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SPRING BREAK FAMILIES PACK JELLYSTONE PARK CAMP-RESORTS - PAGE 2
CINCINNATI – Cabin fever is leading to a huge increase in spring break cabin bookings at Yogi Bear’s Jellystone Park Camp-Resorts. Over half of the family camping and glamping chain’s more than 75 locations are welcoming guests, including some which are opening early.

Jellystone Park locations are famous for providing families with attractions such as pools, water slides and splashgrounds, activities including jumping pillows, wagon rides and foam parties, and interactions with Yogi Bear costumed characters.

View the list of open parks below.

“Like everything else, spring break looks very different this year because of COVID-19,” said Trent Hershenson, vice president of Marketing, who noted Jellystone Park 2021 reservations are up 136% so far this year, driven by a huge increase in spring break bookings. “Parents are eager to get their families out of the house, especially those of us who have been living through one of the worst winters in years.”

Hershenson encourages parents to make late winter and spring reservations now, as cabins and RV sites are booking up quickly.

Besides the cabin fever resulting from the pandemic, Hershenson says there are several other reasons families are staying at Jellystone Park this year. “Most of our locations are within a two- or three-hour drive of a major city – which eliminates air travel – and parents feel more comfortable staying in their own cabin or RV, rather than at a hotel. Plus, camping is the original form of social distancing.” He added that theme park restrictions and cancelled spring break events are prompting more families to book glamping and camping vacations.

Jellystone Park locations continue to use the sanitation and social distancing procedures they introduced last year. Many are holding theme weekends and special events, such as Easter egg hunts with Yogi Bear. Hershenson suggests guests contact the park they plan to visit for current information on the status of attractions and activities, which vary by location.

Last year, Jellystone Park saw a huge uptick in families visiting for the first time. There are tips for planning a great spring break camping vacation on the Jellystone Park blog: https://www.campjellystone.com/top-tips/.

Source: Press Release
LOGAN, OHIO - What was once hilltop farmland is becoming luxury resort camping in the Hocking Hills at Lake Logan. Hilltop Resorts invites guest to enjoy a variety of outdoor luxury accommodations all in a resort setting, creating a great place for reunions, bridal parties, group camping, and family outings. Guest at Hilltop Resorts can enjoy tent camping, RV camping, and deluxe cabin rentals all in one resort. In addition, Hilltop Resorts offers teepees, glamping tents, and a covered wagon! There are so many options at Hilltop it is truly camping your way!

Surrounded by 90 acres of beautiful mature forest, there is plenty of room to roam and explore. A nature trail heads down to the shore of Lake Logan with a dock for fishing and a kayak/canoe launch area. The resort is located just 1.5 miles from Route 33 at state Route 664 and only minutes from the Hocking Hills State Park, dining, shopping, and outdoor activities. After a day of adventure, Hilltop Resorts is the perfect place to build a campfire, toast smores, and enjoy the sunset.

The Hilltop Clubhouse features modern restrooms and a 24-hour coin laundry on the first floor with a recreation hall, camp store, and office on the second floor. The inviting porch facing the recreation area is waiting for you to enjoy an ice cream while rocking away and enjoying the hilltop view. Have a special event coming up? The recreation hall is available to rent for gatherings up to 85 guests.

Full Article: https://bit.ly/3sPA0Jp
As COVID-19 cases continue to decline and the state’s vaccination plan is amplified, the Wolf Administration announced revised and lifted mitigation restrictions that are effective statewide today.

“Pennsylvania is taking a measured approach to revising or lifting mitigation orders,” Gov. Wolf said. “The reason we are seeing cases drop can be attributed, in part, to people following the mitigation efforts we have in place. Mask-wearing, social distancing, and hand hygiene are making a difference and need to continue even as we see more and more people fully vaccinated. We need to balance protecting public health with leading the state to a robust economic recovery. We are lifting mitigation efforts only when we believe it is safe to do so.”

The revised mitigations restrictions announced today include:

- Revised maximum occupancy limits for indoor events to allow for 15% of maximum occupancy, regardless of venue size. Core public health measures such as face covering (mask-wearing), social distancing, and hand hygiene still must be enforced. The 15% of maximum occupancy is permitted only if attendees and workers are able to comply with the 6-foot physical distancing requirement.

- Revised maximum occupancy limits for outdoor events to allow for 20% of maximum occupancy, regardless of venue size. Core public health measures such as face covering (mask-wearing), social distancing, and hand hygiene still must be enforced. The 20% of maximum occupancy is permitted only if attendees and workers are able to comply with the 6-foot physical distancing requirement.

- Eliminate out-of-state travel restrictions. In November, the Department of Health provided an updated travel order requiring anyone over the age of 11 who visits from another state to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test or place themselves in a travel quarantine for 14 days upon entering Pennsylvania.

Full Article: https://bit.ly/3kMjVkV
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Care Camps announces major partnership with Patrick Industries

ELKHART, Indiana: One of the RV and marine industries’ largest suppliers has joined the cause to help more children with cancer experience the healing power of the outdoors through a new cause marketing partnership with Care Camps. They kicked off their partnership with a substantial first-time gift this week and are making plans for additional ways to partner with the charity.

Well known in the leisure lifestyle space, Patrick Industries is a major manufacturer and distributor of component and building products for the recreational vehicle, marine, manufactured housing, and various other industrial markets.

Patrick has experienced significant growth over the last several years and is now managing over 190 manufacturing and distribution facilities located across the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia. As part of that growth, the group is enhancing their corporate social responsibility platform with a new partnership with the charity best known for helping kids impacted by cancer to find hope, happiness, and the transformational healing power of the outdoors.

Patrick’s Executive Vice President of Sales Jeff Rodino said, “Our Patrick family is extremely excited and very humbled to partner with Care Camps in their mission to provide children battling cancer with unique outdoor camping experiences that will create special life-long memories. Care Camps’ vision and drive is an excellent match with Patrick’s core values and we are honored to have formed a partnership between this organization and all of our Patrick teams throughout the country to support such a great cause.”

Care Camps provides opportunities for kids with cancer to experience the outdoors through 135 special oncology camps that serve every community throughout the US and Canada. At Care Camps, kids learn to appreciate nature, along with growing life-long friendships with other kids who understand exactly what they are going through. Through Care Camps, many kids have gotten to experience the outdoors for the first time and have grown up to be the next generation of camping enthusiasts!

As the number of children impacted by cancer grows each year, along with the cost of medical treatment, so does the need for additional funding to help the kids.

Care Camps Director of Development Jennifer Mercer said, “The Patrick team and their leadership have shown an incredible heart for giving back to make a difference in the lives of these kids. Their initial donation along with planned future employee engagement and cause marketing initiatives will bring the outdoors experience to thousands of kids who otherwise would not have had this chance. We hope the employees and customers of Patrick are proud to work with a company who has chosen to give back and support so many kids with the opportunity to find hope, happiness, and healing in the outdoors.”

Source: Press Release
PRESIDENT Joe Biden said his administration is seeking to help small businesses by giving them exclusive access to the Paycheck Protection Program for two weeks, and he called on lawmakers to pass his $1.9 trillion stimulus plan to provide additional assistance.

From Wednesday, Feb. 24, through Tuesday, March 9, only businesses with fewer than 20 employees will be able to apply for relief through the program, which provides loans to pay workers.

“Small businesses are the engines of our economic progress,” Biden said Monday, Feb. 22, at the White House. “They’re getting crushed.”

He said 400,000 small businesses have closed during the pandemic and “millions more are hanging by a thread.”

The Biden administration is seeking to boost the economy amid the pandemic by pushing his stimulus plan, which has run into opposition from GOP lawmakers who say it costs too much. Biden said the stimulus would provide $50 billion to help the hardest hit small businesses after the paycheck program expires.

“Critics say the plan is too big,” Biden said of his rescue plan. “Let me ask the rhetorical question: What would you have me cut? What would you leave out?”

Democrats are beginning the final push for Biden’s stimulus this week, dropping any pretense of bipartisanship to quickly pass the package before an earlier round of benefits runs out.

Full Article: https://bit.ly/2O6xqzY
Greg Bender named VP and GM of Ocean Lakes Family Campground

Outgoing Vice President and General Manager, Lance Thompson, announces his retirement after 36 years of dedication to Ocean Lakes Family Campground and The Jackson Companies

MYRTLE BEACH, SC - Ocean Lakes Family Campground, a division of The Jackson Companies, has promoted Greg Bender to Vice President and General Manager. He is responsible for leading the overall operations of Ocean Lakes Family Campground upon Lance Thompson’s retirement on March 31st.

Bender grew up in Ocean Lakes, spending time at the Annual Lease Site his parents purchased in 1974. He began his career more than 30 years ago in Ocean Lakes’ oceanfront Arcade. “I was very fortunate that a friend and teammate of mine encouraged me to come to work at Ocean Lakes in March of 1988,” commented Greg. “It has been the best decision I could have ever made.”

He continued to work his way up in the company, after graduating from Marion High School. He trained to be a Golf Car mechanic, the Shop Supervisor, and quickly learned about Golf Car sales.

Greg was awarded the company’s top honor by being named the Nelson & Mary Emily Jackson Teammate of the Year in 1997. “I will always be grateful for the opportunities that our founders Mr. and Mrs. Jackson provided me early on,” explains Greg. “I have worked with Lance for more than 30 years, not only has he been my teammate and my friend but also a great mentor.”

As Bender continued to broaden his knowledge and leadership skills, he became Ocean Lakes Golf Cars’ Manager in 1997. He was instrumental in the growth of the campground’s Golf Car rental program, with a fleet exceeding 900 Club Cars. He took over the campground’s Laundry and Vending operations in 2004. Bender continued to develop Ocean Lakes Golf Car Sales and Service, building a strong reputation in the region, and capitalizing on the custom golf car market.

Today, Ocean Lakes Golf Cars is a leader in the golf car industry, earning prestigious award recognition, Club Car’s coveted Black & Gold Elite status beginning in 2017 through today.

The distinction puts Ocean Lakes Golf Cars in the top 10 percent of Club Car dealers worldwide. To earn Elite status, Ocean Lakes Golf Cars achieved extraordinary levels of sales and service, demonstrated exceptional financial performance, implemented successful marketing strategies, and maintained top-notch facilities. In 2019, Greg was named Ocean Lakes’ Assistant General Manager, in preparation for Lance’s retirement.

On March 9, 2021, Lance Thompson, Ocean Lakes’ Vice President and General Manager celebrated his 36th anniversary with The Jackson Companies and Ocean Lakes Family Campground, and on March 31, 2021, Lance will be retiring from the company.

Tugging at the hearts of all of us, Lance explained, “I will be forever grateful to the Jackson family for giving me the opportunity to spend my entire career with such a wonderful company. I could not have asked for a better group of owners or a better group of fellow teammates.”

Announcing Greg Bender’s promotion, Lance commented, “Greg has been an outstanding member of
our management team. He models the kind of attitude and leadership abilities that have garnered him respect and admiration among our entire team and throughout the community."

“Greg has big shoes to fill but his background and knowledge of Ocean Lakes and our culture of serving others were critical elements in his selection as Lance’s successor as Vice President and General Manager,” explains Dennis Wade, CEO of The Jackson Companies.

“Our entire team is behind Greg 100% and we look forward to many great things from him in the future.”

About Ocean Lakes Family Campground
Ocean Lakes Family Campground, a division of The Jackson Companies, is the largest campground on the East Coast and one of the largest in the United States. Located in Myrtle Beach, S.C., it has received numerous awards for excellence. It is the 2017 National Mega RV Park of the Year and has received that honor from the National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds (ARVC) six times. Ocean Lakes received the TripAdvisor® 2019 Hall of Fame Certificate given only to businesses that have received a Certificate of Excellence for five consecutive years based on guest reviews.

Ocean Lakes Family Campground is a division of The Jackson Companies, a family-owned enterprise that includes Prestwick Golf & Country Club, Ocean Lakes Properties, Crystal Lake Mobile Home Village, Ocean Lakes RV Center, Ocean Lakes Golf Cars, and the master-planned development SayeBrook.

Source: Press Release

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In-person KOA Buyer’s Workshop set for April 10-11

KAMPGROUNDS of America Inc. will be returning to its popular in-person format when it hosts its next KOA Buyer’s Workshop April 10-11 at the San Antonio/Alamo KOA Holiday in Texas.

Prior to 2020, Kampgrounds of America Inc. hosted multiple Buyer’s Workshops each year throughout the U.S., all aimed at providing potential new campground owners with the guidance and information they need to make an informed decision on future campground ownership. In October 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, KOA took their Buyer’s Workshop virtual, hosting more than 70 attendees for the first-of-its-kind event.

“While the Virtual KOA Buyer’s Workshop was a resounding success, we know there is nothing like being there in person,” said KOA Director of Franchise Development Larry Brownfield. “We’re all looking forward to personally meeting and interacting with all of our attendees, and ensuring we provide them all of the knowledge and experience our 59-year-old company has to offer as they begin their journey to campground ownership.”

KOA Buyer’s Workshop attendees will learn all of the details of campground ownership, campground management, insurance and finance from KOA experts, as well as from the leaders of KOA partners Independence Bank and Leavitt Recreation & Hospitality Insurance.

Brownfield said camping is now the absolute star of the outdoor industry, with millions of new North American campers flocking to campgrounds and purchasing recreational vehicles. KOA enjoyed a string of nine years of year-over-year record performance. The company finished 2020 nearly on par with its 2019 record performance, despite the delayed opening of many campgrounds in North America.

“We saw record months last summer and fall despite the pandemic,” Brownfield said. “KOA camping was the perfect answer for millions of North Americans eager to get back outside and enjoy nature in a safe, secure environment.”

The cost of the April 10-11 KOA Buyer’s Workshop is $250 per person or $300 per couple, and includes all materials as well as one breakfast and two lunches. The San Antonio/Alamo KOA Holiday is the host campground for the KOA Buyer’s Workshop.

KOA is currently accepting registrations for the April 10-11 Buyer’s Workshop. Just call 800-548-7239 or email dflanagan@koa.net.

Kampgrounds of America Inc. is the long-established leader in the camping industry, with 525 locations throughout the U.S. and Canada. The company was born on the banks of the Yellowstone River in Billings, Montana and Billings is still the site of KOA’s home office.

Source: Press Release
2021 NJ Campground Guide out now

THE 2021 edition of the New Jersey Campground & Outdoor Lodging Vacation Guide is officially here!

The campground and outdoor lodging vacation guides continue to feature detailed listings of the 95 NJCOA campground members along with an easy-to-read state map highlighting campground locations. A quick reference chart starts the beginning of each region which helps readers locate amenities that are important to them. Infographics on services and amenities can be found on each campgrounds’ listing for easy reference.

The 2021 vacation guide features stories on seasonal camping and an infographic on campground etiquette. The feature article in this years’ vacation guide was written by guest columnist Girl Camper, Janine Petitt. In her article, Janine communicates her wealth of knowledge and experience of camping by sharing 8 tips for newcomers to camping. Old hats at camping can also benefit from the tips in her article. Readers will also discover information about attractions and experiences available throughout the 6 regions of the state. There are also two great recipes, Campfire French Toast and Beer Steamed Jersey Fresh Clams, that readers can easily create at the campsite or at home.

If readers want to get the most out of their New Jersey campcation, they need to take a look at the advertisements throughout the vacation guide. The advertisers in the vacation guide are dedicated to helping campers enjoy every aspect of their campcation. Readers will discover advertisements from campgrounds, tourism regions, attractions, RV insurance companies, RV dealers, and a RV rental company.

Whether you take several camping trips throughout the year, are a seasonal camper, or new to camping, the vacation guide will provide you with valuable information to make your next camping adventure exciting and unforgettable.

The official guide for camping in New Jersey is published annually by New Jersey Campground Owners Association (NJCOA). It is free and available for you to order online or view in digital format at www.GoCampingNJ.com. You can also call us at (609) 545-0145 to order your free copy.

Source: Press Release
ARVC leadership profile: Wade Elliott

AFTER successful careers as a naval submarine officer and naval nuclear power plant engineer as well as in commercial banking, finance and database marketing, what led you to get involved in the campground industry?

I always wanted to have my own business. I think that’s how a lot of RV park owners got into this industry. There was a larger company that was going to shut this part of their business down, and I felt I could take it over and provide the value-add proposition of being the source of answers for the electrical part of an RV park. That’s why I endeavor to belong to the board of the National Electric Code (NEC) and the standards technical panel and the NFPA 1194. I get on these boards and panels that really don’t have anything to do with sales when you look at them directly, but when Utility Supply Group becomes the place you go to for answers, and oh, by the way, they’ve got pedestals, that’s what I was looking to provide.

You’ve also served on ARVC’s Public Affairs Committee and as chair of the Supplier Council. Why do you feel it’s important to be involved in so many different aspects of the industry?

It’s important for me to give back to the organization and to the industry. A number of years ago, I was on the ARVC Business Forum and we were having a meeting with the board of directors down in Amelia Island, Fla. We were in small groups and I was leading the meeting, talking passionately about what RV parks should do. There was a gentleman there that didn’t know me, his name was David L. Berg. He turned to somebody and said, “I don’t know this guy. What park does he own?” Someone told him, “He doesn’t own an RV park. He’s a vendor.” And that’s how I always wanted to be seen, as a member of the group, helping people in our industry and our association understand the right way to do something and to give them a way to solve their problems.

Utility Supply Group was recently acquired by Rexel USA Inc. How will the acquisition impact campground owners?

In one way, it’ll be business as usual. We still have all the same products and we’ve got the same warehouses and systems. The addition, and the beauty of it, is that we were bought by a large electrical wholesale and retail operation that operates across the United States and Canada. So now there are over 400 branches where we have access to all their materials, and they have access to our pedestals. If someone calls me and says they’re building a park and they need their electrical layout done, we can still do that. We can recommend the pedestals and the wire and the distribution panel, all those things that we’ve done in the past. But we can also now provide all the other electrical pieces that a campground needs, not only for their RV sites, but also for all their buildings. In many cases, we can even help
recommend an electrician.

There are now many first-time owners that are either buying parks or building them from scratch. What advice would you give them from an electrical perspective?

If you’re buying a park, know what you’re getting. Know what’s in the ground. Find out what it will take from an electrical infrastructure perspective, not only to get it up to code, but to get it to a place where it’s a park that you want. If you’re buying a park that’s a diamond in the rough, you’re going to have to put some sweat equity into it. If you’re going for a higher-end park and you’ve got 30 amp and it’s only intermittent, you’re going to have to bring it up to code to get it up to 50 amp. You may also want to think about if you want lights or meters or if you want an upper-end pedestal or if you want patio sites and sewers at all the sites and those types of things. If you’re buying a green field, go to association meetings and talk with designers that have designed RV parks. There are plenty of them who know what they’re talking about who follow the NFPA 1194 code. It’s also important to hire an electrical contractor that knows the code for RV parks and has done the work before. RV parks are different than almost anything else electrically. You don’t want to do it wrong.

Source: https://bit.ly/3qg6qva
Campground adds solar array to power store, cabins and RVs

KANSAS City East/Oak Grove KOA Holiday has created an innovative, green project to bring power to their camping guests. The campground is unveiling a newly-constructed solar array capable of supplying all of the power needs for the location and its campers.

Located east of Kansas City near Oak Grove, the new solar field has the ability to produce over 470,000 kWh of power annually. The average American home, in comparison, generally requires about 10,000 kWh each year. This means the campground’s solar array would be able to power nearly 50 homes.

“Campground guests use more electricity than most people realize. In fact, electricity is our third highest expense,” says campground owner Andrea Nuemann. “This is their temporary home away from home and modern RVs have multiple devices to power from air conditioners to TVs and everything in between.”

In addition to creating a reliable power supply, the new solar array is a green initiative that will reduce CO2 emissions. The system is expected to save over 15,000 tons of CO2 over its lifetime. This is equivalent planting 360,000 trees or a 31-million-mile reduction in auto miles.

“Campers by definition appreciate nature so we think many will like that the park has gone solar,” affirms Nuemann. Implementing solar power is just one of the many ways that Nuemann is making her campground greener. The park has also converted to LED lighting and planted more than 375 trees and bushes. More planting is planned for the spring with the goal of adding to the beauty of the campground and reducing air and noise pollution generated by the nearby expressway.

The Kansas City East/Oak Grove KOA Holiday is located at 303 NE 3rd Street in Oak Grove, Missouri. To make reservations, please call Kansas City East/Oak Grove KOA Holiday at (816) 690-6660 or by visiting their website at: https://bit.ly/386H4JV

ABOUT KAMPGROUNDS OF AMERICA
Kampgrounds of America, Inc. (KOA) is the world’s largest system of open-to-the-public campgrounds with more than 520 locations across the U.S. and Canada. The industry leader in outdoor hospitality, KOA's family of campground brands – KOA Journey, KOA Holiday and KOA Resort – offer sites and amenities designed for every type of camping experience.

The company was founded 58 years ago in Billings, Mont., and today serves more than a million camping families each year, who rely on the standards of excellence and unique outdoor adventures KOA is known for.

For more information, visit https://koa.com/.

Source: Press Release
At Care Camps, we believe healing doesn't just happen in hospitals

OUR mission is to allow children living with cancer to enjoy the joy, healing, and freedom that comes from attending specialized oncology camps where they can just be themselves.

In 2020, COVID stopped most people in their tracks, but not the Care Camps we support. During the year 135 camps provided programming to thousands of children and their families. The Camp Directors were very innovative and quickly adapted to new forms of programming to reach the kids. They developed virtual camps, did “Camp In A Box” packages, held online counseling sessions, and ran socially distant family retreats.

Thanks to you, during what is a very uncertain economic time, your generosity allowed us to raise $1.88 million, just shy of the $2 million goal.

You can view our Impact report to find out how your donations are improving the lives of children with cancer and their families.

View Impact report at: https://bit.ly/38c7QAC

Source: Press Release
Alberta campgrounds appear headed for another busy year

COVID-19 created a record rush to provincial campgrounds in 2020, and Alberta Parks doesn’t expect the numbers to ease at all this year when online bookings open on March 4.

Alberta Environment and Parks says last year was the busiest camping season the province has seen to date. Alberta’s 250 campgrounds saw 288,000 total reservations in 2020, up from 193,000 in 2019, and the province is expecting similar numbers this year.

There will be more availability, though, as Alberta Parks has enhanced COVID-19 measures to allow campgrounds to operate at 100 per cent capacity for the entire season. In 2020, campgrounds were at 50 per cent capacity for the first month before increasing to 100 per cent in early July.

Meanwhile, anyone looking to book a spot at a national park in Alberta will have to wait until April.

“We purposely are not opening reservations until April 9 because people will have a better idea of what is going on with respect to COVID-19,” said Jasper National Park
spokesman Steve Young, adding “We usually open reservations in January.”

On the heels of 2020, which saw the Jasper campgrounds running at about 95 per cent capacity, Young said they expect interest to be high again this year.

While all 38 campgrounds will be operating in 2021, the Whistlers site is not expected to be ready until mid-summer. The first campground scheduled to open will be Wapiti on May 5. Group camping is not allowed.

Young urged all those planning to book a campground to create an account before going online. “We’ve been told that people compare it to trying to get tickets for a big concert.”

Another suggestion from Young was to encourage those travelling to Jasper to include two-wheeled transportation. “Bring your bikes to Jasper. We have a real good trail system and it is easier to practise social distancing.”

A privately run RV park just north of Cochrane is anticipating a busy season in 2021. “It’ll be a little more predictable this year,” said Sean Veraart, owner/operator of Spring Hill RV campground, adding COVID-19 protocols are still in effect but now allow showers and a children’s play area to be open.

“We had mostly locals coming here last year so we will continue with our Staycation package. With the border closed there are no Americans coming here,” Veraart said.

Edmonton’s Bill Burnett, an avid camper who is also general manager of Trailblazer RV, is looking forward to enjoying the outdoors in 2021. “We stayed in Wabamun and Jasper last year. We haven’t booked yet this year.”

Comfortable camping goes carbon neutral with Airstream Program

It’s almost spring for folks in the Northern Hemisphere. People are already planning summer camping trips. Airstream, the American makers of those iconic “silver bullet” luxury travel trailers, have launched what they say is the industry’s first initiative to offset carbon emissions.

Travel trailers are towed with vehicles. Airstream also makes touring coaches. Both are associated with burning fuel that creates emissions. The company’s Caravan to Carbon Neutral program is a partnership between Airstream and the National Forest Foundation.

Through the initiative, Airstream will pay to plant more than 118,000 trees in partnership with the foundation. Talk about guilt-free camping. “Glamping” is short for glamorous camping. Which rhymes a bit with tree planting.

The 118,000 trees are projected to help sequester the estimated carbon generated by the first year of driving all the new Airstream travel trailers and touring coaches manufactured in 2021 (and RV sales have risen during COVID).

The estimate includes the carbon emitted during the manufacture and transportation of Airstreams from the company’s Ohio production facility to dealerships throughout the United States.

Owners of the aluminum-clad campers also can purchase carbon reduction kits to pay for additional trees in the ground.

The kits come with custom details, flags to display on an Airstream and other “virtual signifiers,” including a badge in Air Forums, where Airstream owners hang out online.

There are three levels of kits available through Airstream Supply Co.: silver for $50, gold for $100 and platinum for $250.

Silver, for instance, funds foundation efforts to plant 50 trees, sequestering an estimated 25 tons of carbon over their lifetime. That’s equal to driving a passenger car for 62,000 miles. And the cost of the kit is tax-deductible.

The company is pitching the program as one that offers good vibes. As noted on the website:

“What could possibly improve an Airstream adventure into the wild?

Chicago Heights retirees enjoy roles as campground hosts in Florida panhandle

CHICAGO Heights natives Erick and Adrena Williams, both 56, are living a life that is a dream of many working people in Chicago and other parts of the northern United States.

They semiretired at relatively young ages and now live year-round in sunny Florida, far from the cold and snowy winters up north.

"Every day it's like waking up and your backyard is 'Gilligan's Island,'” Erick Williams said, referring to the 1960s sitcom set in a tropical climate.

I met the couple last week during a camping trip to the Florida panhandle. They live there year-round and volunteer as campground hosts at Big Lagoon State Park in Pensacola. He noticed my Illinois license plate and said they left behind their old life in the south suburbs a few years ago.

“We were born and raised in Chicago Heights,” he said.

He served with the U.S. Marine Corps, then drove big trucks around the Midwest for many years, he said. Williams is entrepreneurial and started his own trucking company, he said. Later, he said, he and his wife both worked at Ford Motor Company’s Chicago Assembly Plant in Hegewisch and the stamping plant in Chicago Heights.

“Working at Ford was the hardest job I ever had,” Williams said.

Full Article: https://bit.ly/3bhQmof
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