



SMOKIES GUIDE



NPS PHOTO BY ELIZABETH DUPREE

FREE RANGER-LED WALKS & TALKS—PGS 12-14

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK & LATE SUMMER 2014



NPS PHOTO

A taxidermied male passenger pigeon is on display this summer at the Sugarlands Visitor Center museum. The specimen dates back to 1856.

Exhibit Pays Homage to Passenger Pigeon

Visitors to the park's Sugarlands Visitor Center this summer will have the rare opportunity to view an excellent specimen of the now-extinct passenger pigeon. The mounted pigeon has been in the park's natural history collection since 1987, but has never been widely displayed until now.

September 1 of this year marks the 100th anniversary of the demise of "Martha," the last passenger pigeon in existence. Martha lived at the Cincinnati Zoo where she was part of a failed breeding program. She was the last of a species that was once the most numerous bird on our planet. Over six billion passenger pigeons lived in North America during the 19th century, darkening the sky as the

massive flocks flew overhead.

Several landmarks in the Smoky Mountain region were likely named for the passenger pigeon, including the Pigeon River and the town of Pigeon Forge. The birds were especially common in the eastern hardwood forests that stretched from the eastern Midwest to the Piedmont. American beech trees provided some of their favored food.

Passenger pigeons went from billions to extinct in a relatively short time due to such human actions as shooting and robbing nests for the young birds that were considered delicacies. This extinction serves as a reminder of the importance of conserving habitat and species and strengthening the relationship between people and nature.



MOUNTAIN
MAPLE

This small tree is a northern species that reaches the southern edge of its range in the Great Smoky Mountains. Here it is a common species in the higher mountains, mainly at elevations of over 3,000 feet. In early autumn, mountain maple trees turn a pleasant orange to red color before shedding their leaves for winter.



BILL LEA PHOTO

The areas in Cades Cove that have been restored to natural meadows support native flowers, quail, deer, hawks, and other flora and fauna.

Park Crews Restoring Cades Cove Meadows

Park Service managers were pleasantly surprised this winter when bird watchers and photographers flocked to Cades Cove to see some unusual birds of prey. The bird lovers were rewarded with frequent sightings of both short-eared owl and northern harrier, especially in the fields the Park Service has been restoring to natural meadows.

Short-eared owls and northern harriers are both northern species that like open prairies and fields as their native habitats. The owl had only been sighted in the Smokies once or twice before and the harrier is uncommon here. Throughout their range these birds of prey have declined because their habitat of open fields has diminished. They are known to migrate to areas where voles and other small mammal prey species are abundant.

Prior to park establishment, Cades Cove was a farm

community where families raised corn, wheat, and rye and grazed livestock. Farming and livestock grazing kept the valley open.

Since the Park Service took over the land, their goal has been to maintain the open character for purposes of historic preservation and wildlife viewing. To do so, the Park Service employs the following strategies:

- mowing areas near the loop road for wildlife viewing
- burning fields every three years to discourage trees and encourage native plants
- planting native meadow species such as Indian grass, blue stem, and sunflower.

Park Service forester Kristine Johnson is optimistic about the future of the Cove, "The former agricultural lease practices harmed natural and cultural resources, so we are happy to see good results with our restoration efforts for both wildlife and visitor experiences."

smokies trip planner

to order maps and guides: www.SmokiesInformation.org

smokies guide

Smokies Guide is produced four times per year by Great Smoky Mountains Association and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Publication dates are roughly as follows:

SPRING: March 15

SUMMER: June 1

AUTUMN: September 1

WINTER: December 1

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Steve Kemp & Kent Cave

NPS COORDINATOR

Elizabeth Dupree

EDITORIAL BOARD

Karen Ballentine

Coralie Bloom

Lynda Doucette

Kristine Johnson

Terry Maddox

Mike Maslona

Contributors

LISA HORSTMAN, KAREN KEY,

© 2014 Great Smoky Mountains Association

GSMA

P.O. Box 130

Gatlinburg, TN 37738



printed on recycled paper



BILL LEA PHOTO

Abrams Creek and Balsam Mountain campgrounds are open this year.

camping in the national park

The National Park Service maintains developed campgrounds at nine locations in the park. There are no showers or hookups other than circuits for special medical uses at Cades Cove, Elkmont, and Smokemont.

Campsites at Elkmont, Smokemont, Cataloochee, Cosby, and Cades Cove may be reserved. For reservations call 1-877-444-6777 or contact www.recreation.gov. Sites may be reserved up to six months in advance. Reservations are required at Cataloochee Campground. Other park campgrounds are first-come, first-serve.

Site occupancy is limited to six people and two vehicles (a trailer = 1 vehicle). The maximum stay is 14 days.

Special camping sites for large groups are available seasonally at Big Creek, Cades Cove, Cataloochee, Cosby, Deep Creek, Elkmont, and Smokemont. Group sites must be reserved. Call 1-877-444-6777 or contact www.recreation.gov. Group sites may be reserved up to one year in advance.

The list below shows number of sites, elevations, fees, approximate 2014 operation dates, and maximum RV lengths. Visit www.nps.gov/grsm for more information.

ABRAMS CREEK 16 sites, elev. 1,125', \$14, open May 23-Oct. 13, 12' trailers
BALSAM MOUNTAIN 46 sites, elev. 5,310', \$14, open May 23-Oct. 13, 30' RVs
BIG CREEK 12 sites, elev. 1,700', \$14, open April 11-Oct. 26, tents only
CADES COVE 159 sites, elev. 1,807', \$17-\$20, open year-round, 35'-40' RVs
CATALOOCHEE 27 sites, elev. 2,610', \$20, open March 14-Oct. 31, reservations required, 31' RVs
COSBY 157 sites, elev. 2,459', \$14, April 11-Oct. 31, 25' RVs
DEEP CREEK 92 sites, elev. 1,800', \$17, open April 11-Oct. 31, 26' RVs
ELKMONT 220 sites, elev. 2,150', \$17-\$23, open March 14-Nov. 29, 32'-35' RVs
LOOK ROCK 68 sites, *Not expected to open in 2014*
SMOKEMONT 142 sites, elev. 2,198', \$17-\$20, open year-round, 35'-40' RVs

accommodations

Le Conte Lodge (accessible by trail only) provides the only lodging in the park. Call (865) 429-5704.

For information on lodging outside the park:
Bryson City 1-800-867-9246
Cherokee 1-800-438-1601
Fontana 1-800-849-2258
Gatlinburg 1-800-267-7088
Maggie Valley 1-800-624-4431
Pigeon Forge 1-800-251-9100
Sevierville 1-888-766-5948
Townsend 1-800-525-6834

pets in the park

Pets are allowed in frontcountry campgrounds and beside roads as long as they are restrained at all times. Pets are not allowed on park trails, except for the Gatlinburg and Oconaluftee River trails. Dogs on these trails must be leashed.

facility rentals

The historic Appalachian Clubhouse and Spence Cabin at Elkmont are now accepting reservations for day-use rentals. Picnic pavillions are also available for \$10-\$20 per day at Collins Creek, Cosby, Deep Creek, Greenbrier, Metcalf Bottoms, and Twin Creeks. To make a reservation, call 1-877-444-6777 or visit www.recreation.gov.

special events

September 20
Mountain Life Festival at Oconaluftee Visitor Center

September 27
Wilderness Act Celebration at Sugarlands Visitor Center

December 13
Festival of Christmas Past at Sugarlands Visitor Center

picnic areas

Please see pages 8-9 for locations of picnic areas. All picnic areas have charcoal grills for cooking.

visitor centers

Summer hours of operation are: Oconaluftee & Sugarlands: 8-7:30; Clingmans Dome: 10-6, Cades Cove: 9-7:30, Some centers close earlier in September.

other services

There are no gas stations, showers, or restaurants in the national park. Mt. Le Conte Lodge is the only lodging.



MARY ANN KRESSIG PHOTO

Bicycle morning in Cades Cove

bicycling

Most park roads are too narrow and heavily traveled by automobiles for safe or enjoyable bicycling. However, Cades Cove Loop Road is an exception. This 11-mile, one-way, paved road provides bicyclists with excellent opportunities for viewing wildlife and historic sites.

Helmets are required for persons age 16 and under and are strongly recommended for all bicyclists.

From May 7-Sept. 24, on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from sunrise to 10:00 a.m., only bicycles and pedestrians are allowed on Cades Cove Loop Road. Bicycles may be rented at the Cades Cove Campground store.

park information

for additional information, visit www.nps.gov/grsm

| Gatlinburg, TN elev. 1,462' | | | Mt. Le Conte elev. 6,593' | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|---------|---------------------------|-----|---------|------|
| AVG. HIGH | LOW | PRECIP. | AVG. HIGH | LOW | PRECIP. | |
| Jan. | 49° | 27° | 4.0" | 36° | 18° | 6.7" |
| Feb. | 53° | 28° | 4.1" | 37° | 19° | 5.6" |
| March | 62° | 35° | 5.5" | 44° | 25° | 7.0" |
| April | 71° | 42° | 4.5" | 52° | 31° | 6.7" |
| May | 77° | 50° | 5.7" | 58° | 39° | 8.0" |
| June | 82° | 58° | 5.8" | 64° | 47° | 8.7" |
| July | 85° | 62° | 6.3" | 67° | 50° | 9.0" |
| Aug. | 84° | 61° | 5.3" | 67° | 49° | 7.6" |
| Sept. | 79° | 55° | 4.7" | 62° | 44° | 7.2" |
| Oct. | 70° | 43° | 2.9" | 55° | 35° | 4.7" |
| Nov. | 60° | 34° | 3.4" | 46° | 27° | 6.8" |
| Dec. | 51° | 28° | 4.6" | 38° | 20° | 6.4" |

The above temperature and precipitation averages are based on data for the last 20 years. Temperatures are in degrees fahrenheit. An average of over 84" (7 feet) of precipitation falls on the higher elevations of the Smokies. On Mt. Le Conte, an average of 82.8" of snow falls per year.

horse riding

Horseback riding is generally available from early March through November. Rates are \$30 per hour. Most stables have maximum rider weight limits of 225 or 250 pounds and age restrictions for children. Please call the stables below or stop at a visitor center for detailed information.

Cades Cove (865) 448-9009
cadescovestables.com
 Smokemont (828) 497-2373
smokemontridingstables.com
 Smoky Mtn. (865) 436-5634
smokymountainridingstables.com

Sugarlands (865) 436-3535
sugarlandsridingstables.com

Hayrides and carriage rides (\$12 per person) are available from Cades Cove Riding Stable. Wagon rides (\$10 per person) are offered at Smokemont. Souvenir photos, tee-shirts, hats, and ice may be available. Soft drink vending is available.

The park service operates horse camps at Cades Cove, Big Creek, Cataloochee, and Round Bottom. Call 877-444-6777 or visit www.Recreation.gov for reservations.



Fishing for brook trout is now allowed in most park streams.

fishing

Fishing is permitted year-round in the park, but a Tennessee or North Carolina fishing license is required. Either state license is valid throughout the park and no trout stamp is required. A special permit is required for the Cherokee Reservation and Gatlinburg. Licenses are available in nearby towns. Fishing with bait is prohibited.

A free fishing map with a complete list of all park fishing regulations is available at visitor centers.

DRIVING DISTANCES & ESTIMATED TIMES

Cherokee, NC to:

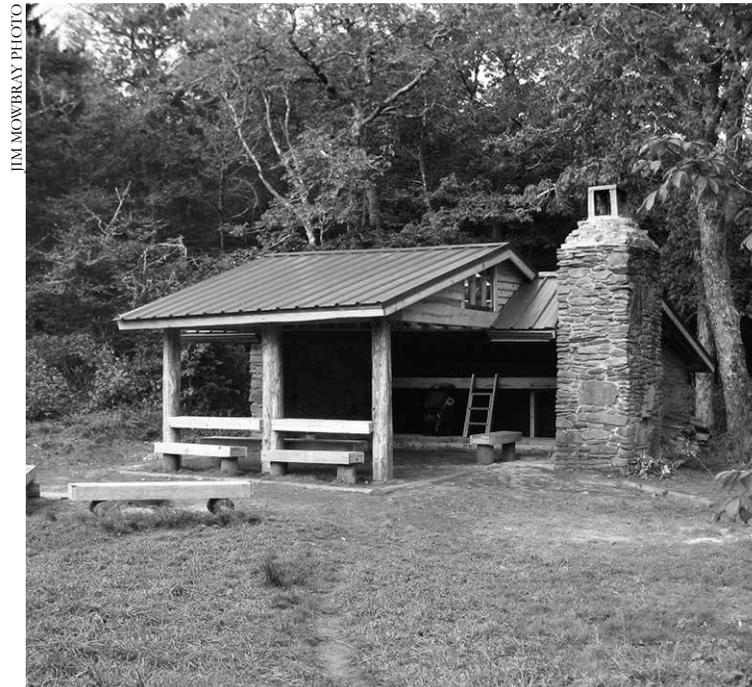
Gatlinburg: 34 miles (1 hour)
 Cades Cove: 57 miles (2 hours)
 Newfound Gap: 18 miles
 (½ hour)
 Clingmans Dome:
 25 miles (¾ hour)
 Cataloochee: 39 miles
 (1½ hours)
 Deep Creek: 14 miles (½ hour)

Gatlinburg, TN to:

Cherokee: 34 miles (1 hour)
 Cades Cove: 27 miles (1 hour)
 Newfound Gap: 16 miles
 (½ hour)
 Clingmans Dome:
 23 miles (¾ hour)
 Cataloochee: 65 miles (2 hours)
 Greenbrier Cove: 6 miles
 (¼ hour)
 Deep Creek:
 48 miles (1½ hours)

Townsend, TN to:

Cades Cove: 9 miles (¼ hour)
 Newfound Gap: 34 miles
 (1¼ hours)
 Gatlinburg: 22 miles (¾ hour)
 Cherokee: 52 miles (1½ hours)
 Look Rock: 18 miles (½ hour)
 Cataloochee:
 87 miles (2¼ hours)



Primitive backcountry shelters like this one at Double Springs Gap are located along the Appalachian Trail and near the summit of Mt. Le Conte. Reservations are required for all campers in the backcountry.

Backcountry Camping in the Smokies

Camping at a backcountry campsite or shelter can be an exciting adventure for persons properly equipped and informed. To facilitate this activity, the National Park Service maintains over 800 miles of trails and more than 100 backcountry campsites and shelters throughout the park. One of the greatest challenges for backcountry campers is deciding where to go. Here are some tools to help.

1. Go online to view the park's official trail map (www.nps.gov/grsm/plan-yourvisit/maps.htm), which shows all park trails, campsites, and shelters. Park rules and regulations are also listed here. If you wish, you can purchase the printed version of the trail map for \$1 by stopping at any park visitor center or calling (865) 436-7318 x226 or shopping online at www.SmokiesInformation.org.
2. Call or stop by the park's backcountry office, which is open every day from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The office is located in Sugarlands Visitor

Center, two miles south of Gatlinburg on Newfound Gap Road (U.S. 441). (865) 436-1297.

3. Make your reservation through the backcountry office at Sugarlands Visitor Center (by phone or in person) or online at www.smokiespermits.nps.gov.

Reservations and permits are required for all overnight stays in the backcountry. The cost is \$4 per person per night. Reservations may be made up to 30 days in advance.

Spring hikers should be especially aware of the danger of hypothermia—the lowering of body temperature. The combination of rain, cold, and wind is especially dangerous. At the park's higher elevations, hypothermia can be a threat even during summer.

To prevent hypothermia, carry good rain gear at all times. Layer clothing that provides warmth when wet (not cotton). Be prepared for sudden weather changes, especially at the high elevations.

park news

Great Smoky Mountains National Park protects over 800 square miles of land

National Park Service News Briefs

Official Smokies 25-cent Piece Now Available

IN JANUARY the U.S.

Mint released into circulation its Tennessee—Great Smoky Mountains National Park quarter as the latest coin in the “America the Beautiful” series. The 25-cent piece is one of 56 quarters celebrating federal public lands that is produced by the Denver and Philadelphia mints. Uncirculated versions of the Smokies quarter and other collectible coins are available for sale in park visitor centers.



Armadillo Reported Near Park Boundary

A PARK RANGER HAS REPORTED an armadillo close to the national park boundary near Deals Gap. The mammals have been steadily expanding their range north and east for several decades. Park officials are still considering whether to treat the animals as non-natives or as natural re-introductions if they are documented inside the park.

Green Treefrogs Invade Cades Cove

BIOLOGISTS WORKING IN CADES COVE made an unpleasant discovery a couple of years ago: tens of thousands of non-native green treefrogs. These attractive, bright green, 2”-long frogs are native to Florida, the Deep South, and the East Coast, but not the mountains. Rangers are concerned these non-natives might compete with native park amphibians such as the narrow-mouthed toad.

Please Leave Firewood at Home

FIREWOOD OFTEN HARBORS non-native insects that can devastate our forests. Beetles such as the emerald ash-borer and Asian longhorned lay their eggs in dead wood. Please do not bring your firewood into the park. You can collect dead and down wood in the park or purchase wood at some campgrounds.

Share Photos, Win a National Park Vacation!

SHARE YOUR FAVORITE PHOTOS, video clips and stories with the National Park Foundation’s Summer Scrapbook and you could win a national park vacation and other great prizes. Learn more at www.nationalparks.org/summer.

Park Celebrates 50th Anniversary of 1964 Wilderness Act Passage



JOHN DICKSON PHOTO

Much of the national park is currently managed as wilderness even though it has not been officially designated as such.

Throughout 2014, Great Smoky Mountains National Park is joining with other public lands agencies and organizations to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Wilderness Act, one of the most important pieces of conservation legislation ever signed into law.

In the Smokies this anniversary is especially important because Harvey Broome, a Knoxville, TN attorney and avid Smoky Mountain hiker, played a leading role in both the creation of the Wilderness Act and the establishment and protection of our national park.

It was on his hikes in the pre-park Smokies, while viewing mountainsides denuded by unsound logging practices and streams choked

with silt, that Broome began to differentiate between “untrammled wilds and the rifled countryside.” In one of his many journal entries he summed up his feelings with, “...one felt compelled to try to conserve and defend the land against further spoliation.”

This conviction led Broome to convene with conservation legends Robert Marshall, Bernard Frank, and Benton MacKaye in east Tennessee in 1934 and draft the constitution for a new organization called the Wilderness Society. By January of the following year, the four were joined by other luminaries: Aldo Leopold, Robert Sterling Yard, Ernest Oberholzer, and Harold C. Anderson; and the Wilderness Society was born.

Both Broome and Howard

Zahniser served as presidents of the the Wilderness Society, and the two men worked closely to draft and push forward the Wilderness Act, which was signed into law on September 3, 1964 by President Lyndon Johnson.

Contrary to popular belief, there are many different types of wilderness and different rules for managing wilderness. Broadly speaking, the Act defines wilderness as places that are left unchanged by people, where nature is allowed to run its course, and where people are welcome as visitors, but they do not remain. Over the last half-century, over 100 million acres have been designated as wilderness in 757 different areas.

Although more than half of Great Smoky Mountains National Park is currently managed as wilderness, no official wilderness was ever established within the park. In the past, efforts to officially designate parts of the park as wilderness were scuttled because of unresolved road building plans that had lingered since the 1940s.

The Park Service will commemorate the anniversary with a number of special events, including “Wilderness Wednesday” talks at Sugarlands Visitor Center every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. from June 18 through September 17. “Wilderness Weekend” on September 27 will be highlighted by a presentation from Ed Zahniser, son of Howard Zahniser—widely regarded as the lead author of the Wilderness Act. To learn more about these and other events, please contact Sugarlands Visitor Center at (865) 436-1291.

behind the scenery

Great Smoky Mountains is the largest terrestrial national park in the East

Amazing Grace: Rangers Return Lost Species to Smoky Mountains



The park's elk herd has grown from 52 to over 150 since 2002.

Part of the responsibility that rangers assume when they wear the flat hat and the arrowhead logo is to strive to preserve the wildland portions of the Great Smoky Mountains in a natural condition. One long-standing park management document aptly describes this goal as: "A national park should present a vignette of primitive America."^{*}

Accomplishing this goal is not simple, especially in a park that welcomes over nine million visitors per year and resides in a heavily-populated region of the United States.

One of the biggest obstacles towards presenting a vignette of the primitive Smokies is the fact that some wildlife species that are native to the area were eliminated during the 18th, 19th or 20th centuries. This list of extirpated species includes bison, elk, gray wolf, red wolf, fisher, river otter, peregrine falcon, passenger

pigeon, mountain lion, and madtoms. Other species, including white-tailed deer and wild turkey, were nearly extirpated by the time of park establishment. The major causes of species loss were unregulated hunting and trapping, unsound logging practices, and agriculture.

The park's first successful reintroduction of a lost species occurred in 1986 when 11 river otters were released into Abrams Creek. That ended a period of some 70 years in which otters were absent. Today, river otters are fairly common in places like Abrams Creek, Fontana Lake, Tremont, and Elkmont.

Peregrine falcons, the fastest birds in the world, were nearly eliminated from the entire eastern U.S. by the pesticide DDT in the middle of the 20th century. However, thanks to the cooperative efforts of several private and public organizations, hun-

dreds of the birds were reared and released in the 1980s. Pairs of these birds now nest and raise their young on rocky outcrops on some of the Smokies' highest peaks.

The most challenging successful reintroduction in park history was elk. Between 2001 and 2002, 52 elk were released into Cataloochee valley. Today, over 150 elk roam the Smokies and have dispersed into areas that include Balsam Mountain, Oconaluftee, Big Creek, Maggie Valley, and the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

Four species of small fish were extirpated from the Smokies in the 1950s by a short-sighted attempt to eliminate "rough" fish and improve game fishing in Abrams Creek. Over the last 15 years the Park Service has worked with private and public organizations to restore the fish, three of which are listed as federally threatened or endangered species. Recently, three of the four species (Citico darter, Smoky madtom, and yellowfin madtom) have been documented to be living and reproducing in lower Abrams.

One hard-fought reintroduction effort that failed was the red wolf. Wolves were released in Cades Cove and Tremont in the 1990s, but failed to successfully raise pups. Biologists believe the failure was due to diseases such as parvo virus and interactions with coyotes, which migrated into the Smokies in the 1980s. Red wolves do continue to survive elsewhere in the Southeast.

There are currently no plans to reintroduce the mountain lion, gray wolf, fisher, or bison into the park.

**from the "Leopold Report," (Wildlife Management in National Parks) 1963.*



The many yearling bears in the park this summer were born in the winter of 2012-13. Most will have separated from "mom" by late June.

For Park Bears, 2014 is Year of the Yearling

In the continuing saga of Smoky Mountain black bears, the year 2014 could go down in history as "The Year of the Yearling." For some complicated reasons related to female bear reproductive cycles and the availability of fall mast, there is a higher than average number of yearling black bears roaming the Smokies this summer.

Since yearlings are often considered the "troublesome teens" of the wildlife world, this population anomaly has

yearlings will wander far and wide in search of a home of their own with food and shelter that does not trespass on the turf of other adults.

Consequently, male yearlings often get chased around a lot and may be forced into marginal real estate no other adult bear bothers to defend. Such a quest sometimes takes bears into park campgrounds and picnic areas or beyond park boundaries where they may come into conflict with property owners over gar-

It is illegal to approach within 50 yards of bear and elk in the national park.

some serious implications. While female yearlings might share territory with mom, male yearlings are usually banished and must find new territories of their own. In a place as crowded with bears as our national park, that can lead to conflicts.

By mid summer, mother bears have separated from their yearlings and will be again seeking a mate. Male

bage, orchards, and gardens. Said conflicts can end with the demise of the young bear.

For these reasons it is more important than ever this summer to keep trash and people food away from bears. It is best when bears retain their natural fear of humans. Do not approach or harass wildlife. Enjoy them at a distance of at least 50 yards. Use binoculars to get a closer look.

if you love the smokies...

help protect this place for ourselves and our children

become a proud member



Since 1953, Great Smoky Mountains

Association has supported the educational, scientific, and historical efforts of the National Park Service through cash donations and in-kind services. In 2014 alone, the association plans to provide more than \$1 million in assistance that includes saving hemlock trees, living history demonstrations, environmental education programs, salaries for backcountry patrols, and historic preservation.

Association members receive a number of benefits to keep them informed about special events in the park and issues affecting the Smokies:

- Subscription to the semi-annual, full-color magazine *Smokies Life*;
- Coming soon: Exclusive digital access to the award-winning quarterly park newspaper, *Smokies Guide*, and the association's newsletter, *The Bearpaw*
- A 15-25% discount on books, music, gifts, and other products sold at park visitor centers and at our web store
- Discounts up to 20% at more than 400 national park bookstores across the country
- Special discounts at area rental cabins, inns, restaurants, shops, and attractions
- And most importantly, the satisfaction of helping to preserve nature and history in Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Join today using the coupon to the right or visit www.SmokiesInformation.org, or call us at 1-888-898-9102 x222. Memberships start at just \$35.

JOHN DICKSON



Great Smoky Mountains National Park is one of the few large national parks without an entrance fee. Most parks now charge \$20 or \$25 per vehicle. Without this supplemental income, it is difficult for the Smokies to adequately protect wildlife, preserve historic areas, and provide educational opportunities. You can help by using some of the money you saved at the entrance to support the park partners on this page.

field school

An exciting variety of adventures await adults who long to get out and explore the park accompanied by expert guides. Programs are offered by the Smoky Mountain Field School and include Mt. Le Conte overnights, wildlife workshops, edible plants, wildflower photography, animal tracking, bird watching, salamanders, mountain cooking, and more. One day programs start at as little as \$49. Contact: (865) 974-0150 or smfs.utk.edu

gsmit at tremont

Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont provides residential environmental education programs in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Up to 5,000 students and adults annually attend workshops and school programs at the Institute. Tremont's adult workshops include birding, backpacking, environmental education, naturalist weekends, teacher escapes, and photography. Contact (865) 448-6709 or www.gsmit.org

summer camps

Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont offers a variety of summer youth camps in the national park. Camps last from 6-11 days and cost from \$539. Fees include meals, lodging, and most equipment.

This year's offerings include: Discovery Camp (ages 9-12), Wilderness Adventure Trek, Girls in Science (ages 12-15), and Teen High Adventure (ages 13-17).

Contact: (865) 448-6709, or www.gsmit.org

GSMA MEMBERS

Stay in Touch with the Smokies All Year Long!

- Individual Annual Membership \$35
- Annual Supporting Membership \$50
**covers 2 persons per household*
- Lifetime Membership \$500
payable in 4 installments
- Annual Business Membership \$250

SIGN ME UP!

Name(s)* _____

Address _____

Email (for Cub Report) _____

Telephone # _____

Please include your check with this form. Mail to:
GSMA, P.O. Box 130, Gatlinburg, TN 37738

support the friends

Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a nonprofit organization that assists the National Park Service by raising funds and public awareness and providing volunteers for park projects.

Since 1993, Friends has



raised over \$34 million for park projects and programs. These donations help:

- protect elk, bear, brook trout, and other wildlife
- improve trails, campsites, and backcountry shelters
- support educational programs for school children
- improve visitor facilities
- fund special educational services like the park movie
- preserve log cabins and other historic structures

Your donation can help make these projects a reality. Put a few coins or a few dollars in one of the donation boxes located at visitor centers, roadsides, and other locations around the park. Buy the Smokies license plate for your car (available in Tennessee and North Carolina).

However you choose to give, your donation will really help protect the Great Smoky Mountains for many years to come!

Friends of the Smokies
P.O. Box 1660
Kodak, TN 37764
(865) 932-4794
1-800-845-5665
www.friendsofthesmokies.org

hit the trail

Day hiking in the Smokies is a great way for families to escape the car and enjoy nature



Great Hikes for Families



- 1** Sugarlands Valley Nature Trail (0.5 mile)
- 2** Fighting Creek Nature Trail (1.0 mile)
- 3** Elkmont Nature Trail (0.8 mile)
- 4** Cosby Nature Trail (0.75 mile)
- 5** Cove Hardwood Nature Trail (0.75 mile)
- 6** Spruce-fir Nature Trail (0.5 mile)
- 7** Clingmans Dome Trail (1.0 mile)

With over 800 miles of gorgeous hiking trails to choose from, Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a wonderland for families who want to escape from the car and busy roadways and experience the peace and beauty of the Smokies. Hiking is not only great for your health, it gives families the opportunity for bonding and shared adventures that will be remembered for a lifetime.

Perhaps the best way for families with younger children to hike the Smokies is on one of the park's self-guiding nature trails shown on the map above. Each offers an inexpensive brochure and numbered posts that help you learn about some of the things you see along the way. Many are loop trails. Mileages shown are round trip.

Quiet Walkways are another great way to stretch your legs and enjoy the Smokies backcountry. Look for signs along park roadways to find these short gems. A few are loop trails, but most are not, so you just walk a ways, then return the way you came.

Other Family Favorite day hikes include:

● **The Three Waterfalls Loop.** Starting at the trailhead past Deep Creek Campground and Picnic areas, this 2.4 mile moderate loop hike includes three impressive waterfalls you can enjoy and photograph.

● **Abrams Falls.** Beginning from the Cades Cove Loop Road, this 5 mile roundtrip moderate hike climbs up and down over ridges to reach beautiful Abrams Falls.

● **Oconaluftee River Trail.** This easy, 3-mile roundtrip hike starts at Oconaluftee Visitor Center and follows the river into the town of Cherokee. Exhibit signs along the way tell Cherokee Indian stories.

Day Hiking Tips

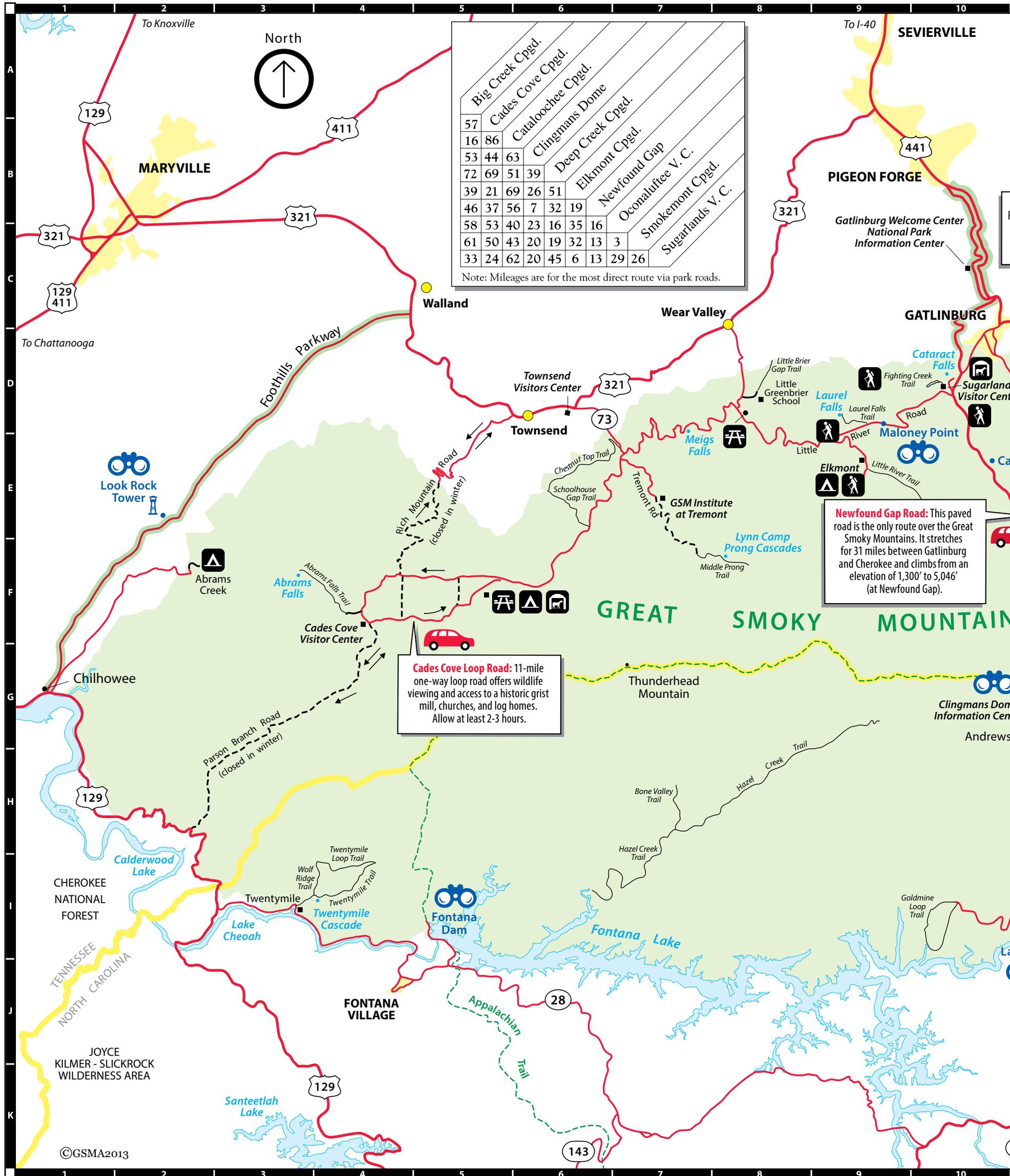
- Take adequate water—minimum 2 quarts per person per day. Never drink out of streams or springs.
- Wear lace up or close-toed shoes or boots. Never wear flip flops or sandals. Footwear that provides good ankle support is best, but sneakers are fine for short hikes.
- Dress in layers that can be easily removed or added as you heat up or cool down. Always carry a wind-resistant jacket and rain gear—even on sunny days!
- What to carry in a day pack? In addition to clothing, rain gear, and water mentioned above: snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent, map, small first aid kit, small flashlight, and camera.
- Check the weather forecast before you go. The Smokies are well known for their sudden, unpredictable, summer rain showers or winter snow.
- Your cell phone will not get reception in most areas of the park. Because of this, do not rely on your phone for directions or to call for assistance.

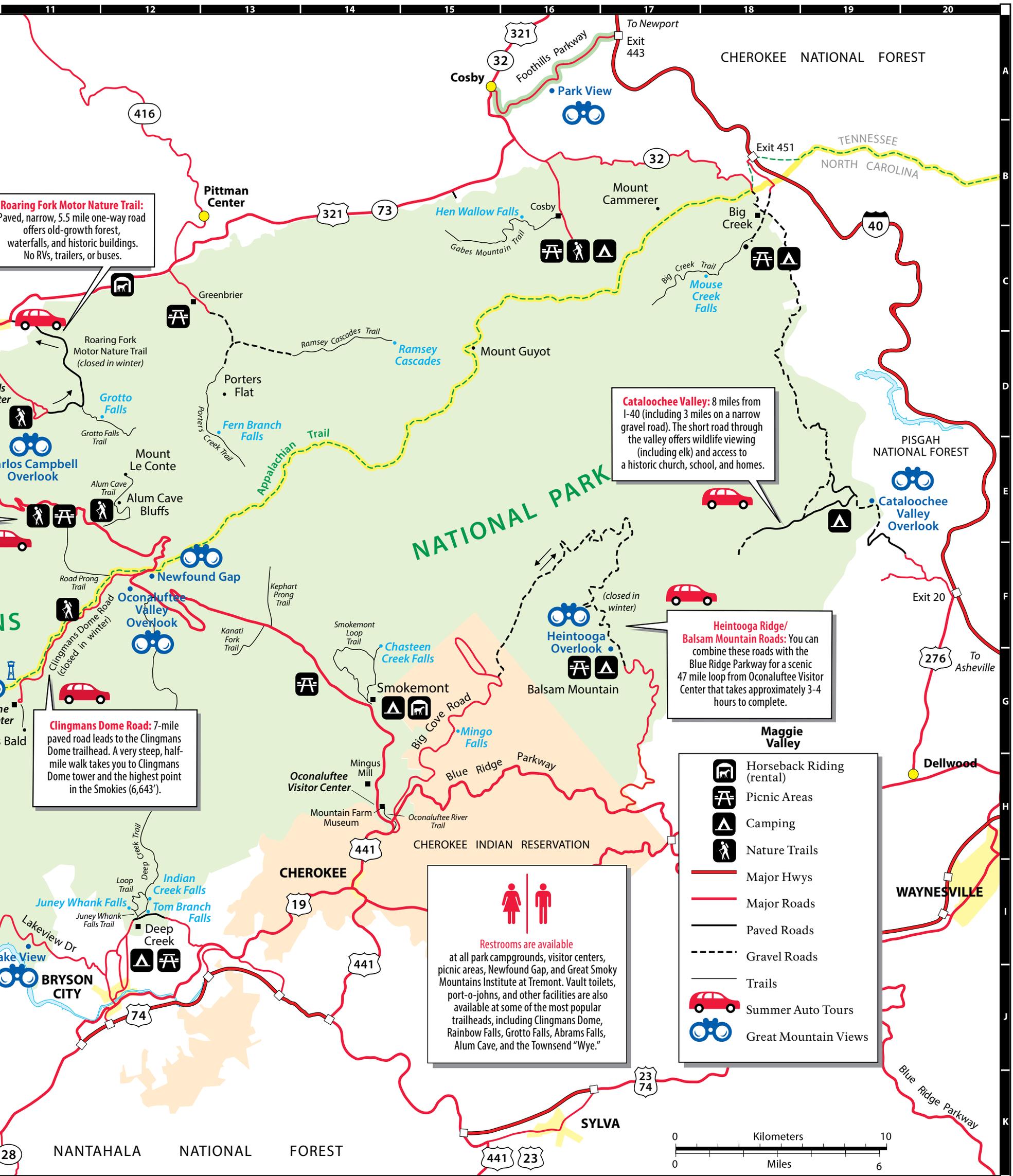


Don't forget to pick up a **Hike the Smokies—FOR FAMILIES** log book to keep track of your hikes and earn cool stickers and pins for the miles you cover. Available for \$1 at park visitor centers.

Scavenger Hike Adventures are 13 hikes especially for families who want to engage their kids in searching for clues and hidden wonders as they walk park trails. Your kids will look for such treasures as a wrecked steam engine, a tree marked by bear claws, remains of an old Model T, and historic log cabins. Available at park visitor centers or by visiting www.SmokiesInformation.org.

GREAT SUMMER DRIVING TOURS AND SCENIC VIEWS IN THE SMOKIES





Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail: Paved, narrow, 5.5 mile one-way road offers old-growth forest, waterfalls, and historic buildings. No RVs, trailers, or buses.

Cataloochee Valley: 8 miles from I-40 (including 3 miles on a narrow gravel road). The short road through the valley offers wildlife viewing (including elk) and access to a historic church, school, and homes.

Heintooga Ridge/ Balsam Mountain Roads: You can combine these roads with the Blue Ridge Parkway for a scenic 47 mile loop from Oconaluftee Visitor Center that takes approximately 3-4 hours to complete.

Clingmans Dome Road: 7-mile paved road leads to the Clingmans Dome trailhead. A very steep, half-mile walk takes you to Clingmans Dome tower and the highest point in the Smokies (6,643').

Restrooms are available at all park campgrounds, visitor centers, picnic areas, Newfound Gap, and Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. Vault toilets, port-o-johns, and other facilities are also available at some of the most popular trailheads, including Clingmans Dome, Rainbow Falls, Grotto Falls, Abrams Falls, Alum Cave, and the Townsend "Wye."

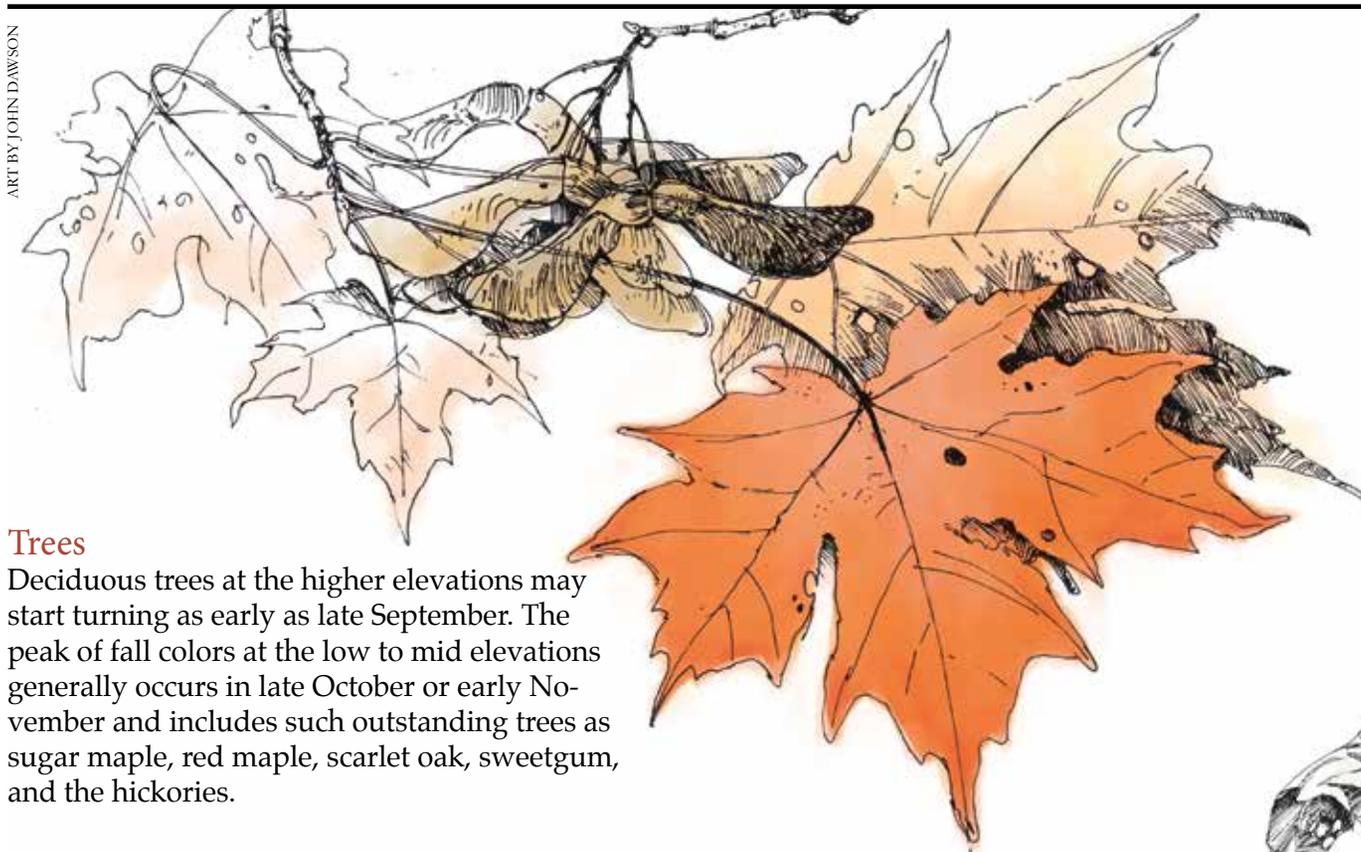
- Horseback Riding (rental)
- Picnic Areas
- Camping
- Nature Trails
- Major Hwys
- Major Roads
- Paved Roads
- Gravel Roads
- Trails
- Summer Auto Tours
- Great Mountain Views



summer into fall

the turn of the season is an active time for plants and animals

ART BY JOHN DAWSON



Trees

Deciduous trees at the higher elevations may start turning as early as late September. The peak of fall colors at the low to mid elevations generally occurs in late October or early November and includes such outstanding trees as sugar maple, red maple, scarlet oak, sweetgum, and the hickories.

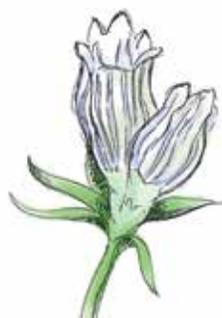
Black Bears

Black bears are looking for hickory nuts and oak acorns at this time of year. If they find them, they may gain three to five pounds in a single day. The quality of the fall nut crop will affect the size of the bear population in subsequent years.



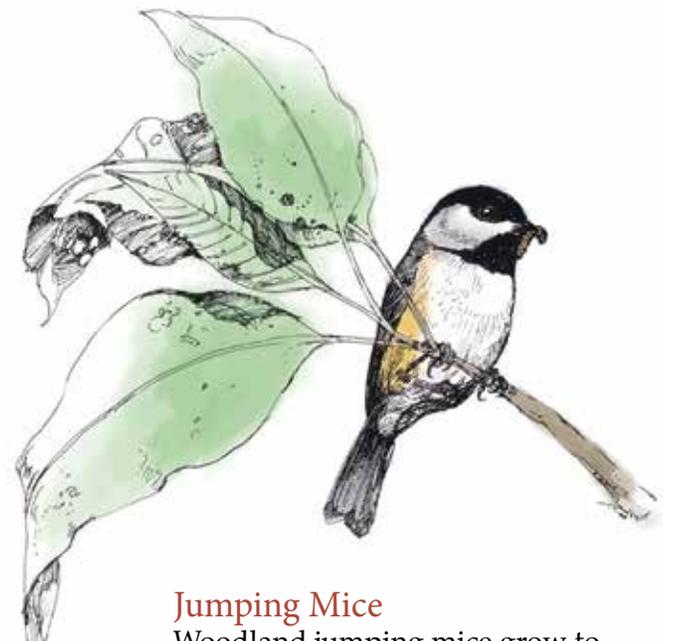
Wildflowers

The mountain gentian patiently waits until September or October to show its attractive blooms. You can find its blue- or lavender-striped flowers beside trails in dry woods.



Birds

Over two-thirds of the park's birds head south in September and October. Those that stick around include woodpeckers, birds of prey, and those that eat mostly seeds (finches, nuthatches, chickadees, cardinals, etc.). A few species, including the Yellow-rumped Warbler, migrate south to the Smokies for the winter.



Jumping Mice

Woodland jumping mice grow to eight or nine inches long (including tail) and are found mainly at the higher elevations of the park. Like the black bear, they are fattening up for winter this autumn on seeds, roots, fruits, and insects. In late October they go into deep hibernation and won't awaken until April.



putting food by

farm families raised and preserved foods in preparation for winter



Molasses was made by squeezing sorghum cane and collecting the juice. That liquid was then slowly cooked down over an open fire to make sweet, delicious sorghum molasses.



Food preparation activities like apple peeling often became social events.

Farm families in the past not only had to raise enough food to see them through winter, they also had to devise ways to preserve that food without the help of a single refrigerator, freezer, or roll of plastic wrap. Many of the methods they used for preserving food are now becoming lost domestic arts.

Although families ate a variety of meats—including fish, wild game, chicken, and beef—pork was the meat found most often on a mountain farm. There were a number of reasons why families preferred pork when it came to putting meat on the table. Hogs were more prolific than other livestock, often producing several large litters each year. The meat was relatively easy to preserve and the lard produced from the fat was used for cooking and soap making. In addition, hogs were so self-sufficient that most families simply turned their hogs out into the woods to forage for food and fend for themselves.

About the only time hogs were penned was in the fall

to fatten them for butchering. Hog butchering normally took place in late fall or early winter after the weather was cold enough to keep the meat from spoiling until it was cured. Salt was the primary curing ingredient. The meat was covered with salt and placed on shelves or in barrels or boxes in the meathouse. The salt was absorbed into the meat and retarded the growth of bacteria.

If meat was to be smoked, it was hung in the meathouse, or smokehouse, and subjected to a smoky fire for a week or longer. Smoking not only added flavor, but also produced chemical compounds that helped protect the meat from insects and bacteria.

The family garden produced much of the fresh food that the family ate as well as food that would be preserved for winter. Although the Mason jar was patented in the 1850s, many families continued to use drying and pickling, rather than canning, as the primary methods for preserving food.

Some plants, like potatoes, turnips, and cabbage, stored well for winter use if protected from freezing. Thus, potatoes were often conveniently stored in a “tater hole” right under the floor of the cabin, often near the hearth where they would be retrieved and cooked. With cold-tolerant plants like lettuce, turnips, and mustard, it was possible for the garden to produce some fresh “greens” in all but the very coldest months of winter.

Apples were the most common fruit grown on mountain farms and most families had at least a few trees. Apples were eaten fresh, but were also the source of cider, vinegar, applesauce, apple butter, and pies.

If protected from freezing, some varieties stored well through the winter and provided “fresh” apples for several months. Consequently, some farms with large orchards had partially-buried apple houses. Otherwise, apples could be dried for later use. Some families “sulfured” apples to preserve them by exposing slices of the fruit to sulfur smoke to kill the bacteria.

Another common fall ac-

tivity that provided food for winter was making sorghum molasses. The source of the syrup was sorghum cane, which was grown on many mountain farms. Sorghum juice was squeezed from the cane and cooked in a large metal pan, pot, or kettle until it thickened, becoming sorghum molasses.

Many of the late summer to early winter activities that provided food for the coming year had an additional importance—they provided families the chance to gather and socialize. Everything from bean stringings, apple peelings, and corn shuckings to molasses making and hog butchering was an opportunity for individuals to lighten the load by sharing the work. These activities also helped to strengthen family and community ties.

If you would like to learn more about preserving food and authentic mountain cooking, pick up a copy of *Food & Recipes of the Smokies* published by Great Smoky Mountains Association. The book includes over 300 recipes and many historic photos. It's available at park visitor centers for \$15.95 or by visiting www.SmokiesInformation.org. Proceeds from all sales benefit the park.



Making apple butter required almost constant stirring.

guided walks & talks

Programs and activities in Great Smoky Mountains National Park

AUGUST 10 – SEPT. 13, 2014

Park visitor centers are located at Cades Cove, Oconaluftee, Clingmans Dome, and Sugarlands. All offer information, exhibits, and publications related to the park and its resources.

♿ Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

👨👩👧👦 Families who hike in the Smokies can now earn special stickers and collector pins as rewards. Pick up a “Hike the Smokies—For Families” booklet at any park visitor center to learn more.



CADES COVE

Because of slow moving traffic it may take over an hour to drive the six miles from the start of Cades Cove Loop Road to programs at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill Historic Area.

Sundays

Junior Ranger Program: “Work & Play”

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area half way around the Loop Road

1:00 p.m.

Experience what it was like to work on a farm and work as a family to get chores done.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy



WILD by Design

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center area half way around the Cades Cove Loop Road

2:30 p.m.

A talk and hands-on demonstration about the wild things in the park.

Duration: 30 – 45 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



Mondays

Mill Tour

Meet at Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area half way around the Cades Cove Loop Road

11:30 a.m. & 12:30 a.m.

Join a ranger for walk around the historic structures at this site and learn about their function in the Cades Cove community.

Duration: 30 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



Tuesdays

Cades Cove Evening Hayride

Meet at Cades Cove Riding Stables



Nearly all ranger-guided programs are free of charge.

4:30 p.m.

Join a ranger for an evening open air hayride viewing wildlife and discovering the diversity of life in the Cove. Hayrides can fill up quickly, first-come, first-serve for this program.

Duration: 2 hours

Fee: \$14.00/person



Thursdays

Cades Cove Evening Hayride

Meet at Cades Cove Riding Stables

4:30 p.m.

Join a ranger for an evening open air hayride viewing wildlife and discovering the diversity of life in the Cove. Hayrides can fill up quickly, first-come, first-serve for this program.

Duration: 2 hours

Fee: \$14.00/person



Saturdays

Junior Ranger Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area half way around the Cades Cove Loop Road

1:00 p.m.

This interactive fun activity compares your abilities to the animals of the park.

Duration: 45 minutes

Difficulty: Easy

Cades Cove Evening Hayride

Meet at the Cades Cove Riding Stables

4:30 p.m.

Join a ranger for an evening open air hayride viewing wildlife and discovering the diversity of life in the Cove. Hayrides can fill up quickly, first-come, first-served for this program.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy



GATLINBURG/ SUGARLANDS AREA

Daily

Cataract Falls

Sugarlands Visitor Center

11:30 a.m.

Join a ranger on a short walk to discover why the Smokies is special in the summer. Topics may include waterfalls, wildflowers, trees, history, salamanders, and birds.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy

Sundays

Songs and Stories of the Smokies

Sugarlands Visitor Center

2:00 p.m. (no program August 24)

The Great Smoky Mountains have a long tradition

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Cades Cove Full Moon Hike

Meet at the Orientation Shelter at the entrance to the Cades Cove Loop Road

8:00 p.m. Sunday, August 10

8:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 9

Wear comfortable walking shoes. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Duration: 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy, 2 mile walk



Blacksmith Demonstrations

Saturday & Sunday, September 13 & 14

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Meet at the Blacksmith building near the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area

Learn the art of blacksmithing and why it was important in the Cades Cove community.



Back Porch Old-Time Music Jam

Porch of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

Saturdays, August 16, September 6 & 20

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Bring an acoustic instrument and join in on this old-time jam. Or just sit back and enjoy the sights and sounds as others play traditional Appalachian music.



Mountain Life Festival

Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to Oconaluftee Visitor Center

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, September 20

Join park staff and volunteers as we celebrate the fall harvest. The Mountain Farm Museum will be alive with history as demonstrators provide visitors with a glimpse into the past as they make soap, apple cider, sorghum molasses, hominy, music, and more.

The Echoes of their Wings: The Life and Legacy of the Passenger Pigeon

Sugarlands Visitor Center Theater

Sunday, August 24

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Join naturalist Joel Greenberg, author of the book: *A Feathered River Across the Sky*, as he explores the story of what was at one time the most abundant bird in North America. Paul James of Ijams Nature Center in Knoxville, will also speak on the life and work of H.P. Ijams, who donated the mounted Passenger Pigeon specimen now on display in the Sugarlands museum.

Rughooking Demonstration

Saturday, August 16 & Saturday, September 13

10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road

Old Time Toymaking

Wednesdays, August 13, 20, 27

10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road

that is captured in songs and stories. Join a ranger in an old-fashioned sing along and listen to some stories that connect us to the natural world around us.

Duration: 45 minutes



Mondays

Thinking Like a Bear

Sugarlands Visitor Center

2:00 p.m.

What does the future hold for the black bear in the Smokies? Just how does the National Park Service manage wildlife here? Join a ranger for some insight into these and other questions.

Duration: 45 minutes



Tuesdays

So You Want To Be A Park Ranger?

Sugarlands Visitor Center

2:00 p.m.

How do you become a park ranger? What does a park ranger do? Join a ranger to get these and other questions answered about this exciting and rewarding job.

Duration: 45 minutes



Wednesdays

Wilderness Wednesday Talk

Sugarlands Visitor Center

2:00 p.m.

The Wilderness Act is 50 years old! Learn why and how wilderness areas are created, along with some of the history surrounding the passage of this important legislation, signed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

Duration: 45 minutes



A Waterfall by Lantern Light

Sugarlands Visitor Center

8:00 p.m.

Limit 25 people—sign up at Sugarlands Visitor Center. See Cataract Falls as you've never seen them before—on a lantern-lit evening stroll through the old Forks of the River Community.

Duration: 1 ½ hours

Level: Easy



Thursdays

Hike to Alum Cave Bluff

Meet at Alum Cave Bluff Trailhead on Newfound Gap Road

9:00 a.m.

Geology, old-growth trees, and panoramic views await you while joining a park ranger on one of the most diverse hikes in the Smokies. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water and a snack.

Duration: 3 hours

Level: Moderate to strenuous



Saturdays

Junior Ranger: Lost and Gone Forever

Sugarlands Visitor Center

1:00 p.m.

What if there were no more birds? It happened 100 years ago to one species, the Passenger Pigeon, when the last one died in a zoo. Find out what lessons we can learn from the passing of the Passenger Pigeon.

Duration: 45 minutes



Junior Ranger: Bear-mania!

Sugarlands Visitor Center

3:00 p.m.

So you think you know a lot about bears, huh? Well join a ranger to test your knowledge and learn more about this "symbol of the Smokies."

Duration: 45 minutes



ELKMONT/LITTLE GREENBRIER/METCALF BOTTOMS AREA

Tuesdays

Junior Ranger: School Days at Little Greenbrier

Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse

11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

Go back in time to discover what it was like to live in a mountain community and go to school in a one-room schoolhouse. Fun for all ages. Please arrive 15 minutes before program start; space is limited.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy

Fridays

Legends of the Cherokee

Elkmont Campground Amphitheater

8:00 p.m.

Join a ranger for an introduction into Cherokee history, lore, and rituals.

Duration: 45 minutes



Saturdays

Old Elkmont

Meet behind Elkmont Campground entrance station

11:30 a.m.

Take a morning stroll with a ranger and learn about

Elkmont when it was a turn-of-the-century logging boom town.

Duration: 1 ½ hours

Level: Easy

The Tree Army

Elkmont Amphitheater

8:00 p.m.

Join a ranger to learn about the challenges and threats that face this national park, and how the actions we take every day affect the health and biodiversity of the Smokies.

Duration: 45 minutes



OCONALUFTEE/ CATALOOCHEE/ SMOKEMONT AREAS

Daily

Mingus Mill Demonstration

Located a half-mile north of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center on US 441 (Newfound Gap Road)

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Chat with a miller and feel the rumble of this historic gristmill in action.



Mountain Farm Museum

Adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

Dawn to Dusk

Walk down to the farm for a glimpse into the past. Self-guiding brochures are always available and some days you may find demonstrations such as blacksmithing, hearth cooking, gardening, or weaving taking place.



Sundays

Welcome Home!

Porch of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

2:30 p.m.

After more of than a century of absence, the elk have returned. Relax, have a seat on the visitor center porch and hear the story of the return of the largest mammal in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Duration: 45 minutes



Junior Ranger: Smoky Mountain Elk

Palmer House, Cataloochee Valley

5:30 p.m.

It's all about connection and balance in nature to ensure survival for elk and other species living together in an ecosystem. Learn about the history of the elk through "show and tell" activities. Then stay and watch the elk come into in the fields!

Duration: 45 minutes

Mondays

Longing for the "Good Ol' Days"

Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

12:00 p.m.

You've heard it before but was it really the "good ol' days?" Join a ranger for a walk on the Mountain Farm Museum and learn what life may have been

like on an Appalachian mountain farm.

Duration: 45 minutes



Tuesdays

Eek! Bats!

Porch of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

2:00 p.m.

Do they really suck blood? Do they really get caught in your hair? Are they friend or foe? Let the Ranger tell you the truth about these amazing creatures and the enemy among them.

Duration: 40 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



Wednesdays

Junior Ranger: Can You Guess?

Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch

11:00 a.m.

What wears a fur coat, is about the size of a bread-box, greets each other with nose kisses but has never been to the North Pole and lives in the Smokies?

They are under-appreciated but often observed.

Join park staff to find the answer -you just may be surprised.

Duration: 40 minutes



Thursdays

The "What Is It?" Walk!

Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

1:00 p.m.

We all ask "What is it?" many times. The Mountain Farm Museum has an abundance of items that leave us with more questions than answers. Join a ranger to learn just what they are! Meet on the porch of the OVC.

Duration: 45 minutes

Difficulty: Easy, half mile walk

Fridays

Junior Ranger: Smoky Mountain Elk *Mountain Farm Museum*

2:00 p.m.

Fall is a great time for viewing elk in rut and listen as they bugle. Discover how elk stay warm in the winter. Feel the weight of the antlers they carry on their head. A ranger will be available to answer your questions about elk and let you know the best places in the park to see and hear them.

Duration: 30 minutes



Saturdays

Aliens Among Us

Porch of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

10:00 a.m.

Do coyotes belong here? And do lady beetles? What's killing the trees? How did it get here? Join a ranger and uncover the mysteries of aliens both wanted and unwanted!

Duration: 40 minutes



Once Upon a Time...

Smokemont Campground between C-Loop and D-Loop

6:30 p.m.

...there was a Momma Bear, and a Poppa Bear and a Baby Bear...Is that true? Come discover the real world of the American black bear in the Great Smoky Mountains—myths and legends, truth and fiction. Bring a blanket or chair for an exciting evening.

Duration: 1 hour



Kids 5 - 12:
Become a Junior Ranger!
**Purchase a booklet at
any park visitor center.
Earn a free badge.**

preserving history

The Cherokee Indian Reservation is one of the park's neighbors to the south.



Teaching students to read Cherokee at the Tribal Child Care Center



Hikers read one of seven decorative panels placed alongside the park's Oconaluftee River Trail that tell traditional Cherokee stories in both English and Cherokee. The National Park Service and Eastern Band work cooperatively on a number of education and historic preservation programs.

Saving the Cherokee Language

Visitors to the town of Cherokee, NC have probably noticed that street names are displayed in both English and Cherokee. These signs are just a small part of a much larger effort by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to save their language from extinction.

The Cherokee strongly believe that the preservation of their culture and identity depends on the survival of their native tongue.

The Eastern Band occupies some 60,000 acres of land known as the Cherokee Indian Reservation (or Qualla Boundary) adjacent to the southern boundary of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Some 13,000 Cherokee are members of the Eastern Band, all of whom are descended from "citizen" Cherokees who were exempted from the forced removal of 1838 on the infamous Trail of Tears, or from Cherokee that escaped relocation by hiding in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Cherokee is one of many highly endangered native languages in North America. The Eastern Band estimates that fewer than 500 people are currently fluent in the Kituwah (Eastern) dialect of Cherokee, and most of these speakers are

elderly. The Cherokee strongly believe that the preservation of their culture and identity depends on the survival of their native tongue.

Unfortunately, Cherokee is not a simple language to learn. Cherokee is from the Iroquoian family of languages and can be frustratingly complex. According to Duane King, former director of the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Cherokee verbs may contain as many as a dozen morphemes and five semantic categories. In fact, a single verb "can have over 20,000 forms..." King estimates.

Yet the Eastern Band's determination to save its language is bearing fruit. Funded in part by proceeds from Harrah's Casino in Cherokee, the Kituwah Preservation and Education Program is providing language learning opportunities and teaching materials for children as young as six months. Participating pre-schoolers and some primary school students are immersed in the Cherokee language for

as long as eight hours per day. These intensive teaching methods are so effective that youngsters grow up as fluent in Cherokee as they are English. Cherokee High School students must also pass a course in Cherokee language and culture to graduate.

A number of programs are available for adults as well, including classes at Western Carolina University for learning the language and teaching it to others. And thanks to seed money from Charles Frazier, author of *Cold Mountain*, *Thirteen Moons*,

and *Nightwood*, the Yonaguska Literature Initiative was created to publish books in the Cherokee language.

If you would like to learn a bit more about the Cherokee language, the Oconaluftee River Trail between Oconaluftee Visitor Center and the town of Cherokee is a great place to begin. The 1.6-mile-long trail features colorful exhibit panels in both Cherokee and English that relate stories of the Cherokee's ongoing relationship to the mountains.



A staircase mural at Cherokee Central School System reads, in both Cherokee and English, "As Indians we are the preservers of the Cherokee."

visitor information

for more information, www.nps.gov/grsm

information

General park information:

(865) 436-1200

www.nps.gov/grsm

Backcountry information

(865) 436-1297

www.smokiespermits.nps.gov

To order maps & guides

(865) 436-7318 x226

www.smokiesinformation.org

emergencies

Listed below are some numbers to call **for emergencies** that arise after hours.

Park Headquarters

(865) 436-9171

Cherokee Police

(828) 497-4131

Gatlinburg Police

(865) 436-5181

hospitals

Le Conte/Sevier County
(865) 446-7000, Middle Creek Rd., Sevierville, TN.

Blount Memorial (865) 983-7211, U.S. 321, Maryville, TN.

Haywood County (828) 456-7311, Waynesville, NC.

Swain County (828) 488-2155, Bryson City, NC.

regulations

-Picking or digging plants is prohibited in the park.

-Persons feeding wildlife are subject to a \$5,000 fine.

-Pets are not permitted on most park trails. Only the Gatlinburg and Oconaluftee River trails allow dogs on a leash.

accessibility

Restrooms at all park visitor centers (Cades Cove, Clingmans Dome, Oconaluftee, and Sugarlands) are fully accessible. The Sugarlands Valley all-access nature trail is located on Newfound Gap Road just south of Sugarlands Visitor Center.

