

**FRIENDSHIP FORCE WESTERN COLORADO
AUGUST 2026 NEWS BULLETIN**

TEAM LEADER: BEVERLY SPEVERE:

I hope that everyone is staying cool in this heat. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Ice Cream Social at Shar's house on the 15th.

MEMBERSHIP: Joy Allen

As always, continue to talk to your friends, family and neighbors about one of our valley's best kept secrets: Friendship Force!

NEXT BOOK FAIR FOR CHRISTMAS SEASON IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8. Save the date.

HOSPITALITY: Kathy Nielsen

Volunteers for the July refreshments. No refreshments, it's the Ice Cream Social

FROM CLAUDIA: Come cool off at our annual Ice Cream Social on Saturday, August 15, 2026 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. It will be at Shar Weiser's house (on the Redlands), 506 Tiara Drive, Grand Junction 81507.

If you have not RSVP'D, please do so by contacting Claudia Kellar at 970-201-8822.

JOURNEYS: Dan Clancy

2026 OUTBOUND TO OTTAWA AND LAKE SIMCOE, ONTARIO, CANADA. (Sept 20 – Oct 05)

Coordinators – Shar Weiser and Dan Clancy

- ❖ FFI fees and both club's program fees have been paid.
- ❖ Host matching and contact information has been received from Ottawa and individual communication has begun.
- ❖ Host matching for Lake Simcoe is expected in August.
- ❖ Final arrangements for train travel from Ottawa to Lake Simcoe and airport bus on 10/5 will be made and confirmed by August 15.

2027 Inbound from Sarasota FL (dates to be decided – aiming for March or April)

Communication with the Club president and Journey Coordinator has begun.

2027 Outbound to Spokane (dates to be decided – aiming for Sept or Oct)

Communication with the Club president and Journey Coordinator has begun.

DAY TRIPS:

RECAP - 2026 July Day Trip – Redstone and Marble, CO - Thursday, 7/23

The town of Redstone was smaller than I expected, but adorable, nonetheless. We visited one of the shops and spent some time walking through the Redstone Inn lobby and looking at the event facilities.

In Marble, we ate lunch at the Colorado-famous Slo-Groovin' Bar-B-Q restaurant. There were 13 of us and we were able to all be seated at one of their outside picnic tables in the shade. When we walked down to the Marble Symposium carving spot, we found that the symposium for that session had ended the day before. We still saw several carvings that had been completed, but there was no carving activity. Next time I will plan the visit better to be there to see some carving experts doing their thing.

On our way back to Grand Junction, after driving over McClure Pass and through Hotchkiss, we stopped in Delta for some much-needed ice cream at the Dairy Queen. Nobody doesn't like ice cream.

2026 August Day Trip – Saturday, 8/22 - Grand Mesa Highway Road clean up.

This experience involves picking up trash along the highway. Safety vests and trash bags are provided. We will eat lunch together afterwards. Bring a pair of gloves.

Signup sheets will be at the August Ice Cream Social (at Shar's home), 8/15 and Sign-up Genius will have an ad for it.

2026 September Day Trip – Friday, 9/11 – Meeker Sheep Dog Trials.

This annual event is a team competition (handler and dog) wrangling a group of sheep on a long field, where the dog must herd the sheep down the field & into a pen.

Rocky Mountain Rendezvous

When: **October 19(Mon) to 22(Thurs), 2026**

Where: **YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO**

Who: Members of all 7 Rocky Mountain Region Clubs are invited. 8 members of Western Colorado have signed up to go.

What:

- Presentations and discussions on topics pertaining to the current status of FFI.
- Also discussed will be: Ways to bring new members into the clubs; Partnering with local clubs; Foundations of global citizenship; Finding fun in Rocky Mountain Park.
- Meeting and hanging out with members of the 6 other clubs in our region.
- Three nights' accommodation in the park.
- The cost of the conference is \$111 plus applicable housing fees. This includes 3 breakfasts, two dinners and snacks. Lunch is on your own. There is a restaurant on site and many options in Estes Park. The bedrooms in the cabins have two queen beds and a bathroom. Each bedroom is \$400 for three nights. Sharing a bedroom would cost \$200 for three nights. One large room in each cabin has 3 bunk beds. 6 people in a bunk room would make the cost \$400/6 or \$67 for 3 nights. There are also hotel-style rooms in the Lodge, a 5-minute walk from the cabins. Cost for the Lodge rooms are \$109 - \$139 per night.

How to sign up: Members who want to go but have not signed up can contact Dan Clancy. It is not too late to join in!

Joseph Center Tour – Tuesday, 8/4, 1:00pm

We have been invited to come visit the Joseph Center complex in Grand Junction. This is the organization that we frequently donate to after an Inbound Journey and from our Christmas collections. The organization was a long-standing vision of founder Mona Lighline. She made her dream come true in 2016 helping homeless women with children. The Joseph Center continues to have a day shelter as well as the Joseph Center Adult Advocacy Program (JCAAP) and Generating All Possibilities (GAP) fund. The center also offers guardianship, conservatorship, VA fiduciary, and budget counseling. In 2020, the Golden Girls Project was created to provide temporary shelter and support services to empower homeless women 50+ in Mesa County.

LUNCH BUNCH: Karen Taylor

The Lunch Bunch will meet Wednesday, August 12th at 11:30 at Pour Fellows, 7th and Main.