



**Green Mountain/Finger Lakes National Forests**  
**Rainbow Family National Gathering**  
**Information Update**  
**June 21, 2016**

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**Update 2**

The 2016 Rainbow Family national gathering is under way on the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) near Danby, VT.

Over 700 Rainbow Family members are currently encamped at campsites on Forest Road 10 near Mount Tabor. Gathering participants are estimated by counting cars and the approximate number of people that can travel in that particular kind of car or SUV, or bus.

Local communities and businesses are seeing an increased presence of Rainbow Family members.

On June 20, 2016, 9 warning notices and 5 violation notices were issued for traffic and drug related offences.

GMNF resource specialists are working with Rainbow Family members on resource protection issues and monitoring sensitive plant, wildlife, and heritage areas.

Local residents visiting gathering site should proceed with caution. Traffic is congested, parking is limited, and visibility is reduced due to dusty roads.

Photos from the current gathering coming soon!



Aerial view of the 2011 National Rainbow Family Gathering.



Construction of Teepees at the 2011 National Rainbow Family Gathering

**Quick Facts**

- The Rainbow Family of Living Light is a large group of people who describe themselves as having no leaders or organization. Their main celebration for peace is on July 4<sup>th</sup> when attendance is at its peak.
- Following the holiday, attendance rapidly declines and Rainbow Family members start rehabilitation.
- Such a large group of people typically display a wide range of needs and behaviors that can stress the services and resources of a small, rural community. The U.S. Forest Service is working with the Vermont State Police, county sheriff departments, county emergency managers, volunteer fire departments and health care providers to ensure both public safety and resource protection.
- For more information on the Green Mountain NF website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/gmfl>