



SMOKIES GUIDE



RANGER-GUIDED WALKS & TALKS—SEE PAGES 10-14

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK ≈ SUMMER 2013



BILL LEA PHOTO

The park's trails lead to waterfalls, scenic views, historic sites, and more.

Park is Perfect for a Walk in the Woods

With over 150 different hiking trails spanning more than 800 linear miles, Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the perfect place to get out of the car, stretch your legs, and take a walk in the woods.

Every year over a million people take a walk on a Smoky Mountain trail. Opportunities range from a half-mile saunter on a Quiet Walkway or self-guiding nature trail to an expedition on one of the park's "long trails" which include the Appalachian, Mountains-To-Sea, and Benton MacKaye.

Exercise physiology research shows that walking is one of the best forms of exercise for people of all ages and abilities. Exercising outdoors reduces stress and improves mood, memory, and sense of well being. It is also one of the least expensive forms of

exercise you can choose.

Ready to get started? Consider how far you want to go and what you want to see. A riverside ramble? Hike to a high point? Walk to a waterfall? Then stop by a park visitor center and talk to a ranger or volunteer about all the options available. Pick up a park trail map or guide book on day hikes, waterfalls, history hikes, or other topic that suits your needs.

What do you need to bring? Here are a few suggestions for summer day hikers:

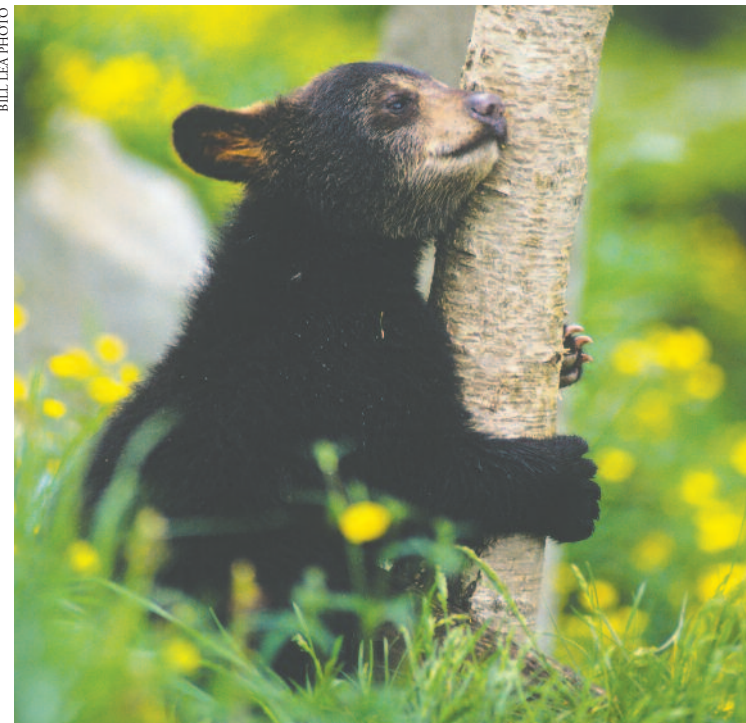
- daypack
- water
- snacks
- map
- matches/lighter
- sturdy walking shoes
- raingear
- fleece/wool jacket

Keep in mind there is no cell phone service in most areas of the park.



PINK
TURTLEHEAD

This pink wildflower is named for its resemblance to the head of a turtle. It blooms in late summer along streams and in wet areas, especially at the park's higher elevations. Good places to see it are along Clingmans Dome Road and the Appalachian Trail. A white version of this flower is much less common and confined to the lower elevations of the Smokies.



BILL LEA PHOTO

Bear cubs are plentiful in the Great Smoky Mountains this year.

The Bears of Summer

Smoky Mountain black bears are big (125-300 pounds), active animals that must consume an enormous number of calories to survive. In summer, most of those calories come from wild berries.

The rain-drenched forests of the Great Smoky Mountains offer a cornucopia of berries and other wild fruits. Blackberries, blueberries, raspberries, pin cherries, black cherries, huckleberries, service berries—all are plentiful most years. Berries are loaded with sugars and calories and are relatively easy to get. Overall, summer is a time of abundance for bears.

Biologists estimate some 1,600 bears live in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a density of almost two bears per square mile. Bears are fairly evenly distributed throughout the park and may

be seen anywhere at any time. Favorite spots for bear watchers include Cades Cove, Cherokee Orchard Road, Cataloochee, and Newfound Gap Road. Bears are most active from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

One thousand six hundred black bears and nine million human visitors can coexist in the Smokies, but only if humans act thoughtfully. Our most important job is to keep our people-food away from bears. Wild bears thrive on wild foods, but become dangerous when habituated to garbage or food scraps left by humans.

Keep picnic areas and campgrounds clean; don't throw food or trash in fire pits or leave garbage outside bearproof dumpsters. Don't feed park wildlife. It is illegal to approach within 50 yards of bear or elk.

trip planner

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

smokies guide

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MARY ANN KRESSIG PHOTO

Only seven of the park's 10 campgrounds are open this year.

camping in the national park

The National Park Service maintains developed campgrounds at seven 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). Maximum stay is 14 consecutive 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 in advance. Call 1-877-444-6777 or contact www.recreation.gov. Group sites may be reserved up to one year in advance.

RV dump stations are located at Cades Cove, Cosby, Deep Creek, Sugarlands, and Smokemont.

The list below shows number of sites, elevations, fees, 2013 operation dates, and maximum RV lengths.

ABRAMS CREEK Closed
BALSAM MOUNTAIN Closed
BIG CREEK 12 sites, elev. 1,700', \$14, open April 12-Oct. 31, 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 15- Oct. 31, **reservations required**, 31' RVs
COSBY 157 sites, elev. 2,459', \$14, open April 12-Oct. 31, 25' RVs
DEEP CREEK 92 sites, elev. 1,800', \$17, open April 12-Oct. 31, 26' RVs
ELKMONT 220 sites, elev. 2,150', \$17-\$23, open March 8-Nov. 30, 32'-35' RVs
LOOK ROCK Closed
SMOKEMONT 142 sites, elev. 2,198', \$17-\$20, open year-round, 35'-40' RVs

accommodations

Le Conte Lodge (accessible by foot trail only) provides the only lodging in the park. Call (865) 429-5704 or visit www.lecontelodge.com.

For information on lodging outside the park:

Bryson City 1-800-867-9246
Cherokee 1-800-438-1601
Fontana 1-800-849-2258
Gatlinburg 1-866-444-8474
Maggie Valley 1-800-624-4431
Pigeon Forge 1-800-251-9100
Sevierville 1-888-766-5948
Townsend 1-800-525-6834

other services

There are no gas stations in the park. Fuel is available in the neighboring communities of Cherokee, Gatlinburg, Bryson City, and Townsend.

There are no restaurants in the park. Limited food service is available at the Cades Cove Campground store. Le Conte Lodge is offering lunches and snacks to day hikers. Lunch reservations may be required. Visit www.lecontelodge.com for information.

Limited groceries are also available at the Cades Cove Campground store.

picnic areas

Locations of picnic areas are shown on pages 8-9. All sites include a picnic table and cooking grate. Pavilions are available by reservation (1-877-444-6777).

pets in the park

Pets are allowed in frontcountry campgrounds, picnic areas, 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. Pets on the above trails must be leashed.

bicycling

Cades Cove Loop Road will be closed to motor vehicles for the benefit of foot and bicycle traffic at the following times: from sunrise until 10:00 a.m. every Saturday and Wednesday morning from May 8-September 25.

Bicycles may be rented for \$4-\$6 per hour from the Cades Cove store (located near Cades Cove Campground). Hours are 9:00-4:30 (7:00-4:30 on Wednesday and Saturday bicycle days).



BILL LEA PHOTO

Cades Cove bicycle morning.

Over a dozen bicyclists in the park were injured seriously enough last year to require medical attention. Helmets are required by law for persons age 16 and under and are strongly recommended for all riders.

Bicycles are permitted on park roads but prohibited on all trails except Gatlinburg, Oconaluftee River, and lower Deep Creek.

facility rentals

The historic Appalachian Clubhouse and Spence Cabin at Elkmont are now accepting reservations for day-use rentals. Popular uses include receptions, meetings, and reunions. To make a reservation, call 1-877-444-6777 or visit www.recreation.gov.

park information

Great Smoky Mountains National Park encompasses over 500,000 acres

	Gatlinburg, TN, elev. 1,462'			Clingmans Dome, elev. 6,643'		
	AVG. HIGH	LOW	PRECIP.	AVG. HIGH*	LOW*	PRECIP.
Jan.	51°	28°	4.8"	35°	19°	7.0"
Feb.	54°	29°	4.8"	35°	18°	8.2"
March	61°	34°	5.3"	39°	24°	8.2"
April	71°	42°	4.5"	49°	34°	6.5"
May	79°	50°	4.5"	57°	43°	6.0"
June	86°	58°	5.2"	63°	49°	6.9"
July	88°	59°	5.7"	65°	53°	8.3"
August	87°	60°	5.3"	64°	52°	6.8"
Sept.	83°	55°	3.0"	60°	47°	5.1"
Oct.	73°	43°	3.1"	53°	38°	5.4"
Nov.	61°	33°	3.4"	42°	28°	6.4"
Dec.	52°	28°	4.5"	37°	21°	7.3"

Temperatures are in degrees Fahrenheit. *Temperatures on the park's highest peak are extrapolations based on elevation and latitude. Actual temperatures may be slightly warmer.

park weather

SPRING

March has the most changeable weather; snow can fall on any day, especially at the higher elevations. Backpackers are often caught off guard when a sunny day in the 70s F is followed by a wet, bitterly cold one. By mid- to late April, the weather is milder.

SUMMER

By mid-June, heat, haze, and humidity are the norm. Most precipitation occurs as afternoon thundershowers.

AUTUMN

In mid-September, a pattern of warm, sunny days and crisp, clear nights often begins. However, cool, rainy days also occur. Dustings of snow may fall at the higher elevations in November.

WINTER

Days during this fickle season can be sunny and 65°F or snowy with highs in the 20s. In the low elevations, snows of 1" or more occur 1-5 times per year. At Newfound Gap, 69" fall on average. Lows of 20°F are possible in the high country.



MARY ANN KERESIC PHOTO

Park anglers pursue brown, brook, and rainbow trout.

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 fishing the Cherokee Reservation and Gatlinburg. Licenses are available in nearby towns.

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



DRIVING DISTANCES

CHEROKEE, NC TO:

Gatlinburg—34 miles
Cades Cove—57 miles
Newfound Gap—18 miles
Clingmans Dome—25 miles
Cataloochee—39 miles
Deep Creek—14 miles

GATLINBURG, TN TO:

Cherokee—34 miles
Cades Cove—27 miles
Newfound Gap—16 miles
Clingmans Dome—23 miles
Cataloochee—65 miles
Greenbrier Cove—6 miles
Deep Creek—48 miles

TOWNSEND, TN TO:

Cades Cove—9 miles
Newfound Gap—34 miles
Gatlinburg—22 miles
Cherokee—52 miles
Look Rock—18 miles
Cataloochee—87 miles

smokies' calendar of annual events

SPRING WILDFLOWERS

The peak of spring wildflower blooming usually occurs in mid-April. However, wildflowers are abundant from late March through April.

MOUNTAIN LAUREL

This lovely shrub shows its white and pink flowers from early May through June.

FLAME AZALEA

This wild shrub with the bright orange flowers will be in bloom at the low and mid-elevations in April and May. On Gregory Bald they peak in late June and early July. On Andrews Bald the peak is usually in early July.

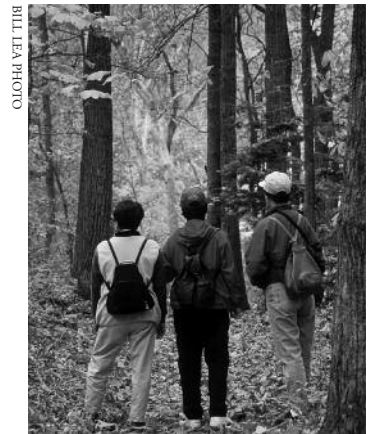
RHODODENDRONS

Catawba (purple) rhododendron usually reaches its peak of bloom in June. Rosebay (white) rhododendron is in bloom during June and July.

horse riding

Horseback riding is generally available from mid-March into November. Rates are \$30 per hour. Most stables have maximum rider weight limits of 200, 225, or 250 pounds and age restrictions for children. Please call the stables below or stop at a park visitor center for detailed information.

Cades Cove (865) 448-9009
Smokemont (828) 497-2373
Smoky Mtn. (865) 436-5634
Sugarlands (865) 436-3535
Hayrides and carriage rides (\$12-\$14 per person) are available from Cades Cove Riding Stable. Wagon rides (\$10 per person) are offered at Smokemont and Cades Cove.



HILLIARY VETTER

Fall colors usually peak in October or early November.

FALL COLORS

At the higher elevations, colors often peak during the first two weeks of October. At the lower elevations, colors peak October 15-November 10.

AIR QUALITY ALERTS

Alerts will be issued on days when air quality is unhealthy due to ozone or particle pollution. Check at park visitor centers for information.

horse camps

Four drive-in horse camps provide ready access to backcountry horse trails in the national park. Horse camps are located at Cades Cove, Big Creek, Cataloochee, and Round Bottom.

All horse camps are open through October 31 except Cades Cove which is open until November 13. Reservations are required. Please call 1-877-444-6777 or contact www.Recreation.gov. There is a \$20 (\$25 at Big Creek) fee per site. A maximum of four horses and six people are allowed per site. Horse camps have between three and seven sites.

Sites at horse camps may be reserved up to six months in advance.

national park news

Over 150 different trails are maintained in the Great Smoky Mountains

NATIONAL PARK NEWS BRIEFS

Facilities to Remain Closed

In the North Carolina section of the park, Balsam Mountain Road, Heintooga Ridge Road, Balsam Mountain Campground and Heintooga Picnic Area are closed this year. In the Tennessee section of the park, Abrams Creek Campground, Look Rock Campground, and Look Rock Picnic Area are closed.

Hike the Smokies—FOR FAMILIES!

The park has launched a program that rewards families for hiking in the Smokies. It's easy, it's fun, and you'll love the exercise and quality time together. Just pick up one "Hike the Smokies—For Families" booklet for \$1 at any park visitor center. Then, every time you hike, record the trail and mileage in your booklet and you'll receive free stickers and pins as rewards.

Please Leave Firewood at Home

Firewood brought to the Smokies from elsewhere may contain non-native beetles that could devastate an estimated 30 species of trees in the Great Smoky Mountains. Please help preserve our beautiful national park by leaving your firewood at home.

Sugarlands Visitor Center Gets Major Make-over

Thanks to park partners Great Smoky Mountains Association and Friends of the Smokies, Sugarlands Visitor Center has a brand new look. The two nonprofit partners contributed approximately \$100,000 each to pay for new orientation exhibits, a new information desk, lighting, flooring, and improved access to the museum and theater. Sugarlands welcomes up to 6,000 people per day and is one of the busiest visitor centers in the entire National Park System. There is no admission charge.

Work Continues on Chimney Tops

The very popular Chimney Tops Trail has been closed since major floods in January, 2013 destroyed the trail's longest footbridge. That bridge is slated to be replaced by the end of June. However, the previously planned Trails Forever restoration work will continue on the upper half of the trail, causing it to be closed from Monday through Thursday until October 17. The trail will reopen for daily use at the end of the work season.



NPS PHOTO

Camping shelters and backcountry campsites in Great Smoky Mountains National Park may now be reserved on-line by visiting www.smokiespermits.nps.gov.

Park Launches On-line Camping Reservations

Camping in the backcountry of Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a true adventure that takes you far from the routines and conveniences of modern life. Proper planning and preparation will help make your experience in this mountain wilderness a positive and memorable one.

The National Park Service maintains over 800 miles of trails and more than 100 backcountry campsites and shelters throughout Great Smoky Mountains National Park. One of the greatest challenges for backcountry campers is deciding where to go. The Park Service offers a number of tools to assist you in planning your trip.

1. Go online to view the park's official trail map (www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit) 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 visiting the online store 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.

Backcountry Trip Planning Information

- Reservations and permits are required for all overnight stays in the backcountry.
- Backcountry reservation fees are \$4.00 per person, per night, with a maximum fee of \$20.00 per person. Fees are non-refundable. Permits are good for up to 7 nights. Changes to a permit may be made one time. Call the Backcountry Office at (865)-436-1297 or visit smokiespermits.nps.gov.
- Reservations/Permits may be obtained at any time up to 30 days in advance of the first night of your trip. Reservations/Permits may also be obtained in person at the Sugarlands Visitor Center, near Gatlinburg.
- Maximum party size is 8, unless a specific site or shelter has lower limits. Two parties affiliated with the same group may not stay in the same campsite or at the same shelter on the same night(s).
- At some sites, special permits may be issued for parties of up to 12 people. Call the Backcountry Office at (865)-436-1297.
- You may not stay consecutive nights at any shelter or at campsite 113. You may not stay in any other backcountry campsite for more than 3 nights.
- Please note that seasonal and weather-related road closures may affect your ability to access trailheads. Check <http://www.nps.gov/grsm> for road closures prior to starting your trip or call the Backcountry Office for more information: (865)-436-1297.



behind the scenery

The National Park Service strives to protect nature and history



CSMA PHOTO BY VALERIE POLK

Jamie Sanders and her fellow rangers have tracked down and contributed to the prosecution of a growing number of graffiti vandals responsible for damaging historic buildings in the national park.

Cyber Ranger Nabs Cades Cove Vandals

For decades, park rangers and historic preservationists have been frustrated by thoughtless vandals who damage the park's invaluable collection of historic churches, schools, cabins, and other buildings. The National Park Service is charged with protecting nearly 100 historic structures in the Smokies, including the largest collection of historic log buildings in the East.

The most widespread form of vandalism is graffiti carved into the historic materials with knives or written with markers, paint, or other tools. Graffiti causes often-irreparable damage to buildings, robbing current visitors and future generations of their chance to fully enjoy and explore our nation's cultural heritage.

Fortunately that frustration is turning to fruition for park ranger Jamie Sanders and her fellow park staff and volunteers in the Cades Cove area. Last year Sanders investigated

vandalism at the Henry Whitehead cabin in Cades Cove where two sisters had each written their names and date on a front porch support beam. The Whitehead house has been called "the finest log home in Cades Cove" and is noteworthy historically for its unusual combination of rough hewn and sawn logs and the precision of its craftsmanship.

Utilizing public social media sites, Sanders was able to locate the sisters and an image showing the family at the cabin with the vandalized support beam in the foreground. The mother of the juvenile daughter and the adult daughter both confessed to the crimes.

Sanders also tracked down two subjects responsible for writing their names and "Rod Run Trip Senior Year 9/14/11" on the wall of the Primitive Baptist Church. The church building dates back to 1887 and is one of the oldest frame structures in the park.

Again, Sanders found evidence on public social media sites and received a full confession from the party. Criminal cases have been successfully made for both of these crimes, along with several others that Jamie and her fellow rangers have prosecuted this year. "When visitors visit these historic structures I believe that so much of the experience is lost now due to being distracted by graffiti," Sanders said. "It is no longer easy for visitors to imagine that simple way of life which a walk through these structures should invoke. I don't want to lose this history for the next generation," she added.

Another success story in historic preservation has been the "Adopt-A-Cabin" program. The park service has recruited over 100 volunteers who work up to 8 hours per week at their designated historic buildings where they sweep, clean, and discourage vandalism. "Removing the graffiti takes a lot of plain elbow grease. I have found no simple way to remove it," said Volunteer Dr. Paul Forrest. Forrest watches over several structures near the Cable Mill Historic Area.

While some types of graffiti can be removed from the historic buildings, much cannot. The park's 19th century and early 20th century structures were frequently built from materials such as old-growth American chestnut wood that is no longer available. If you see anyone vandalizing a park building, please report the crime by calling (865) 436-1230.

"Rangers have been catching these vandals and, when they do, violators face the possibility of heavy fines, civil damages, and even jail time," said the park's chief ranger Clay Jordan.

NATIONAL PARK NEWS BRIEFS

Major Road Project Finishes Early

On January 16 of this year, after three days of heavy rains, a 200-foot section of Newfound Gap Road collapsed and slid toward the banks of the Oconaluftee River. The landslide shut down a major transmountain route between North Carolina and Tennessee and the most heavily-used road in the park. Fortunately the park and the Federal Highway Administration were able to fully fund and fast track the project so it was completed in 90 days, a full month ahead of schedule.

Bad News for Bats (and Humans)

Thirteen species of bats live in or near Great

Smoky Mountains National Park, including the endangered Indiana and gray bats. Most do not inhabit caves in summer but roost in hollow trees, under bark, or in tree foliage. They play an essential role in ecosystems by eating huge quantities of moths, mosquitos, flies, gnats, and beetles.

Unfortunately, bats in eastern North America are being wiped out by a disease called white-nose syndrome. Last year the disease was confirmed in the Smokies, and as a consequence, all park caves have been closed to the public. Unless an effective treatment for the syndrome is found soon, there may be very serious impacts on natural ecosystems, agriculture, and people.



New Beetles to Help Hemlock Trees

The National Park Service is releasing two new species of predator beetles to help save the Smokies' stately hemlock trees. The predator beetles eat the non-native adelgids that have killed most of the hemlocks in the region. In addition to the beetles, the Park Service also treats a limited number of trees with insecticides. Hopefully the predator beetles will eventually hold the adelgids in check and allow the native forests to recover. Predator beetles are tiny and all black. They should not be confused with the large, orange Asian lady beetles that invade homes in winter.

Park's Salamanders Have Declined

New research from scientists Caruso and Lips at the University of Maryland indicates there has been a "substantial decline" in the Smokies salamander population over the last 30 years. The study concludes the decline has not been caused by acid rain, over collecting, or historic logging practices. The scientists could not rule out climate change or disease as possible culprits.



springhouses

The coolest place to be on a hot summer day



Foods such as coleslaw, turnip slaw, sauerkraut, sausage, pickled corn, corn relish, milk, butter, and chowchow were put in crocks and stored in the springhouse where they would keep for weeks or months.

When it came time for a mountain family to choose a house site, many considerations came into play. Near the top of the list of considerations was good drinking water. Taste was more important than quantity. There are older people to this day who will not drink city water, and who make regular pilgrimages into the park to fetch water from a favorite spring and take it home.



The ornate Palmer springhouse in Cataloochee valley can still be seen today on its original site.

The spring was also the mountain refrigerator, so the springhouse was an important building on a hillside farm. Perishable foods, particularly dairy products, were kept inside and cooled by water flowing through the structure. Food was usually placed in heavy crocks capped with ceramic lids, boards, or flat rocks. Canned foods and salted meat were also stored there. Sausage, wrapped in cornshucks, placed in a crock and sealed with fat, would keep through the summer in the springhouse.

Since all springhouses were built for the same purpose, most of them were very much alike. They were just tall enough to stand up in, but some were not even that high. A solid door in the front wall, and sometimes a lattice or picket door, kept wild and domestic animals away.

The interior layout was a matter of individual taste, somewhat tempered by the lay of the land and location of the spring. Most springhouses were not placed directly over the spring, but a few feet downstream instead. Floors were mere conveniences that

provided a dry place to stand and work, although not all springhouses had them. Heavy puncheons were often used instead of boards. Better floors of large stone slabs were occasionally used. The spring itself was usually walled up with dry laid stone in order to confine the head, and direct the flow to the building a few feet away.

The terrain immediately around the spring and building site determined the manner in which the flow was handled. On a relatively flat

site, the spring flowed through the building in a rock-lined channel and out the other end. (The Walker sisters' place has a good example of this.) On a steeper site the water was carried into the building in an elevated trough, which continued through the structure and stopped at the opposite end. (Go to the Elijah Oliver place in Cades Cove to see one of these.) The water exited the trough through a notch in the end, or a hollow wooden spout. Crocks were placed either in the channel in the floor, or in the elevated trough, and were kept cool by the constant flow of water. Sometimes shelves were placed along the side and back walls to provide space for food which did not have to be cooled directly by the water.

Of all farm buildings, the springhouse was perhaps the most delightful place to be in the summer. The location was choice, usually a narrow ravine near the house, shaded by laurel and hemlock and carpeted with fern. On a hot day, it was a good place to linger and drink a dipper of water that was "cold enough to crack your teeth."

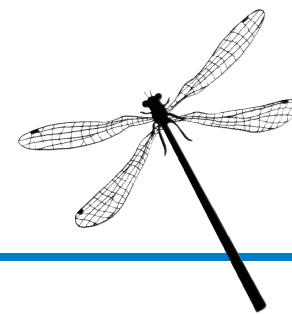


The Walker sisters' springhouse has also been preserved on its original site. Water from the spring flows through the springhouse in a rock-lined channel.



be a junior ranger

Protect the park's plants and animals for the benefit and enjoyment of the people



Summer is a terrific time to become a Junior Ranger in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. If you are between the ages of 5 and 12, this is all you need to do to earn your badge.

1. Purchase the correct booklet for your age at any park visitor center or at Elkmont and Cades Cove campgrounds. The booklets cost \$2.50 each and are specific to the following age groups: 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, or 11-12. Or, if you want to just attend three ranger-led programs to earn your badge, pick up a free

Junior Ranger Summer Programs schedule at any visitor center.

2. Complete the activities in the booklet. It's O.K. to ask an adult for help.

3. Attend a ranger-led walk or talk. If you are not able to attend any of the programs listed in this newspaper, go to Sugarlands, Oconaluftee, or Cades Cove visitor center and ask at the information desk for one of their other Junior Ranger activity options.

4. Pick up one bag of litter. Use a plastic grocery store bag or other bag of similar size.

5. Take your booklet to Sugarlands or Oconaluftee visitor center, or Cades Cove Ranger Station (at the campground) to receive your badge.



RODNEY CAMAUF-FINLEY/HOLIDAY PHOTO



OR BECOME A NOT-SO-JUNIOR RANGER

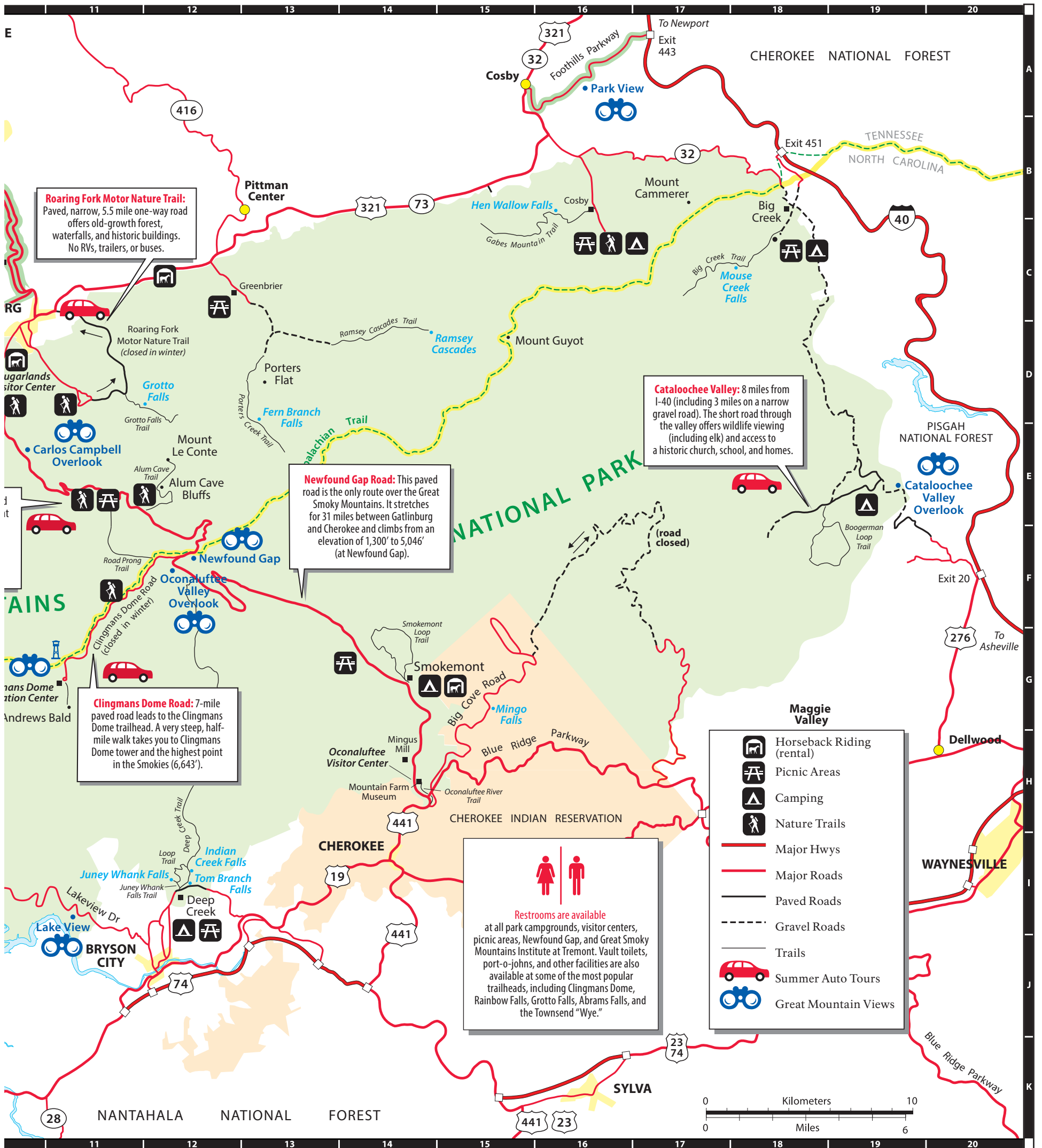
For ages 13-130!

If you are too old to become a Junior Ranger (ages 5-12), but too young to want to miss out on all the fun, we have a program just for you.

Not-So-Junior-Ranger candidates simply need to pick up a free Not-So-Junior Ranger card at any park visitor center. Candidates then attend three ranger-led programs listed in this *Smokies Guide* park newspaper and get the rangers' signatures on your card.

Once your card is completed, take it to Sugarlands, Oconaluftee, or Cades Cove visitor center to receive a free Not-So-Junior Ranger patch. The program is sponsored by Friends of the Smokies, Great Smoky Mountains Association, the National Park Service, and Toyota.





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.

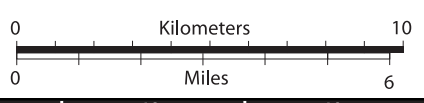
Newfound Gap Road: This paved road is the only route over the Great Smoky Mountains. It stretches for 31 miles between Gatlinburg and Cherokee and climbs from an elevation of 1,300' to 5,046' (at Newfound Gap).

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.

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, 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



join a ranger!

Free* programs and activities in Great Smoky Mountains National Park




CITY OF GATLINBURG PHOTO

June 16 - August 17, 2013

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.



 let's move **outside**

These programs qualify as a Let's Move Outside! activity, a component of First Lady Michelle Obama's initiative to end childhood obesity in a generation. Let's Move Outside! seeks to connect children to nature through outdoor recreation.

*there is a special fee for Cades Cove hayrides.

GATLINBURG/ SUGARLANDS AREA

Sundays

Become a History Detective! (last program August 4)

Sugarlands Visitor Center
10:00 a.m.

Walk with a ranger and learn how to "read" the landscape for signs of human activity.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Easy

Cataract Falls

Sugarlands Visitor Center
11:00 a.m.

Take a stroll to a beautiful waterfall and learn more about the Great Smokies.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Easy



Junior Ranger: Bear-mania!

Sugarlands Visitor Center
1:00 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



Mondays

Summer Stroll in the Smokies – Ranger's Choice

Sugarlands Visitor Center

11:00 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

Level: Easy

Geology Rocks! (last program August 5)

Sugarlands Visitor Center
2:00 p.m.

Stop taking everything for granite. Amaze your friends with newfound knowledge about how these mountains were born and how they have changed over time.

Duration: 45 minutes



Tuesdays

Cataract Falls

Sugarlands Visitor Center
11:00 a.m.

Take a stroll to a beautiful waterfall and learn more about the Great Smokies.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy



Junior Ranger: Yucky Animal Stuff

Sugarlands Visitor Center
10:00 a.m.

Want to know some gross stuff about animals? Check out some skulls. Go on a scat safari. Try out your sense of smell. Learn some disgusting facts.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy



Junior Ranger: "Tremendous" Program

Sugarlands Visitor Center
2:00 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what kind of tree it is or how big or how old it is? When will it leaf out? When will it flower? Join a ranger to find out how we know these things. Basic tree identification skills will be taught.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy

Wednesdays

Summer Stroll in the Smokies – Ranger's Choice

Sugarlands Visitor Center
11:00 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

Level: Easy

Junior Ranger: Retiring the Colors

Meet at the flag pole in front of Sugarlands Visitor Center

6:45 p.m.

Do you know how to fold the American flag? Why does our flag have 13 stripes? When do you salute the flag? Discover the answers to these questions while assisting staff in "retiring the colors" in front of the Sugarlands Visitor Center.

Duration: 30 minutes



A Waterfall by Lantern Light

Sugarlands Visitor Center

8:15 p.m.

Limit 25 – 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

Cataract Falls

Sugarlands Visitor Center

11:00 a.m.

Take a stroll to a beautiful waterfall and learn more about the Great Smokies.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy



Thinking Like a Bear

Sugarlands Visitor Center

1:00 p.m.

What does the future hold for the black bear in the Smokies? How does the National Park Service manage wildlife here? A ranger answers your questions.

Duration: 45 minutes



Fridays

Cataract Falls

Sugarlands Visitor Center

11:00 a.m.

Take a stroll to a beautiful waterfall and learn more about the Great Smokies.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy



Mountain Home

Noah Bud Ogle Cabin on Cherokee Orchard Road

2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sit a spell on the front porch of the Ogle cabin and learn about the families who once lived here. Demonstrations and activities will vary throughout the season.

Duration: On-going 1 ½ hours

Level: Easy

Saturdays

Summer Stroll in the Smokies—Ranger's Choice

Sugarlands Visitor Center

11:00 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

Searching for Salamanders (last program August 10)

Meet at Chimneys Picnic Area, first parking area on right

2:00 p.m.

Limit 25 – sign up at Sugarlands Visitor Center. Join a ranger to discover some of the 13 species of salamanders that have been found in one area of the park. A change of shoes or water shoes recommended. Children must have an adult sign up with them.

Duration: 2 hours

Level: Easy

OCONALUFTEE/ SMOKEMONT AREA

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 grist-mill in action.

Difficulty: Easy

Accessibility: Two steps into mill

Sundays

Hike: Where the Waters Sing

Meet in Smokemont Campground D Loop

11:30 a.m.

Pack a snack and water and join a ranger on a moderate 4-mile round-trip hike along side Bradley Fork to Chasteen Creek Falls.

Duration: 3 hours

Difficulty: Moderate



Junior Ranger: Whoooooo Gives a Hoooooot?

Porch of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

2:30 p.m. (last program August 4)

Whoooooo!!!! Have you ever heard this sound in the Smokies and wondered whoooooo it belongs to? Come learn about the owls of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Duration: 40 minutes



Junior Ranger: Night Hike

Bradley Fork Trailhead, D-Loop Smokemont Campground

8:45 p.m.

Ever wonder what goes grrr in the night? What creatures are out there moving under the cover of darkness? Take a walk on the dark side with a ranger and learn about some of the mysteries and wonders found only after the sun goes down. Limited to 25 participants. Call (828) 497-1904 up to four days in advance to make reservations.

Duration: Approximately 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy, less than one mile



Mondays

This “Tree-mendous” Place

Oconaluftee River Trail adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

10:00 a.m.

What can we learn from trees? What do they teach us? Scientists want to know and you can help them find the answers. Join park staff as they help researchers collect and record data.

Duration: Approximately 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy, less than one mile

Junior Ranger: Stream Splashers

Oconaluftee River adjacent to the Mountain Farm Museum

2:00 p.m.

Roll up your pants and wade through a mountain stream to look for mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies, and other aquatic critters. Be prepared to get wet. Closed toed shoes recommended.

Duration: Lasts about 1 ½ hours

Difficulty: Easy

Once upon a time...

Smokemont Campground between C-Loop & D-Loop

7:00 p.m. (starting June 24)

...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. You may or may not see one, but if you are lucky, you will be ready when you spot them. Bring a blanket or chair for an exciting evening.

Duration: 1 hour



Tuesdays

Junior Ranger: Slimy Salamanders

Mingus Mill

12:00 p.m.

Join a ranger to explore the damp, dark world of the park's most popular amphibian. Be prepared to get a little wet and even a little dirty as we search for this slimy creature. Closed toed shoes recommended.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy, less than one mile

A Stitch in Time

Porch of Davis Queen Cabin on the Mountain Farm Museum

2:00 p.m.

What do “The Mill Wheel,” “Log Cabin,” “Split Rail Fence,” and “Bear’s Paws” all have in common? They are traditional block patterns found in the southern Appalachians. Come learn about the art of quilting and how it was handed down from generation to generation.

Duration: 1 hour

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 breadbox, greets with nose kisses, but has never been to the North Pole? Hint: it lives in the Smokies. They are under appreciated but often observed. Come join park staff to find the answer—you just may be surprised.

Duration: 45 minutes



Old Time Mountain Religion

Smokemont Baptist Church (near Smokemont Campground entrance)

1:00 p.m.

Join a ranger and discover how old-time mountain religion met spiritual, social, and community needs.

Duration: 45 minutes

Thursdays

Junior Ranger: What Story?

Oconaluftee River Trail adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

11:30 a.m. (last program August 8)

Join us for an easy stroll along the Oconaluftee River Trail and hear the story of the understory. Who lives there, why it is there, and discover if all litter is bad litter. You will see a whole world that has been below your knees all along even—even if you never noticed it. Now you will!

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy, less than one mile

Junior Ranger: I wish I lived in the good ol' days!

Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

2:00 p.m. (last program August 8)

Come explore the past for a glimpse into yesterday in rural southern Appalachia at the turn of the last century. Never again will we see log structures of American chestnut and if we are fortunate, never again scrub our clothes on washboards. How wonderful it is to visit the past, how amazing it is to live in the present. Let's compare and decide when we would really have liked to live.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy, less than one mile

Fridays

Junior Ranger: Be a Blacksmith

Blacksmith Shop at the Mountain Farm Museum, adjacent to Oconaluftee Visitor Center

10:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Learn about the blacksmith. Create your own item to take home. Limited to ages 10-12. Other Junior Ranger programs will be going on simultaneously for younger kids.

Duration: 30 minutes

Junior Ranger: Batteries Not Included

Mountain Farm Museum, adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

10:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

What kinds of toys did kids play with in the "old days?" Join a ranger to discover (or remember!) how kids were entertained before video games and iPods. You'll be able to take home a "buzz button" of your very own. All ages welcome.

Duration: 30 minutes

Level: Easy



Smokemont Night Hike

Bradley Fork Trailhead, D-Loop Smokemont Campground

8:45 p.m. (last program August 9)

Move beyond the comfortable glow of the campfire and explore the Smokies' nightlife. Limited to 25 participants. Call (828) 497-1904 up to four days in advance to make reservations.

Duration: Approximately 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy, less than one mile



Saturdays

Junior Ranger: Being a Kid in the Mountains

Meet at the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

10:00 a.m.

What was it like to grow up in these mountains before any of the modern conveniences we enjoy today? Join a ranger to learn about the chores that kids did as well as learning what the kids did for fun and how they explored this area.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy



Junior Ranger: Stream Splashers

Oconaluftee River adjacent to the Mountain Farm Museum

1:00 p.m. (last program August 10)

Roll up your pants and wade through a mountain stream to look for mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies, and other aquatic critters. Be prepared to get wet. Closed toed shoes recommended.

Duration: About 1 1/2 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Spirit of the Smokies

Smokemont Campground between C-Loop & D-Loop

7:00 p.m. (last program August 10)

Bring a blanket or chair and sit back as you listen to stories of the Smokies.

Duration: 1 hour



ELKMONT/LITTLE RIVER AREA

Mondays

Junior Ranger: Let's be a Scientist

Elkmont Amphitheater

11:00 a.m.

Ever dream of being a scientist? Join a ranger and try using scientific tools to study wildlife. Be prepared to get "up-close-and-personal" to some of the smallest critters that live in the Smokies.

Duration: 1 - 1 1/2 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Junior Ranger: Stream Splashers

Elkmont-Little River Trailhead

1:30 p.m.

Roll up your pants and wade through a mountain stream to look for mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies and other aquatic critters. Be prepared to get wet. Close-toed shoes that can get wet are recommended.

Duration: 1 - 1 1/2 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Wednesdays

Old Elkmont

Meet behind Elkmont Campground Entrance Station

2:00 p.m.

Take a stroll with a ranger and learn about Elkmont when it was a turn-of-the-century logging boom town.

Duration: 1 1/2 hours

Level: Easy

Fridays

Evening Campfire Program

Elkmont Amphitheater

8:00 p.m.

Join a ranger for a National Park tradition – the evening campfire program. Topics vary, but you're guaranteed to learn something new about the Great Smoky Mountains.

Duration: 45 minutes



Saturdays

Junior Ranger: Biking on the Railroad

Meet at Elkmont Campground Office

2:00 p.m.

Take a ride along the Little River Railroad. One catch: you have to ride a bike! Join a ranger as we ride the old rail trail and discover the history of the Elkmont area. Helmets are required for all riders.

Duration: 45 minutes

Wings in the Night: Bats of the Smokies (last program August 10)

Elkmont Amphitheater

8:00 p.m.

Learn about the important role bats play in the ecosystem, why their very existence is being threatened, and what you can do to help.

Duration: 45 minutes



METCALF BOTTOMS/ LITTLE GREENBRIER AREA

Tuesdays

School Days at Little Greenbrier

Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse

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

Discover what it was like to live in a mountain community and

go to school in a one-room schoolhouse. Please arrive 15 minutes before program start; space is limited.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy

Wednesdays

Junior Ranger: Stream Splashers

Metcalfe Bottoms – Picnic Area Pavilion

11:00 a.m.

Roll up your pants and wade through a mountain stream to look for mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies and other aquatic critters. Be prepared to get wet. Close-toed shoes that can get wet are recommended.

Duration: 1 - 1 1/2 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Junior Ranger: Bein' A Kid in the Mountains Hike

Metcalfe Bottoms Picnic Area Pavilion

1:00 p.m.

What was it like to grow up in these mountains before any of the modern conveniences we enjoy today? Join a ranger to experience how life used to be in these mountains, including how kids explored and what they liked to do for fun. Be prepared for a short hike.

Duration: 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy, 1 1/2 miles

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: Blue & Gray

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

1:00 p.m.

The Civil War needs young folks to enlist for the Union or Confederacy. As a recruit you will learn about the life of a soldier. Join a park ranger to see how the Civil War affected communities such as Cades Cove.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy



WILD by Design

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area halfway 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 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



Mondays

Mill Tour

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

11:30 a.m.

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

Duration: 30 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



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.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Return of the Elk

Cataloochee Valley, Rough Fork Trailhead

6:00 p.m.

Tuesdays, July 9 & July 23

Come enjoy a guided hike to the elk acclimation pen and explore how, when, and why the elk were returned to the Smokies.

Duration: 1 ½ hours

Difficulty: Moderate, less than 1 mile

From Bradleytown to Campground

Smokemont Baptist Church (near Smokemont Campground entrance)

9:00 a.m. Saturdays, June 15, July 20, & August 17

Join Park Volunteer Dick Sellers for an easy 2-hour stroll through time from early Bradleytown to the present campground. Learn how this area transformed from a forested haven to a barren wasteland and back again. Afterwards visitors may choose to hike to the Bradley Fork Cemetery with Dick. Walking shoes & water bottle recommended.

Duration: 2 hour walk (cemetery hike add 1 hour)

Difficulty: Moderate, less than 1 mile

Back Porch Old-Time Music

Porch of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturdays, June 15, July 6 & 20, & August 3 & 17

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.



Women's Work Festival

Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to Oconaluftee Visitor Center

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, June 15

Join park staff and volunteers for a glimpse into the past roles that rural women held in the family and community. Come experience the similarities as well as the differences life presented more than a century ago. A variety of demonstrations will be ongoing throughout the day.



Student Volunteer Days

OPEN ONLY TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS & RECENT GRADS (and their families)

Tennessee Location: June 21, July 8, & August 2

Contact Ranger Emily (Emily_Guss@nps.gov, 865-436-1713) to RSVP and find out logistics.

North Carolina Location: June 25 & August 1

Contact Ranger Beth Wright (mcwright@nps.gov, 828-497-1907) to RSVP and find out logistics.

Ever wonder what it would be like to be a ranger? Ever want to help scientists study the National Park? Join us as a special volunteer and help rangers explore and protect this National Park.

Special Scientists: Slimy Salamanders!

Meet in front of Sugarlands Visitor Center ONLY OFFERED June 27, July 18, & August 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Attention scientists! Join a ranger to explore the damp, dark world of the park's most popular amphibian. Be prepared to get a little wet and even a little dirty as we search for this slimy creature. Close-toed shoes that can get wet are recommended.

Duration: 1 ½ hours

Level: Ages 3-18 (Children under 10 must be accompanied by parent/guardian)

Special Scientists: Micro-world Exploration!

Tennessee Location: July 25 at 10:00 a.m.

Meet in front of Twin Creeks Science & Education Center, on Cherokee Orchard Road near Gatlinburg, TN

North Carolina Location: June 18 at 10:00 a.m.

Meets in front of Oconaluftee Visitor Center Administration Building near Cherokee, NC

Attention scientists! Do you "like lichen"? Do you know what a "water bear" is? Join a Ranger for a special in-depth science investigation. Program will include using scientific tools, such as microscopes, to get up-close-and-personal with these critters.

Duration: 1.5 hours

Difficulty: Ages 10 and older

Special Scientists: Become a Citizen Scientist!

Tennessee Location: July 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Meet in front of Twin Creeks Science & Education Center, on Cherokee Orchard Road near Gatlinburg, TN

North Carolina Location: August 6 at 10:00 a.m.

Meets in front of Oconaluftee Visitor Center Administration Building near Cherokee, NC.

Attention scientists! Do you want to become a citizen scientist? Become a citizen scientist for the day by assisting in a new science investigation in the park! Program will include using scientific tools in the field and taking part in an ongoing outdoor research project.

Duration: 1.5 hours

Difficulty: Ages 10 & older

Cades Cove Full Moon hike

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

8:30 p.m. Sunday, June 23

8:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 23

8:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 20

Duration: 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy two mile walk. Wear comfortable walking shoes.



Blacksmith Demonstrations

Saturday & Sunday, May 25 & 26

Saturday & Sunday, June 22 & 23

Saturday & Sunday, July 6 & 7

Saturday & Sunday, August 3 & 4

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.



Basketmaking Demonstration

Saturday & Sunday, May 25 & 26, June 29 & 30

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

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

Uses of native plants was necessary to weave baskets for collecting and storing everything from food to flowers.



Quilting Demonstration

Saturday–Tuesday, May 25–28

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

Demonstrate the techniques of quilting.



Shaped-Note Singing School

Little Greenbrier School

Sunday, July 14 at 2:00 p.m.

Singing schools in the mountains were scheduled when people were not occupied with their work. They taught the rudiments of music by the use of shape notes (also known as Old Harp singing). Come and participate or just listen. Songbooks will be provided.

Duration: 2 hours

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

Duration: 45 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



Cades Cove Night Hike

Meet at the orientation shelter at the entrance to the Cades Cove Loop Road

9:00 p.m.

Listen to the spirits of Cades Cove. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult

Duration: 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy, 2 ½ miles



Tuesdays

Junior Ranger: Blacksmithing

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Blacksmith Shop, halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road

10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.

Join a ranger in the blacksmith shop to learn about the blacksmith. Create your own item to take home. Other Junior Ranger programs will be going on simultaneously for younger kids. **Limited to children ages 8–12 with group size limited to 8 children per program.**

Duration: 45 minutes.

Junior Ranger - "Animal Olympics"

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

10:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

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

Duration: 45 minutes



Junior Ranger: Blue & Gray

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

11:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

The Civil War needs young folks to enlist for the Union or Confederacy. As a "recruit" you will learn about the life of a soldier. Bring the family and join a park ranger to see how the Civil War affected communities such as Cades Cove.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy



Cades Cove Evening Hayride

Meet at the Cades Cove Riding Stables

5:00 p.m.

Join a ranger for an evening open-air hayride in the Cove. Hayrides can fill up quickly, first-come, first-serve for this program.

Duration: 2 hours

Fee: \$14.00/person

Wednesdays

Cades Cove Evening Hayride

Meet at the Cades Cove Riding Stables

5:00 p.m.

Join a park ranger for an evening hayride viewing wildlife and discovering the Cove. Hayrides can fill up quickly: first-come, first-served for this program.

Duration: 2 hours

Fee: \$14.00/person

Thursdays

Junior Ranger Program - "Eager Weaver"

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

1:00 p.m.

Join a ranger and learn the art of weaving using a loom. Take home your work.

Duration: 45 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



WILD Program

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

2:30 p.m.

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

Duration: 30 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



Evening Program - "Hills, Hollers & Harmonies"

Meet at the Cades Cove amphitheatre

7:30 p.m.

Join a park ranger to learn about the fiddle and banjo tunes, ballads, and sacred music of the mountain folk that still echo within the hills and hearts of the Smokies.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy



Fridays

'Early Bird' Hayride

Meet at the Cades Cove Riding Stables

7:30 a.m.

Join a park ranger for an early morning hayride viewing wildlife and discovering the diversity of life in the Cove.

Duration: 2 hours

Fee: \$14.00/person



Junior Ranger Program - "Aw Shucks!"

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

1:00 p.m.

Join a park ranger as we cultivate countless kernels of knowledge and learn about the staple crop of mountain families - corn. Make a corn shuck doll to take home.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy



Cades Cove Night Hike

Meet at the Orientation Shelter at the entrance to

the Loop Road

9:00 p.m.

Listen to the spirits of Cades Cove. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Duration: 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy, 2 1/2 miles



Saturdays

Junior Ranger: "Animal Olympics"

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

1:00 p.m.

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

Duration: 45 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



WILD by Design

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area halfway 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 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



NEWFOUND GAP/ CLINGMANS DOME AREA

Tuesdays

Hike the AT!

Newfound Gap - Rockefeller Memorial

1:00 p.m.

Experience a taste of Canada in the Smokies with a park ranger as we discover the buds, blossoms, birds, black-bellies, and bear food along a piece of the AT in the spruce-fir forest. We'll also talk a bit of the history of one of the most walked trails in the U.S.

Duration: 2 1/2 hours; 1.7 miles

Level: Moderate



Thursdays

Junior Ranger: Pack Your Day Pack

Clingmans Dome trailhead

11:00 a.m.

Scenic vistas, waterfalls, and old homesites...Let's hit the trail! But, wait...what should we take with us? Join a ranger and learn the knack of what to pack before you make tracks!

Duration: 30 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



Junior Ranger: Hike along the A.T.

Clingmans Dome trailhead

12:00 p.m.

Join a ranger and hike along the world-famous Appalachian Trail. Learn basic hiking and ex-

ploration techniques that are ranger-tested and kid approved. Make sure to wear sturdy walking shoes, bring plenty of water, and a snack. Program concludes at the Clingmans Dome observation tower.

Duration: 2 hours; 1 1/2 miles

Difficulty: Easy to moderate



CATALOOCHEE

Sundays

Junior Ranger: Smoky Mountain Elk

Palmer House, Cataloochee Valley

5:30 p.m.

It's all about connection and balance in nature to insure 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

Difficulty: Easy

FAMILIES:
Reward yourselves!

HIKE THE SMOKIES & EARN YOUR
STICKERS & PINS

HIKE THE SMOKIES FOR FAMILIES

be a part of the park!

You can help preserve the Great Smoky Mountains

become a

MEMBER

SINCE 1953, Great Smoky Mountains Association has been supporting the educational, scientific, and historical efforts of the National



Park Service through cash donations and in-kind services. In 2013 alone, the Association provided over \$1 million worth of assistance. Projects supported include saving hemlock trees, historical demonstrations, environmental education, and new visitor centers. Members of the association receive a number of benefits which help keep them informed about special events in the park and issues affecting the Smoky Mountains. These benefits include:

- Subscriptions to the semi-annual full color magazine, *Smokies Life*; the award-winning quarterly park newspaper, *Smokies Guide*; and the Association's newsletter, *The Bearpaw*.
- A 15-25% discount on books, maps, apparel, gifts, and other products sold at visitor centers in the national park
- Discounts at other national park and national forest bookstores across the country
- Special discounts at area motels, rental cabins, restaurants, shops, and attractions.

Join today using the coupon to the right or visit www.SmokiesInformation.org. Memberships start at just \$35 per year.



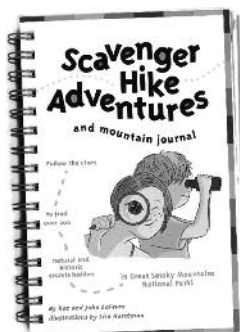
State laws related to road use prohibit GSMNP from charging an entrance fee (generally \$25 at national parks). Consequently this park receives substantially less funding than fee parks. You can help preserve nature and history in the Smokies by shopping at park visitor centers and supporting the nonprofit organizations on this page.

guided trips

AN EXCITING variety of adventures await adults who long to get out and explore the park accompanied by expert guides.

Programs are offered by Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont and the Smoky Mountain Field School and include Mt. Le Conte overnights, wildlife workshops, birding and wildflower seminars, teacher weekends, and more. Contact: (865) 448-6709 & (865) 974-0150, gsmnit.org & outreach.utk.edu/smoky

new books



GREAT Smoky Mountains Association is a nonprofit organization that operates bookstores in all park visitor centers.

Contact 1-888-898-9102 or www.SmokiesInformation.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 \$523. Fees include meals, lodging, and most equipment.

The 2013 summer offerings include: *Discovery Camp* (ages 9-12), *Wilderness Adventure Trek*, *Girls in Science Camp*, *Field Ecology Adventure*, and *Teen High Adventure* (various ages).

Contact: (865) 448-6709 www.gsmnit.org

be a park

FRIEND

FRIENDS of the Smokies is a nonprofit organization that assists the National Park Service by raising funds and public awareness and providing volunteers for needed projects.

Since 1993, Friends has raised over \$20 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
- 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 around the park or contact us at the address below.

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

volunteer

EVERY year over 3,000 volunteers accomplish more than 145,000 hours of work in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Their duties range from improving hiking trails and assisting stranded motorists to staffing visitor center information desks and monitoring plants and wildlife. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities in the Smokies, please contact www.nps.gov/grsm/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm or call (865) 436-1265.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION

- Annual Membership \$35
 Annual Supporting Membership \$50
 Lifetime Membership \$500
payable in 4 annual installments
 Business Membership \$250

FRIENDS OF GREAT SMOKY MTNS. NAT'L PARK

- Friend \$35

Please include your check with this form.

Mail to: Friends of GSMNP,
P.O. Box 1660, Kodak, TN 37764
(865) 932-4794
www.friendsofthesmokies.org

Count me in!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone () _____

eMail _____

Please include your check with this form. Mail to:
Great Smoky Mountains Association,
P.O. Box 130, Gatlinburg, TN 37738
(865) 436-7318 www.SmokiesInformation.org

visitor information

information

General Park Information
(865) 436-1200
www.nps.gov/grsm
Campground & Horse Camp
reservations 1-877-444-6777
www.recreation.gov
Backcountry Information
(865) 436-1297
To order maps & guides
(865) 436-7318 x226
www.SmokiesInformation.org

emergencies

Listed below are some numbers to call for emergencies.
Park Rangers (emergencies only) (865) 436-9171
Cherokee Police
(828) 497-4131
Gatlinburg Police
(865) 436-5181
Haywood Co. Sheriff
(828) 452-6666

hospitals

Blount Memorial (865) 983-7211, U.S. 321, Maryville, TN.
Sevier County/LeConte Med. Center (865) 446-7000, Middle Creek Rd., Sevierville, TN.
Swain County (828) 488-2155, Bryson City, NC.
Haywood County (828) 456-7311, Hwy 23/74, Waynesville, NC

regulations

Picking or digging plants is prohibited in the park.
Persons feeding wildlife are subject to a \$5,000 fine and six months in prison.
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, Oconaluftee, and Sugarlands) are fully accessible. The Sugarlands Valley all-access nature trail is located on Newfound Gap Road (U.S. 441) near Sugarlands. Please ask at a visitor center for more information on accessible facilities.

