

ROADSCHOOLING -- Session Description:

Have you ever wanted to travel with your family, seeing the sites and roadschooling along the way? Tonya and Diane's families have a combined 3+ years of living on the road and visiting numerous states, so they are ready to help you get started! They will share good & bad experiences about fulltiming, discuss choosing a rig, go over income options, offer insight into mail forwarding and residency, recommend places to stay, explain roadschooling, suggest organizations to join, and more!

CHOOSING YOUR NEW HOME (and what to do with your old one)

<http://changingears.com/rv-sec-learn-type-a.shtml>

Class A: (i.e. Diane - Class A 35' Itasca Sunova by Winnebago), larger, no bed over driver seats/"cab", gas or diesel, generally carry more weight, 6-10 tires

Class B: (i.e. van conversion), 4-6 tires

Class C: bed over "cab", predominantly gas, generally lower capacity chassis/carry less weight, 6 tires

Fifth Wheel: (i.e. Toy Hauler), mounts inside truck bed or on back of large truck, 4-6 tires

Travel Trailer: mount by ball hitch, lightweight, can be towed by a smaller vehicle, 2-6 tires

Bus Conversion: could be a school bus or greyhound, often strip it out and custom convert, 6-10 tires

Van

Tent

Bike: <http://www.familyonbikes.org/index.htm>

Things to Consider:

- **Vehicle Insurance** -- fees may vary depending on whether you say fulltime or partial AND your state of residency (we will go into that in a bit); Recommended Companies - Foremost , Good Sam, Progressive, GE Capital
- **Maintenance Issues** – i.e. tire blowouts (Class A has lots of tires)
- **Length Size** – will it fit in spots (i.e. National Park)
- Class A/B/C/Bus's **Towing Capacity** if you want to have a "toad"
- **Interior** - size, number of beds, laundry, slides, kitchen, closets
- **Gas** – utilize truck stops for Class A/B/C/Bus ... i.e. Flying J / Pilot give discounts on gas (3 cents off diesel, 2 cents off gas with free card OR get their credit card; discounts inside stores)

GAS – 35' Class A	DIESEL – 35'Class A
Less expensive vehicle to buy	More expensive vehicle to buy
5-6 mi/gallon towing a car	10-12 mi/gallon towing a car
Tow 5000 pounds	Tow 10,000 pounds
Engine will last 100-200,000 mi	Engine will last 1 million mi
Maintenance typically less expensive	Maintenance typically more expensive due to heavier duty engine, larger tires

If you currently own a “stick & brick”, you can keep it and rent it out:

Pros – you will have a place to return to if you opt to go “off” the road; place to store your belongings; income while you travel

Cons –renters may trash your place; likely need to hire a management company or good friend/family member to help

If you currently own a “stick & brick”, you can sell it:

Pros – you won’t have to worry about paying a mortgage or dealing with renters

Cons – you won’t have a “home base” when in town or when coming “off” the road; will have to store belongings in a storage unit or family/friends’ home

MOTORHOMES vs. TOWABLES

<http://www.rv-dreams.com/type-of-rv.html>

Motorhome Pros:

- Non-drivers can pursue other activities while on the road (although it is highly recommended that they stay seated with belts on).
- You do not have to stop for bathroom breaks (but again, it is not recommended that you walk in the rig while in motion).
- You do not have to go out in bad weather to get to the living quarters when you stop.
- Many motorhomes have self-leveling jacks so there is no need to place boards or blocks under wheels to level.
- Motorhomes are a little easier to move and set up.
- Motorhomes allow you to tow just about any vehicle for exploring local areas.

Motorhome Cons:

- If something needs to be repaired, your entire home has to go into the shop and you may have to find other accommodations until all parts are in and the problem is fixed.
- Motorhomes tend to be more expensive than towables, even when factoring in a tow vehicle for the towable.
- Motorhomes generally have less living space than travel trailers and fifth wheels.
- Because Motorhomes have a lot of value tied up in the motor, they depreciate faster.
- When towing a second vehicle, you cannot back up, you have the cost and maintenance of the second vehicle, and you are back to having towing and hitching hassles.

Towable Pros (large travel trailers and fifth wheels):

- They are less expensive and hold value longer.
- They have more living space.
- Because they require a tow vehicle, you can leave the RV and take the tow vehicle on short runs.
- It is usually the motorized vehicle that needs repair, so if the tow vehicle is in the shop, you still can live in the RV.

Towable Cons:

- Towing and hitching/unhitching large trailers can be a hassle (although our experience has been that fifth wheel hitching/unhitching is about as easy as it gets).
- Due to overall length, parking and finding campsites can be a problem.
- Non-drivers cannot legally be in the trailer while moving.
- Depending on the size of the towable, the tow vehicle could be more expensive than the RV, and could make the overall cost rival a motorhome.
- Because of the size of the tow vehicle necessary to pull a full-timing trailer, exploring the area may be a less comfortable ride than in a vehicle towed behind a motorhome.
- If financing, the tow vehicle loan cannot be spread over a long term like RV loans; therefore, monthly payments could be higher on a trailer/tow vehicle combination than on a motorhome.

Towable RVs

Designed to be towed by family car, van or pickup truck. Can be unhitched and left at the campsite while you explore in your auto.

TRAVEL TRAILERS

- **Conventional Travel Trailer**
 - Wide range of floor plans and sizes
 - Affordable homelike amenities
 - Sleep up to 10
 - Typically \$8,000 to \$65,000 new
- **Fifth-Wheel Travel Trailers**
 - Spacious two-level floor plans
 - Towed with a pickup truck
 - Sleep up to six
 - Typically \$13,000 to \$100,000 new
- **Travel Trailers with Expandable Ends**
 - Ends pull out for roomy sleeping
 - Lightweight towing
 - Sleep up to eight
 - Typically \$4,000 to \$13,000 new



FOLDING CAMPING TRAILERS

- Fold for lightweight towing
- Fresh-air experience with RV comfort
- Sleep up to eight
- Typically \$4,000 to \$13,000 new



TRUCK CAMPERS

- Mount on pickup bed or chassis
- Go wherever your truck can go
- Sleep up to six
- Typically \$4,000 to \$26,000 new



Motorized RVs

Living quarters are accessible from the driver's area in one convenient unit.

MOTORHOMES

- **Type A Motorhomes**
 - Generally roomiest of all RVs
 - Luxurious amenities
 - Sleep up to six
 - Typically \$58,000 to \$400,000 new
- **Type B Motorhomes**
 - Commonly called van campers
 - Drive like the family van
 - Sleep up to four
 - Typically \$41,000 to \$74,000 new
- **Type C Motorhomes**
 - Similar amenities to Type As
 - Optional sleeping space over the cab
 - Sleep up to eight
 - Typically \$48,000 to \$140,000 new



SPORT UTILITY RVs

Available motorized and towable (as travel trailers or fifth-wheels).

- Built-in "garage" for hauling cycles, ATVs, and other sports equipment
- Sleep up to eight
- Typically \$21,000 to \$58,000 new



INCOME ON THE ROAD

Following Your Job: i.e. contract work like Tonya's hubby (propane tank maintenance); play music for productions; pilot

Online Work: i.e. Diane's hubby is a software engineer & flies out of local airports; online classes - <http://www.glutenfreecookingschool.com/>; transcripts - <http://www.myhomeschooltranscripts.com/>

Offering a Service: massage/hair/; vehicle detailing .. check licensing in each state AND RV Park rules!!

Offering a Product: i.e. vehicle stickers (Jason Condie, <http://www.hippymotorsusa.com/>); window screens (The Seeleys, <https://www.facebook.com/RVSunShadeCompany>); digital scrapbooking (Margie Lundy, <http://digitalscrapbookplace.com/>); The Pampered Chef (Jennifer Hodgkiss, <http://www.pamperedchef.biz/jennh>); write an eBook (John Pickett, <http://www.theebookeybook.com/>); some RV Parks have "swap meets" of sorts on weekends

Work Camping: Workamper News (<http://www.workamper.com/>); Work Camping (<http://www.work-camping.com/>)

- **Seasonal Work:** i.e. Amazon in Kansas - <http://www.technomadia.com/2010/02/workamping-at-amazon-com-was-it-worth-it/>, <http://theschollbus.com/>; Beet Harvest in No. Dakota - <http://theschollbus.com/>
- **Local Job:** i.e. Disney, Home Depot
- **Camp Hosting:** i.e. in Washington - <http://boyinks4adventure.com/our-travels/camp-hosting-the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly/>, <http://boyinks4adventure.com/our-travels/tales-from-the-monkey-house/>

RESIDENCY and MAIL FORWARDING

Residency .. things to consider -- do you want to change residency (no state income tax, homeschool laws - <http://www.hslda.org/laws/>, college – out of state fees are high, no sales tax in some states, lower vehicle registration fees, voting, jury duty – Escapees will contact courts for you)

Mail .. things to consider -- delivery method - in person (i.e. when you revisit your own home) or forwarded to you (by a family member or a Service); frequency; view prior to being forwarded to save money

Suggestions:

** Put your bills online to reduce mail! **

** Cancel or reduce magazine subscriptions .. they may not come timely! **

** Options – Good Sam’s Mail forwarding Service (<http://blog.goodsamclub.com/2012/05/mailservice/>); UPS/FedEx when buying online

States Without ANY State Income Tax -- <http://www.irs.gov/uac/States-Without-a-State-Income-Tax>, <http://www.fool.com/investing/general/2013/04/05/the-7-states-with-no-income-tax.aspx>; <http://www.kiplinger.com/tool/retirement/T055-S001-state-by-state-guide-to-taxes-on-retirees/index.php?map=2>:

- **Alaska** – no Homeschool Laws; strict residency laws due to resident payouts
- **Florida** – moderate Homeschool Laws; recommended mail forwarding services - <https://www.myrvmail.com/>; St. Brendan’s Isle (<http://www.sbimailservice.com/>)
- **Nevada** – only need to notify intent to Homeschool
- **South Dakota** – moderate Homeschool laws; recommended mail forwarding services - <http://www.americas-mailbox.com/>
- **Texas** – no Homeschool Laws; recommended mail forwarding services – Escapees RV Club, (<http://www.escapees.com/> AND they will contact the county to relieve you of jury duty); Great post by a Family who “became Texans” - <http://www.wechoosethislife.com/2012/05/residency-domicile-or-how-we-became.html>
- **Washington** – moderate Homeschool Laws
- **Wyoming** – only need to notify intent to Homeschool

States ALMOST Without ANY State Income Tax:

New Hampshire and Tennessee have income tax on dividends and interest income.

States Without ANY Sales Tax - <http://www.fool.com/how-to-invest/personal-finance/taxes/2013/05/05/the-5-states-with-no-sales-tax.aspx>; <http://www.kiplinger.com/tool/retirement/T055-S001-state-by-state-guide-to-taxes-on-retirees/index.php?map=2> :

- Alaska
- Delaware
- Montana
- New Hampshire
- Oregon

PLACES TO STAY

Full Hookups – electric, water, sewer; generally all included in nightly fee

Partial – electric and/or water, no sewer; dump at truck stop or RV Park, or honey wagon for fee

Boondock – no electric, no water, no sewer; can dump at truck stop, local RV Park for a fee

County Parks – Orange County (<http://ocparks.com/>); L.A. (<http://parks.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dpr>); Riverside (<http://www.rivcoparks.org/>); San Diego (<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/parks/>)

State Parks – CA (http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1049, various prices for annual or lifetime passes)

National Parks - <http://www.nps.gov/index.htm>, <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm>

- Annual Pass - \$80/year; free Annual Pass for Military
- Persons with Permanent Disabilities – free Lifetime Pass

Membership Parks

- Thousand Trails – can buy per zone or entire country, <http://www.thousandtrails.com/>
- Coast to Coast - <http://www.coastresorts.com/Index.cfm>
- Escapees RV Club - <http://www.escapees.com/>

Private Parks – i.e. Newport Dunes in Newport Beach, Canyon RV in Corona, Orangeland in Orange

KOA - annual membership (\$24/year) gives you a discount, <http://koa.com/>

Military Campgrounds – usually for active duty, retired, or Dept. of Defense families; though some may be open to veterans and their families, <http://www.militarycampgrounds.us/>

Boondocking

- Wal-Mart – not allowed in CA; outside CA, check with management or signage; no generator or slides; buy something; <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/walmartrving/>
- In a neighborhood – generally limited to 72 hours or less, though may be more if in a driveway
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land - i.e. in Quartzite
- Harvest Hosts – host farmers/wineries invite RVs to visit AND stay overnight .. no hookups, <http://www.harvesthosts.com/>, \$40/year
- Truck Stops – any that allow trucks, though should check inside; no generator, no slides; can be loud 24 hours; buy something
- Rest Areas – check signage re: length of stay allowed

Couch Surfing - <https://www.couchsurfing.org/>

Motels/Hotels – call ahead, as not all have parking available OR may charge a fee

World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms - volunteer to work on organic farms from 1 week to several months; live for free as a part of the family; do not earn any money; may need to pay a very small fee to receive the farm listing; <http://www.woofinternational.org/>

At or Near Work (may or may not have hook-ups) – i.e. Amazon, Beet Harvest, RV Park

LIVING IN THE RIG

- **Sorting, purging, donating, selling so you can fit it all in** – hire a professional organizer; read a book (“Buried Bliss - 7 Simple Steps for Finding True Happiness by Losing it All!” by Fulltime Families - <http://fulltimefamilies.com/gear/ftf-bookstore-2/>; “It’s All Too Much” by Peter Walsh - <http://www.amazon.com/Its-All-Too-Much-Living/dp/0743292650>); ask for help from friends who have no ties to your “stuff”; store what you can’t fit in or live without

The One Thing We HAD to Have:

- **Tonya** – Vitamix (<https://www.vitamix.com/>)
- **Tonya’s Hubby** – Family, then Rice Cooker
- **Diane** – World’s Finest Natural Ear Plugs (<http://www.earplugsonline.com/>)
- **Diane’s Hubby** - Internet
- **Cooking** – inside (microwave, convection oven, oven, stovetop, induction cooktop, crockpot, toaster, toaster oven, hot water holder) or outside (bbq, campfire)
- **Bathing** – shower/bath inside; bathhouse at RV Park
- **Laundry** – inside rig; laundry mat at RV park; laundry mat in local area; Wonder Wash
- **Internet** – determine budget and your need; RV parks may have free or low-cost Wi-Fi, but may have to go to their lodge as it’s not always available at the sites
- **Pets** – might have restrictions (i.e. Casper’s Wilderness Park in OC does not allow any domestic animals) or fees for certain breeds or the number of animals
- **Plants** – inside with diffused light; place outside if in a leased spot
- **Shopping** – Target or Wal-Mart – one stop shopping across the country; online – make sure your RV Park received packages; RV Park store (limited and often costly)
- **Doctors/Dentists** - Urgent Care; see personal physicians when in town
- **Prescriptions** –Walgreens, Wal-Mart, CVS across the country; online

ROADSCHOOLING

Homeschool Laws for Your State of Residence: <http://www.hslda.org/laws/>

Join **homeschool groups in your state of residence**, as well as, **homeschool groups in local areas** you plan to visit!

Determine how you will homeschool:

- Independently -- i.e. file a Private School Affidavit in CA
- Private Umbrella School -- i.e. Florida Unschoolers, <http://floridaunschoolers.webs.com/> - free, only requires attendance record every quarter
- Online Charter School -- i.e. K12, <http://www.k12.com/>)

Keep in mind that some options may not work if you will be out of state for extended periods of time, such as a Charter School in CA ... they require regular meetings and state testing.

Curriculum Options (purchase/develop your own or receive from your school), plus:

- Classes – Online – CurrClick (http://www.currclick.com/index.php?filters=0_0_25000_0_0_0_0); Khan Academy (math, science & economics, humanities, computer science, test prep, <https://www.khanacademy.org/>); YouTube
- Classes-In Person – check with local homeschool groups; check with local museums/zoos/aquariums/science centers; Chamber of Commerce; local newspaper
- Clubs – Online – CurrClick (Free, http://www.currclick.com/index.php?filters=0_0_30478_0_0_0_0&q1=1)
- Educational Freebies -- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/educationalfreebies/>
- Physical Education Instruction – dvds, YouTube, Xbox/Play Station, outside areas (parks, pools, hiking trails, ball fields)
- Art, Music, Dance Instruction – dvds, YouTube, Nintendo DS games

Other Ways to Learn On The Road:

- Capitol Collection – visit state capitols, <http://www.thecapitolcollection.com/>
- Flat Stanley's -- <http://www.flatstanley.com/>
- Games – board; car (Alphabet Game with signs, License Plate Games; <http://www.carschooling.com/>); card; online (i.e. Minecraft); game systems (Xbox, Play Station, Nintendo)
- Little Passports –World Edition and USA Edition, <http://www.littlepassports.com/>
- Maps – free for AAA members; use as placemats or table “cloth”; puzzles
- Memberships – aquarium, museum, science center, zoo
- National Parks -- Junior Ranger (<http://www.nps.gov/learn/juniorranger.cfm>); Passport Program (<http://www.nps.gov/poex/planyourvisit/passports.htm>)
- Reading/Writing – electronic reader (Kindle, Nook, iPad); local library; journals; Blog
- Themes -- i.e. Civil War, Little House on the Prairie
- Treasure Hunting -- Geocaching (“locate hidden containers, called geocaches, using a smartphone or GPS and then share their experiences online”, <http://www.geocaching.com/>); Letterboxing (“combining navigational skills and rubber stamp artistry in a charming ‘treasure’ hunt style outdoor quest”, <http://www.letterboxing.org/>); make your own Scavenger Hunt (i.e. in a museum, on a drive)

KIDS' POINTS OF VIEW re: FULLTIMING

Positives:

- Being able to meet tons of people that you wouldn't normally get the chance to meet.
- Doing something different almost every day, and learning new things in the process. And breaking out of your comfort zone.
- Learning first-hand about the USA, including how to adapt to the different situations in the different parts (i.e. foods, language/accents, weather, nature, animals, small & large towns).
- Having friends spread out across the US, and learning how to keep up a long-distance friendship.
- Growing closer as a family.
- Learning how to live minimally .. you realize what you truly need and what you don't.

Not So Positives with a Solution to Make Them More Positive:

- Don't see your old friends/family on a regular basis .. BUT you can keep in touch via snail mail, email, text, cell phone, SKYPE, online games (i.e. Minecraft), Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Wish, 4Square, Flat Stanley's/Friends
- Make new friends, then you leave .. BUT you can have business cards made up (i.e. Vista Print) with your contact info, then keep in touch via the ways above, PLUS you can chat on Facebook groups for kids on the road AND make plans to meet-up at a Rally or just down the road
- Don't meet any kids for days/weeks/months .. BUT you can explore the areas you are in with your family and your Flat Stanley's/Friends .. often hardest on an older Only Child
- More tricky to participate in group activities (i.e. sports) .. BUT you can see about local opportunities if you stay in one spot for a period of time (i.e. homeschool class at GA Zoo, Girl Scout Independent program, Boy Scout Lone Scout program, buy 4H books online, watch YouTube videos, SKYPE meetings back at home)
- Less personal space .. BUT you can personalize even a small space
- Having to re-home pets if you have animals that are not travel friendly .. BUT you can try to find them a home with a friend or family member that will send you progress reports, photos

TIPS:

- Consider getting a phone, laptop/netbook, and/or electronic reader (iPad, Kindle, Nook) for the family or older child(ren) .. good for music, audiobooks, movies, staying in touch
- Consider a camera for the family or child(ren) .. even little ones can use a simple disposable camera .. then they can scrapbook or post online
- Have kids help plan the route AND what to see/do
- Allow each child to have their own room/bed/closet/drawer/cubby/box/shelf/wall .. it helps if they have a sense of security and a feeling of "home"
- Bring their Fave things .. NOT everything .. you will surprised to find out that you don't want/need half as much as what you bring
- Start a family Blog with a page for each child, or help the child(ren) with their own Blogs
- ATTEND A RALLY!!!

DISCOUNTS

- **AAA** – cost for membership varies, www.aaa.com
- **Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA)** – \$50/year, <http://www.fmca.com/>
- **Good Sam** – discounts at Camping World, \$25/year, <http://www.goodsamclub.com/>
- **Passport America** – limited to how many days discount applies, \$44/year, <https://www.passportamerica.com/>

WEBSITES

- **Fulltime Families** - <http://fulltimefamilies.com/>
- **Listing of Blogs by other Traveling Families** - <http://topfamilytravelblogs.com/>
- **RVTravel.com** - <http://rvtravel.com/>
- **YouTube/Fulltime Families Channel** – video tours of RV interiors - <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dTXEw6gUawuh9-vXR2KEg>

FACEBOOK GROUPS

- **Educational Freebies** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/educationalfreebies/>
- **Fulltime Families** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FulltimeFamilies/>
- **NomadicMama** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nomadicmama/>
- **Nomadic Papas** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Nomadicpapas/>
- **Roadschool** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/roadschool/>
- **Rving On a Budget** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rvingonabudget/>
- **Technomads** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/technomads/>

FACEBOOK GROUPS FOR TWEENS/TEENS ON THE ROAD

- **NomadicGeneration** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nomadicgeneration/>
- **TravelingTeens** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.travelingteens/>
- **RoadSchooling Kids/teens** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/177837645712037/>

BOOKS

- **How to Hit the Road 2012** (hard copy and eBook), Fulltime Families, <http://fulltimefamilies.com/gear/ftf-bookstore-2/>
- **No Excuses: Go Nomadic** (read online for free or download an eBook version on a *pay as you wish* basis), Technomedia, <http://www.technomedia.com/excuses/>
- **Twenty Miles For a Cookie**, Nancy Sathre-Vogel, <http://www.familyonbikes.org/>
- **Wright on Time** (roadschooling kids on adventures), Lisa M. Cottrell-Bentley, <http://www.doliferightinc.com/>

MAGAZINES

- Escapees RV Club, <http://www.escapees.com/magazine/> (for Escapee RV Club members)
- Fulltime Families eMagazine, <http://fulltimefamilies.com/ftf-magazine/>
- MotorHome, <http://www.motorhome.com/>
- RV Life, <http://www.rvlife.com/>
- TrailBlazer Magazine, <http://trailblazermagazine.net/> (for Thousand Trails members)
- Trailer Life, <http://www.trailerlife.com/>