

## TIPS FOR RV CAMPING

### There are so many supplies at the RV store; are any of them essential to bring to Camp Meeting?

- An **awning hook** is essential for some models, to raise and lower the awning.
- Because of the variety in RVs, bring your **owner's manual** for operation and repair.
- **Quick-dissolving toilet paper** is the only kind supported by an RV. Regular toilet paper will not break down quickly enough to avoid clogging the sewage system in the RV.
- **Sewage treatment liquid** dissolves sewage solids, enabling them to drain out when the black water tank is emptied. Follow the directions on the bottle to know how much to use; more is better.
- The health department requires that a **white hose** be used for all water at the campsite. The material used in these hoses is suitable for potable water.
- **A portable holding tank** for transporting black and/or gray water to the dump station is essential, unless you plan to have your tanks emptied for you by the septic trucks.

### How can I be sure I am setting up my RV properly at the campsite?

- Know the electrical needs for your style of RV, and apply for the proper site. Pop-ups with no air conditioning work on a 15 amp service. If your unit has air conditioning, you will need 30 amp service. Coaches and motor homes require 50 amp service.
- Whenever moving your RV, please be aware of light poles and electrical transformers (which look like large green boxes). Have an assistant outside to help you avoid hitting such things while you back your RV into the campsite. If you are alone, please ask for an assistant when you come to Accommodations.
- Position your RV correctly on your lot. Be sure and leave 3 feet from your trailer to the campsite line. This will insure everyone has adequate space for every RV.
- Place chocks in front and behind your RV tires before disconnecting it from your vehicle. Level it and stabilize it with proper jacks.
- Check your electrical cord for fraying and other damage. If wires stick out of your cord, you are at risk for an electrical fire. Make sure that your plug fits snugly into the outlet. A loose fit pulls extra electricity through the cord, which can also cause a fire or other electrical damage.
- Check to make sure there is a washer screen on your city water inlet, then connect your white water hose to the inlet. Then connect your white hose to the campsite spigot, which should already have a backflow preventer in place. Turn on the spigot and check for leaks. Do not remove the backflow preventer. This part maintains proper water pressure going to your RV. Without it, water surges and/or sediment may ruin your plumbing. It also helps to keep your water clean and healthy. The backflow preventer is Camp Meeting property.
- Turn on your propane tank, checking for a gas leak as you do so.
- If you plan to use hot water in your RV, first open the water pressure release valve slightly. Water will come out of it if the hot water tank is completely filled (approximately 6 gallons). Close the valve. If using gas to heat water, light the pilot or flip on the gas switch inside the RV. If using electricity, flip on the electric switch inside the RV.
- Please see your Loop Host if you have any difficulty or questions during set-up.

### **What are black and gray water? What should I know about managing them?**

Black water is sewage waste water from the toilet. Gray water is waste water from sinks, showers and tubs. Fresh water in your RV can either be piped in as “city water” from the campsite spigot, or carried in the onboard fresh water tank (which holds 30-90 gallons, depending on the model). If you use the fresh water tank, your water pump brings the fresh water to sinks, showers, tubs, and toilets. From there, waste water goes to holding tanks. Daily, check the gauge on your RV that measures how full the black and gray water holding tanks are. Prepare to empty your holding tanks before they become completely full, either by transporting the waste water to one of the dump stations in a portable holding tank or by having the septic system trucks empty your tanks for a fee of \$15 per time and includes all your holding tanks (gray). Method of payment is either cash or check, made out to the Michigan Conference. If you do not empty them in a timely manner, waste water will back up from the holding tanks into the tub or sink, and may cause plumbing leaks. The septic system truck, affectionately known as the “honey wagon,” comes through the campgrounds three times a week. This must be scheduled at the Accommodations building to have your site serviced (payable by cash or check). Also, when Camp Meeting is over, you may dump your black and gray water for free at a dump station; one station is by Bathhouse 2, and the other is at the entrance to F Loop.

### **Is there anything I can do to prevent power outages or blown fuses? Will they damage my RV?**

- Do not run your microwave and air conditioner at the same time.
- Keep your A/C on low to reduce the electrical usage in your campground loop.
- Turn off your air conditioner when you are not in your RV.
- Power surges can be damaging. Consider obtaining a surge protector especially made for an RV.

### **Are there any aspects of RV camping that may affect my health?**

- Follow proper set-up guidelines to maintain the cleanliness of your water. Campground water is checked by the health inspector. At home, you can sanitize the plumbing in your own RV by flushing the system with bleach water. If you are uncertain about the cleanliness of water lines within your RV, do not use it for drinking.
- Follow signs at the dump station to prevent contaminating your drinking water with sewage spray!
- Keep your RV sealed against moisture. Use a dehumidifier in your RV to prevent mold & mildew.
- Ant traps are helpful on the campgrounds.
- Take out garbage daily to designated dumpsters.

### **How can I prepare for a better RV camping experience next year?**

- Thoroughly clean your unit after your last camping trip. Wipe down the inside of the refrigerator, freezer, and microwave, and leave the doors open until completely dry.
- Properly winterize the plumbing in your RV.
- Maintain your roof to prevent leaks.
- Seal all holes and cracks in the outside of the RV to keep out rodents.
- Consider putting moth balls under the RV to discourage rodents from chewing wires beneath it.
- Disconnect your RV from electrical power. Check fuses & tighten screws in the electrical panel.
- Clean or replace filters on your air conditioner.
- Refill propane tanks.
- Check tires for weathering and pressure. Grease wheel bearings as needed.
- Take the RV out for a weekend next spring to test it before attending Camp Meeting.