OUR TOWN ALMANAC · FAYETTEVILLE, TN

Ask a shopkeeper

The people who run our shops know a lot. Here's how to ask them.

Before you ask

- ★ **Go with a grown-up.** Always.
- ★ **Pick a quiet moment.** No line? Good time.
- ★ **Buy something small if you can.** (You don't have to.)
- ★ **Ask one or two questions.** Not all of them.
- ★ **Busy? That's OK.** Say "Maybe another time!" and smile.
- ★ **Say thank you.** Every time.

Pick a question

1. **How did your shop get started?**
2. **Do you remember the very first thing you sold?**
3. **What's your favorite part about having a shop here?**
4. **What's a mistake that taught you something?**
5. **What would you tell a kid who wants to start a business someday?**

Bonus, only if it feels right: What's something about your job that customers never see?

What you don't see

Just notice and wonder. These are for you to think about, not to ask. (Money questions are private.)

- Before the doors open, someone already unlocked, swept, stocked and turned on the lights. Who? When?
- Every item on the shelf was bought before anyone bought it from them.
- On payday, many owners pay everyone else first and pay themselves last.
- Count the hours on the door sign. Now guess how many hours the owner really works.
- Rent and the light bill are due even after a slow, rainy week.
- What jobs happen after the sign flips to "Closed"?

After you ask, write it down

Shop I visited: _____

What I asked: _____

What they said (in a sentence): _____

One thing it made me wonder: _____

Tell us what you learned. A grown-up can send it to **hello@ourtownalmanac.com**. First name and age only, or no name at all. We might share the best ones in the newsletter.

Earn your sticker. After you ask, print or save your **Good Question sticker**: ourtownalmanac.com/tn/fayetteville/community/shops-and-farms/

Any answer is a good answer, even "not today."