

# FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

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**Ozarks chapter of FFRF**

Hello James,

The winter season is upon us! As we prepare to usher in the New Year, it is important to reflect on all that our group accomplished this past year. During 2024, our group:

- Volunteered at the NWA Women's Shelter and Elizabeth Richardson Center in Rogers, AR.
- Picked up trash along a one-mile stretch of AR-12 as part of Arkansas Adopt-A-Highway in April and October.
- Held monthly tabling events at the Bentonville & Fayetteville Farmers Markets from April through October.
- Sponsored a 30 day billboard run during the month of April.
- Participated in Pride Events in Fort Smith and Fayetteville
- Hosted a Summer Speaker series, which included Matthew D. Taylor (Protest Scholar at the Institute for Islamic, Christian & Jewish Studies), Christopher Line (Staff Attorney with FFRF) and Seth Andrews (Author, Activist and host of the Thinking Atheist).
- Held our 3rd Annual Constitution Day Event on September 17th.
- Represented our chapter at the 47th Annual FFRF National Convention in Denver, CO.
- Created an official Ozarks Chapter of FFRF logo and had t-shirts made.
- Spoke at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Eureka Springs, AR.
- For the second year, erected a secular "Bill of Rights Nativity Display" at the state capitol building in Little Rock, AR

The Ozarks Chapter of FFRF stayed active this fall. Our Adopt a Highway cleanup event was well attended, with our group cleaning up over 20 bags of garbage! We followed up a week later meeting with an engaged audience at Universalist Unitarian Fellowship in Eureka Springs. Chapter leader Chris Sweeny spoke to the Fellowship about the perils of

Christian Nationalism, and how the influential-but-little-known group FFRF.org plays an outsized role in protecting separation between church & state. After the presentation, the combined UU and FFRF members met at GotAHold Brewery to relax and socialize on a balmy November afternoon. In December, several of our members visited the Capitol Building in Little Rock, AR, where, in combination with the **Arkansas Society of Freethinkers**, we erected a secular "Bill of Rights Nativity" display. We closed out the year by welcoming the Winter Solstice with TrailMix NWA while also hosting a small Festivus Celebration.



The Ozarks Chapter of FFRF out working on a beautiful fall morning on November 17th to pick up trash along AR-12.



The Ozarks Chapter of FFRF visited the Eureka Springs Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on November 24th, 2024.



Ozarks FFRF President Chris Sweeny speaks with the Fellowship about the importance of separation between church & state.



FFRF and UU members gather to socialize at GotAHold Brewing in Eureka Springs, AR, on a warm fall afternoon on November 24th.



Arkansas Society of Freethinkers in collaboration  
with Ozarks Chapter of FFRF.



James Brazeal setting up the Bill of Rights  
Nativity Display on December 7th.

In a first for the Ozarks Chapter of FFRF, our organization was also able to financially support non-profits in our community. By way of the FFRF.org Charitable Grant, we are able to contribute to the following:

- **TrailMix NWA** - whose mission is to empower individuals to make a positive impact in NWA by providing a secular community, promoting environmental stewardship, and facilitating values-based education. We contributed \$500 to their cause.
- **NWA Women's Shelter** - whose mission is to provide shelter and support at any hour for those affected by domestic violence in our community. We provided a contribution of \$250, and have committed to volunteering again in 2025 at their NWA Thrift Store.
- **KUAF** - whose mission is to be a leader in public media, serving our audience with programs that challenge, entertain, educate and inform. Our group supported KUAF with a \$250 contribution to continue their quality work.



Chip Ballew (FFRF) and Nico Follett (TrailMix NWA) at Winter Solstice Event.



Ozarks FFRF Chris Sweeny with NWA Women's Shelter Thrift Store Manager Rayna Love.



General Manager of KUAF Public Radio accepting a donation from Ozarks Chapter of FFRF.

As we prepare for the new year, we've started putting together an exciting list of activities we hope you can join us!

### January 1st (Wednesday) - 10:00am to 12:00pm

- **First Day Hike: Sinking Stream Trail\*** - Join us on a hike to kick off the new year at Hobbs State Park! (\**This event is hosted by TrailMix NWA*).

### January 5th (Sunday) - 7:00am to 4:00pm

- **Field Trip** - In collaboration with **Arkansas Society of Freethinkers**, dismantle secular displays at the State Capitol in Little Rock.

### January 12th (Sunday) - 10:00am - 12:00pm

- **TrailMix NWA Sunday Potluck\*** at Luther George Park (528 E Grove Ave, Springdale, AR 72764) (\**This event is hosted by TrailMix NWA*)

### January 19th (Sunday) - 10:00am to 11:00am

- **Secular Sunday Meetup** - Our monthly meeting will be held at **The Meteor** (401 SE D St Bentonville, AR 72712) to discuss business and social events for 2025. All Ozarks Members of FFRF are welcome to attend (their breakfast tacos and coffee are delish!)

### January 25th (Saturday) - 10:00am - 1:00pm

- **NWA Women's Shelter Thrift Store** - volunteer opportunity at the Thrift Store, supporting the NWA Women's Shelter. Consists of sorting clothes and light cleaning.

As we approach the end of the year, FFRF.org has a deal for 50% off annual membership dues. For the modest cost of \$20/yr (less than \$1.75 per month!), you can become a full member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation. Your support goes to furthering the resources needed to protect the separation between church & state. Please consider becoming a member today by clicking [here!](#)

On behalf of the **Ozarks Chapter of FFRF**, we wish you and those close to you a safe and Happy New Year! We look forward to what's in store for 2025, and hope you can join us in person.

Kind regards,

Chris Sweeny  
Ozarks Chapter of FFRF.org  
Follow us on [Facebook](#)  
[OzarksFFRF@gmail.com](mailto:OzarksFFRF@gmail.com)