Good Sam Club came to life in 1966 when cartoonist E.C. Bilsland Jr. sketched a dark-haired character with a broad smile and a halo to personify the spirit of Good Samaritan RVers. The rest is history and the Good Sam logo is one of the most recognized symbols among Campers and RVers.

"TENNESSEE GOOD SAM CHAPTERS"

What are "Good Sam Chapters"? Good Sam Chapters in the State Organization are "Local Groups" of Recreational Vehicle (RV) enthusiasts that have joined together for the mutual enjoyment & benefits of "group camping" in a wholesome "family" type atmosphere that promotes excellent camaraderie & fellowship. They are also affiliated with the Good Sam Club, "The Good Sam Club", for Recreational Vehicle (RV) enthusiasts that were organized for the mutual assistance of fellow RV'ers. The Tennessee Good Sam Chapters consists of 3 Areas comprising a total of 24 Local Chapters (and growing).

What is the Organizational Structure of the Tennessee Good Sam Chapter? The State Committee made up of Chapter presidents or their representatives that nominate/elect the Officers for the offices of State Director and State Treasurer for a two-year term. These Officers are then appointed by the Good Sam Club from the nomination/election recommendation made by Chapters throughout the State. The State Committee meets three times each year, at a central location in the state for the purpose of conducting State Business and/or election of officers. The State Director conducts the business of the State Organization and organizes new chapters within the State (with the aid of his appointed Assistant Directors) and is guided by the "By-Laws" previously adopted by the Committee. The State Organization holds two Samborees each year. One is held in the Spring and one in the Fall. The business of the State Organization is also conducted at these Samborees at previously announced date and time.

Who can be a member of the Tennessee Good Sam Chapters? Membership in a Local Good Sam Chapter in Tennessee automatically makes an individual a member of the Tennessee Good Sam Organization. In order to join a local Good Sam Chapter, you must be a member of the Good Sam Club. Information about the Good Sam Club can be obtained by visiting their web site. A link to the Good Sam Club is on the Links page of the Tennessee Good Sam web site (www.tngoodsam.com). After touring our site please visit the Good Sam Club at (www.goodsamclub.com)

Why should you belong to a local Chapter? You should belong to a local Chapter for the fun, fellowship, games, travel, food, crafts, etc. A Chapter is made up of a varying number of rigs that have a mutual interest. The individual Chapter decides on the number rigs in the Chapter and supports each other by having monthly campouts, or during winter months, having dinner meetings. They camp together and support each other when there are problems. Local Chapters have vests in their Chapter colors, patches, etc. to identify that Chapter. The more who are involved, the more things you can do. Many Chapters support local charities; many Chapters in the state support The Ronald McDonald Houses across Tennessee.

The RV life style, we do seem to have our own VOCABULARY.

HOBO PARKING: Parked as you arrive. If you wish to park next to someone you must arrive together. Most other states have hobo parking only. (this is a fantastic way to make new friends)

LIMITED ELECTRIC: Means not enough electric to run your major appliances such as air, microwave, or coffee maker. You can run TV & fans.

ADULT GAMES: "Not what you think" Activities such as horse shoes, washer toss, bean bag toss and bean bag baseball. Games for us older kids.

STATE COMMITTEE MEETING: Where the State Director meets with all the chapter presidents or their designated representative and they discuss state business and the rules that govern our chapters. Open to all to attend, but only presidents or their representative can speak and vote.

FIRST TIMER: Someone attending their first Tennessee Samboree or one of our other rallies.

50/50 TICKETS: Usually these are sold for a \$1.00 apiece at chapter outings and State Rally's. Half the funds collected are either paid out in one, two, or three cash prizes and the other half donated to one or more charities.

PARADE OF FLAGS: This event takes place at a Samboree. Each of the out of State Dignitaries and Chapters attending are permitted to join in a line showing their State flag or their chapter banner or flag.

STATE STORE: Where State patches and other Good Sam Club merchandize is sold.

NATIONAL CLEAN UP DAY: A day set designated by Good Sam were chapters participate in cleaning up designated area they have chosen.

CHAPTER VEST: Vest that are worn at the different Samborees, Chapter meetings and other special occasions. They have the chapters name and colors. People also sew their rally and other patches onto them.

DOGS FOR THE DEAF: Founded in 1977 the organization trains dogs for those hearing impaired individuals to be able to live normal lives. The national Good Sam Club adopted this as its official charity in 1980. These dogs become the ears for those people they are trained with.

WAGON MASTER: Person who is in charge of arranging, and parking the 275-300 campers at our rally.

CARAVAN: Three or more campers who as a group to a rally or campout.

DRY CAMPING: Camping without electric water or sewer hookups.