



## 1<sup>st</sup> Timers 101

We'd like to welcome you to your very first Escapade! Congratulations on your decision to take your RVing experience to the next level.

You're in for an incredibly fun-filled week. With so many activities packed into just five days, it's easy to get overwhelmed, and possibly miss something you really want to attend. We want you to arrive well informed of what to expect so you'll get the most out of your Escapade. This is the reason the **1<sup>st</sup> Timers 101** was created. In addition to the *Frequently Asked Questions* page, this series of information will address topics with first time attendees in mind.

**What is a 1<sup>st</sup> Timer?** A 1<sup>st</sup> Timer is someone attending Escapade for the first time. Not all 1<sup>st</sup> Timers are new Escapees. Each year there are attendees who have been Escapee RV Club members for many years, finally making their way to an Escapade, while others are new SKPs. Either way, we're happy you're here!

**E-Ticket and Parking Permit** About a month before Escapade you'll receive your parking permit and your E-ticket through email. We ask that you print these documents before arriving and display the parking permit in the lower, left corner of your windshield. Your E-ticket should be readily available when you arrive.

**Holding and Fresh Water Tanks** Plan to arrive with empty holding tanks and a full fresh water tank. If you've chosen to park in the Boondocking section, this may seem obvious. For those parking in the full hook-up section you may wonder why this is important. In a rally situation, when hundreds of rigs are parked together, it can be quite taxing on the fairground's water and sewer systems. There may be situations when many people may be using water at the same time. It's possible the pressure could be compromised. In those cases, having your water tank filled and being able to use from your own tank is very helpful. Arrive with your holding tanks empty for the same reason. Be considerate by taking some stress off the fairground's sewer system.

Boondockers, please note: there are 2 dump stations on-site in case you need one during your stay. We ask that you notify the parking or security team before you leave your site to dump. A pump-out service will also be available.

**What to expect when you arrive** First off, there will be a lot of directional signs leading you to Escapade. As you drive into the fairgrounds, you'll be greeted by our Parking Team. These folks are excited to be there and their enthusiasm shows! Their bright orange attire makes them easy for you to identify. As mentioned above, your parking permit should already be taped on your windshield, and your E-ticket should be readily available to show to the Parking Team. The E-ticket lets the Parking Team and

Customer Service know what days you're registered for. If you are arriving early and need to make changes to your reservations, you'll be directed to our Customer Service Team, who will take care of you before you're parked. Most likely you'll be arriving along with many other attendees, and the area gets very congested. Having your documents ready will help keep the line flowing smoothly.

A Parking Team member will direct you to your parking site and help get you safely parked. If you have a motorhome, your parking permit must remain taped to your windshield. If you're in a towable RV (5<sup>th</sup> wheel or trailer), the parking permit needs to be affixed to your rig, where it can be seen from the road. It should not be left in your truck. The parking permit must remain affixed to your rig for the duration of the event.

Once you've been parked, make your way to Registration. You'll exchange your E-ticket for a Welcome Bag and identification badge. You're expected to wear your identification badge at all times, as this is your official credential throughout Escapade and your "ticket" into all events, including coming and going from the fairgrounds. All buildings and gates will be monitored.

**1<sup>st</sup> Timer Icon** When you receive your name badge at Escapade, you'll notice there's a "1<sup>st</sup>" icon printed on it, which distinguishes you as being there for your first time. Escapees enjoy sharing information with other Escapees, and especially 1<sup>st</sup> Timers. Folks will take notice and be excited to welcome you.

**Get involved – Volunteer!** Did you know that Escapade is primarily run by an incredible team of volunteers? Near the Registration tables, you'll find the Volunteer/Information booth. There you'll find lists of volunteer opportunities and sign-up sheets. A few of the positions available are golf cart transportation, popcorn booth, hospitality clean-up, bingo, greeters, etc. Most of these jobs require just three hours of your time. Volunteering is a great way to get involved, and it's fun too! If you enjoy volunteering and like what you see, you'll have a chance to sign up to potentially be on staff for the next Escapade.

**Escapade Shirts and Hats** Watch your inbox for a notification that official Escapade shirts and hats are available for purchase through the Escapees website. It's a great way to preserve your memories of Escapade for years to come. Although it isn't a requirement that you purchase one, it certainly adds to the fun if you're wearing the event's official gear. Each day during Escapade, there's a posted "color of the day". Although you won't have Escapade shirts for all those days, wearing the official color is one more way to join in the comradery. You'll see our "Old Timers" showing off shirts from many previous Escapades. A few shirts and hats will be available for purchase at the Escapees Club Booth once you arrive, however they always sell out very quickly. It's best to order online and know yours is waiting for you upon your arrival, rather than risk your size not being available.

**General Assembly** You'll see this mentioned quite a bit throughout the programing. General Assembly refers to the building where Escapade holds its opening ceremony, evening entertainment, and closing ceremony. Seminars expecting larger attendance are also held there. The location of General Assembly will be clearly marked on your map.

**Hospitality** Hospitality is the "hub" of Escapade. Registration will be located there when you first arrive. It's where you'll find our Coffee & Donut team each morning, and where you'll find the Wi-fi Café. It's a place to relax for conversation between seminars, etc. Some socials take place in Hospitality, along with the Chili Cook-off. The location will be clearly marked on your map.

**Escapade Extras** As we get nearer the start of Escapade, be watching your inbox for **Escapade Extras**. These are official e-newsletters with updates and important information regarding 'all things Escapade'. Once Escapade begins, you'll keep receiving them daily, with notifications, reminders, updated information, and additions to Escapade programing. The **Escapade Extras** are also printed and will be available in Hospitality each day for your convenience.

**Program Book, Pocket Map, Event App** Upon your arrival at Escapade, you'll receive a program book, which contains all the important information about Escapade, including the seminar schedule and detailed descriptions of each. You'll also receive a handy little "pocket sized" guide, with a detailed map, social schedule, and a condensed listing of seminars. Your event app will contain all information from both. Once the app is completed and ready, you'll receive information on how you can download it ahead of time, and begin planning your week.

**Seminars & Discussion Panels** With over 80 seminars and discussion panels being presented throughout Escapade you'll have a lot of information to absorb. All seminars last exactly an hour, and begin and end on time. Seminar rooms are climate controlled. It's important to wear comfortable clothing and consider bringing a bottle of water along. Some presenters will provide hand-outs and some won't. It's a good idea to have a pen and pad along for keeping notes. Since it'll be impossible to attend every seminar, partners sometimes choose to "get more bang for their buck" by going separate directions and attending different ones and then discuss what they learned later.

**What is The ROW?** In the early years of Escapade, The ROW was exactly as it sounds: representatives of various Chapters, BoFs and Escapee RV parks all parked together in a row and lined up tables in front of their rigs. Attendees came out to visit and learn all about these groups. The difference today is that The ROW has a dedicated space inside a building. Representatives still set up their information in rows and attendees can now comfortably visit and learn all about the various groups within the Escapees RV Club. You'll want to make a point of visiting The ROW and get to

know more ways to connect with Escapees across the country and throughout the year.

### **FYI...**

**Chapters** represent groups of Escapees from various geographical areas.

**BoFs** (Birds of a Feather) are groups within the Escapees RV Club, representing special interests for like-minded SKPs. A few examples are Geo-cachers BoF, Photography BoF, Boomers, HAM Radio BoF, etc. Chapters and BoFs are open to all Escapees.

**SKPs** is a nick-name for Escapees.

**Socials** Organized socials and happy hours are a very popular tradition at Escapade. Socials take place in seminar rooms, beginning at 4:30 each afternoon. The social schedule is extensive and includes socials hosted by various BoFs, Chapters and other groups. Published socials are open to all attendees. Look for a listing in your pocket map, as well as on the mobile event app. You're welcome to attend whatever social you have an interest in. It's a great way to meet folks in a fun, relaxed setting. Socials are informal. There's no need to dress up.

**1<sup>st</sup> Timers Social – Meet & Greet** We'd like to officially invite you to the **1<sup>st</sup> Timers Social – Meet & Greet!** Please check your schedule for time and date. This social is intended to bring all 1<sup>st</sup> Timers together under one roof, giving you the opportunity to socialize and get to know each other. It's a fun, informal time just for you!

**What to bring to a social** At most of the socials you're invited to, you'll be expected to bring what's called your "set-up". A "set-up" consists of the following: your own plates (paper is perfectly fine), utensils and napkins. You're also generally asked to bring a beverage of choice for yourself and a snack or appetizer that can be shared with the group. The appetizer may be anything you choose to provide, and doesn't have to be fancy or complicated. It's a good idea to arrive at Escapade with your social and/or happy hour snacks thought out, so you won't be caught off guard and feel a need to rush off to the store for something.

Some socials provide food, so your beverage and "set-up" is all you'll need to bring. Occasionally there may be a social that provides everything. In that case, just bring yourself!

All information regarding socials will be clearly stated so there's no need to guess.

**Happy Hours** Many times, informal happy hours spring up, with small groups of neighbors in the various parking areas. Don't be surprised if you're invited to participate. **RV Country** (our exclusive RV dealer for Escapade) puts on themed happy

hours with live music each day at 4:30. They provide everything. Their location will be clearly marked on your maps.

***The Escapade Market*** The Escapade Market is comprised of some of the friendliest exhibitors in the RV community! Many of them are Escapee members and RVers themselves, and truly enjoy being there. They offer a wide array of competitively priced products and services for you to purchase. The Escapade Market hours are Sunday, 9:00am – 2:30pm and Monday – Wednesday, 9:00am – 4:00pm. Feel free to visit the market as many times as you'd like. You're sure to find something you need, or want to add to your "wish-list".

***Donuts for CARE*** Every morning during Escapade our Coffee and Donut team will be up bright and early, serving free coffee and selling donuts with a smile (for a small cash fee). One of the mornings we'll be having a donut auction for CARE. In case you aren't familiar with CARE, it stands for Continuing Assistance for Recuperating Escapees. You can learn about CARE by visiting <https://www.escapees.com/community/c-a-r-e/>. Buy a donut and your generous donation will support CARE! You'll find information regarding Donuts for CARE in your programming.

### ***Here's what you can expect at Escapade***

***A busy week*** Escapade has something to keep you busy from morning until night. Come stocked with food for preparing some quick meals. Concessions are available; keep in mind however, lines can sometimes be long in between seminars. There may be times you find it faster to have something on-hand in your rig that you can grab and go.

***Camaraderie*** Escapees are generally very inclusive. SKPs love to welcome new attendees. Hugs are a long-held Escapee tradition and you'll see many hugs given at Escapade. Expect to receive some yourself. If you're not a hugger, no worries! Just extend your hand and attendees will respect your wishes of a handshake in lieu of a hug. Either way, you can expect to meet many friendly, like-minded folks attending Escapade. A lot of friendships are formed at Escapades, many last lifetimes.

***Enjoy yourself!*** Come prepared to experience all the wonderful opportunities available, share time with your peers and learn everything you can about the RV lifestyle. Most importantly, come prepared to have fun! When Escapade ends, we hope you'll say, "Wow, what a week!" and leave with an overload of information, many new friends, and great memories.

***We're looking forward to seeing you at Escapade!***