

Top 10 Ways to Meet New People Near Your Cabin

For some cabin owners, cabin life is all about seclusion and solitude. For others, though, socializing with friends and neighbors is an important component of cabin life. If you fall into the latter category, and if your cabin is in a location far away from your full-time residence, you might be struggling with the challenges of assimilating into the neighborhood and building a social life at your cabin. Here are some good ways to meet new people and start forming friendships.

1. Buy food at local farms or farmers' markets

Shopping at farms or farmers' markets is not only a great way to support the local economy – it's also an easy way to meet new people. Typically, people that own farms and sell farm products to consumers are natives of the area, or at least long-term residents, and they have a wealth of information about local affairs, nearby businesses, and much more. Also, most small-farm owners take pride in producing high-quality products and enjoy explaining how they do it. So while you're shopping, it's easy to initiate a discussion with the person selling the products by asking questions he or she can probably answer easily. For example: "Where can we find a good family restaurant?" "Is there an ice-cream stand in the area?" "Where can we buy the least-expensive gasoline?" "This goat cheese is great! What's the process for making it?" "Do you know anybody that wants to sell (fill in the blank: a used truck, a used bicycle, some snowshoes, a small refrigerator...whatever you're looking for)?"

2. Shop at yard sales or garage sales

Do you need dishes, cooking utensils, tools, or sporting equipment at your cabin? You might find just what you're looking for at a local yard sale or garage sale. While you're there, strike up a conversation with the people running the sale.

3. Have a yard sale or garage sale

If you've accumulated unneeded items at your cabin, schedule a yard sale or garage sale. To maximize your chances of attracting lots of people, be sure to advertise it adequately and well in advance. You'll enjoy chatting with your customers, and you might lay the groundwork for some new friendships.

4. Attend a lecture

If someone's giving a lecture on a topic of interest to you, attend the lecture if you can. At the conclusion of the lecture, you'll probably have an opportunity to talk with the speaker and with the other attendees. The lecture's subject matter will be good conversational fodder, so you won't be struggling to find ice-breaker topics.

5. Go to church breakfasts or church suppers

Attend communal meals at a local church. It's a great way to get acquainted with members of the congregation. Even if regular church attendance isn't part of your life, going to breakfasts or suppers at a local church is a fine way to start meeting people in the area. You'll enjoy the fellowship, and the church members will be happy to have the money you contribute for the admission fee.



6. Seek out other "transplants"



Make a special effort to get to know people that have moved to your cabin's locale from other places. In general, people new to the area will probably be more open to forming friendships than people that have lived there for a long time.

7. Participate in a competition

Enter a road race, bike race, cooking contest, music competition, golf tournament, fishing derby, or some other event that will allow you to leverage your talents and mingle with people with whom you have a common interest.

8. Join a club

No matter what kinds of activities you enjoy, surely there's a club for you someplace near your cabin. It could be a golf club, sportsman's club, ski club, snowmobile club, swimming club, bridge club, book club, quilting club, chess club, or some other kind of club.

9. Volunteer for something

Volunteering isn't for everybody, but if you enjoy doing volunteer work, think about donating some of your time for a worthy cause. A word of caution is in order here, though: be careful not to overcommit! For example, if you're in the process of building your cabin (a major undertaking, regardless of whether you've hired a builder or whether you're doing the work yourself), it might be a good idea to wait until the cabin is finished before getting involved with volunteer work. Failing to do something you said you'd do is likely to alienate the people to whom you made the commitment, thereby derailing budding friendships.

10. Take a class

If you live at your cabin permanently, or if you're there for extended periods of time, consider taking a class (not an Internet-based class, of course – a class where you'll meet people face-to-face). You can either focus on subject matter new to you, or you can sign up for a class that will allow you to gain an in-depth understanding of a topic with which you're moderately acquainted. Either way, you'll have an opportunity to mix with people that share your interest.

Be patient!

Building a network of friends in a new area requires ingenuity, perseverance, and a positive attitude. If you try some of these tips, and if you're patient, you're sure to succeed in the long run!