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Ozarks Chapter of FFRF

Dear James,

Memorial Day weekend is upon us! The unofficial start of summer comes with some good news, as the Supreme Court this week upheld a lower court's decision that prevents public funds being used towards religious schools. See [St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School v. Drummond](#). This is a big win for the Constitutional principle of separation between church & state, and hats off to [Americans United for Separation Between Church & State](#) who led the legal fight on this matter (and will be meeting with our Chapter later this year). Read more about the decision [here](#).

The **Ozarks Chapter of FFRF** has been busy the last month, as both the Bentonville & Fayetteville Farmer's Markets are in full swing. Our group represented in a BIG way on April 26th at the Fayetteville Farmers market, bringing out nearly a dozen FFRF members. Well done!

In Bentonville, despite new restrictions on information tables, we made our grand entrance on May 10th with our new advertising backpacks. We always enjoy speaking with market attendees, and having civil discussions and listening to the differing viewpoints on the Establishment Clause. These conversations are amicable and help find common ground which we can build towards as a community. FFRF members who have participated agree the conversations are empowering and fulfilling, and gives a sense of genuinely making an impact.

Rounding out the calendar was our monthly meeting in Fayetteville, along with Ozark FFRF's speech to the [Democratic Party of Benton County](#). The presentation highlighted the importance of separation between church & state, and touched on religious issues that captivated the audience. There was a lively conversation that followed showing how religion & politics are still very sensitive topics.



The Ozarks Chapter of FFRF at the first tabling event of the year in Fayetteville on Saturday, April 26, 2025.



Chris Sweeny and James Brazeal broadcast FFRF's message with new advertising backpacks that comply with Downtown Bentonville Inc's new "Free Speech" zone on Saturday, May 10th, 2025.



Chris Sweeny speaks to the Democratic Party of Benton County on the importance of separation between church & state on Monday, May 12th, 2025.



The Ozarks Chapter of FFRF at their monthly business meeting at Ozarks Natural Foods on May 18th, 2025.

The weather is heating up and we're ready to participate in community activities! Our **2025 Secular Speaker Series** gets going on June 18th with guest speaker **Kate Cohen**. And then we have the world-famous **Forrest Valkai** coming to Fayetteville on July 13th! Members are the backbone of FFRF, and we encourage (need!) you to join us at one of our upcoming events! Lot's of good things on the horizon!

May 24th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 1:00pm

- **Fayetteville Farmers Market** - come visit the secular crowd for our second event of the year!

June 7th (Saturday) - 11:00am to 7:00pm

- **2025 Fort Smith Lambda Society Pride Festival** at Riverfront Park in Fort Smith - The Ozarks Chapter of FFRF will be tabling at the Fort Smith Lambda Society Pride event. The address is 121 Riverfront Dr, Fort Smith, AR 72901

June 14th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 1:00pm

- **Bentonville Farmers Market** - our group will be walking through the farmers market promoting FFRF's message.

June 18th (Wednesday) - 6:00pm to 7:00pm

- **2025 Speaker Series with Kate Cohen @ Bentonville Library** - Author of the book "We of Little Faith", Kate will talk about her journey towards honesty, and explain the personal and political reasons why our country needs atheists more than ever right now.
- This event is **FREE** and open to the public, but seating is limited. Please register [here](#) to secure your seat!

June 28th (Saturday) - 11:00am to 5:00pm

- **NWA Pride Festival 2025** (W. Dickson Street) - The Ozarks Chapter of FFRF will be tabling at the NWA Pride Festival on West Dickson Street.

July 12th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 1:00pm

- **Bentonville Farmers Market** - our group will be walking through the farmers market promoting FFRF's message.

July 13th (Sunday) - 1:00pm to 2:00pm

- **2025 Speaker Series with Forrest Valkai** (YouTube: [Renegade Science Teacher](#)) @ Fayetteville Library at 1pm. Forrest will be presenting on "*How Learning Science Makes You A Better Person*".
- This event is **FREE** and open to the public, but seating is limited. Please register [here](#) to secure your seat!

July 26th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 1:00pm

- **Fayetteville Farmers Market** - come visit the secular crowd on the Fayetteville Square!

August 9th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 1:00pm

- **Bentonville Farmers Market** - our group will be walking through the farmers market promoting FFRF's message.

August 17th (Sunday) - 10:00am to 5:00pm

- **2025 Speaker Series with Mickey Dollens** (Democratic House Representative from Oklahoma and FFRF employee) - join us for a full day event in West Siloam Springs, OK. More details to follow.

August 23rd (Saturday) - 7:30am to 1:00pm

- **Fayetteville Farmers Market** - come visit the secular crowd on the Fayetteville Square!

September 13th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 1:00pm

- **Bentonville Farmers Market** - our group will be walking through the farmers market promoting FFRF's message.

Constitution Day Event (September 17th-ish) - Still working through the plan, but details to be announced soon!

September 27th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 1:00pm

- **Fayetteville Farmers Market** - come visit the secular crowd on the Fayetteville Square!

October 11th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 1:00pm

- **Bentonville Farmers Market** - our last Bentonville Farmers Market event of the year, our group will be walking through the farmers market promoting FFRF's message.

October 12th (Sunday) - 10:00am to 11:00am

- **2025 Speaker Series with Alessandro Terenzoni** (Americans United for Separation Between Church & State). More details to follow.

October 25th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 1:00pm

- **Fayetteville Farmers Market** - come visit the secular crowd for our final Farmers Market event of the year!

As the Ozarks Chapter works connect & grow the secular community, please consider becoming a member of FFRF.org (National Organization) and the Ozarks Chapter of FFRF (a non-profit in Arkansas). Your membership dues help support the organization by underwriting the events we host, bringing speakers to Northwest Arkansas, and furthering our mission to protect the separation between church and state. Check out the QR codes to see what is included with membership, and how your support makes an impact. Thank you for your generosity! We hope to see you soon!

Best,

Chris Sweeny
Ozarks Chapter of Freedom From Religion Foundation
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