

ILLINOIS INDIANS STATE RALLY JUNE 20TH-23RD, 2019

By Chris Crabtree

The Illinois Indians State Rally was held on June 20th-23rd, at the Iroquois County Fairgrounds, Crescent City, IL. There were 11 coaches in attendance, 18 adults and 6 children. Some of our attendees arrived a few days early giving us time to relax and help with making up the welcome bags. On Thursday, we started with our opening ceremony in the afternoon, welcome remarks from our Central Representatives, Butch & Valerie Peters and distributing the welcome bags which were full of items donated by local businesses and companies associated with RV products. Later in the evening, we had our Officer's Cookout with everyone bringing a side dish to share. The officers grilled hotdogs, hamburgers and brats and afterwards homemade ice cream. We also played a "GNR Themes Words Scramble Game" by Gail Tate. On Friday, we started our day at the Watseka Food Pantry. Our service project at each of our outings and Rally is to collect non-perishable items for the pantry. At the pantry work day, our members labeled can goods, packaging smaller quantities of items that have been bought in bulk and help placing items on the shelves in the pantry. One of our members, Beverly Davidson always donates beautiful lap quilts she has made to the pantry. Afterwards, we went to a local restaurant "Family Table" for lunch. Great food and they also donate gift certificates for our rally door prizes. In the afternoon, we tried to have a kite flying contest. The winds were just not in our favor, but the kids decided to attach their kites to their bikes and make their own wind and it work! That evening we enjoyed a catered dinner along with out ice cream social sponsored by Winnebago RV Insurance. Afterwards, we drove to Cissna Park to the Country Theatre Workshop to enjoy "The Addams Family Musical". Everyone enjoyed the play and you can't help but admired the local talent and the volunteering of their time to put on plays for a local theatre. Saturday morning, we were served a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage and fruit cups by Mary Genaze, Pat McCormack and the Tate's. Afterwards Lawrence & Gail Tate gave a seminar on Tech Terminology & Smartphone Apps for Travelers. While this was happening, several of

the kids tried again to fly kites and succeeded. The winds were just a little stronger than the day before, just right getting the kites up in the air. After lunch, we were invited to take a tour of Hometown Family Foods which included the bakery and deli. They are locally own and provide us with our catered meals during our outings and Rally. We always have a delicious meal from them as well as scrumptious donuts on Sunday morning before everyone takes off to their next destination. In the bakery, they demonstrated the preparing and frying of the donuts and they sent home with us donuts for everyone to enjoy. Our dinner was catered by Hometown-roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, salad, rolls and peach and blueberry pie for dessert. We enjoyed the pie with some left-over ice cream from the evening before. We finished our evening with entertainment by a local girl who won the 4-H talent contest many years before. Her name is Jani Massey. A very talented, great personality, young lady who delighted us with songs she has wrote as well as other ones she likes to sing. She also brought some of her CD's she has recorded in Nashville for all of us to take home. It was a perfect evening to end our Rally. On Sunday, we said our good-byes around those delicious donuts I talked about earlier. Some of us will soon meet up again at the Grand National Rally while others we will see in the fall.