



SMOKIES GUIDE

The Official Newspaper of Great Smoky Mountains National Park • Summer 2019

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Matt Kulp, Supervisory Fishery Biologist

Bright orange Tennessee Shiners surround a stoneroller on a chub nest in the West Fork of the Pigeon River. Image by Dave Herasimtschuk, Freshwaters Illustrated

Smoky Mountain Fish Put On Colorful Breeding Displays

Large stone nests protect native spawn on the river bottom

Pinks and purples, neon oranges and wisps of bright yellow shimmer in a dance of color under the flow of a clear mountain stream. One of the most spectacular displays of living color in the Smokies doesn't fly through the air or bloom with the wildflowers—it billows in a ball at the bottom of a river.

Early summer means it's mating time for many species of fish in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Males of some native species like the River Chub and the Tennessee Shiner put on a particularly striking show.

Male River Chubs begin to take on a pinkish-purple coloration in April to attract a mate, but they also play an ecological role by building large stone nests for their spawn out of pebbles gathered from the river bottom. Several smaller species of fish, which also take on distinctive hues to attract mates,

have adapted to rely on these very same mounds as safe spawning sites throughout May and June.

At times in early summer, several species can be seen gathered at once in bright, shifting swarms above a single mound. "It's quite a spectacle," said Fisheries Technician Caleb Abramson. When the oranges and yellows of spawning Tennessee and Saffron Shiners intermingle, Abramson describes the shifting mass as a "fireball" of activity. Other fish including Central Stonerollers and Warpaint Shiners also use River Chub mounds as spawning sites.

Although this summer show can be one of the more elusive for park visitors, spawning events can occur in most of the major lower-elevation streams throughout GSMNP, including the Little River and the Little Pigeon River. Research remains

to be done into the complex levels of interdependence between these and other remarkable Smoky Mountain natives.



**THANK YOU
FOR NOT
MOVING ROCKS.**

*Hellbenders live and nest under rocks.
Leaving no trace protects this
sensitive species.*

Words with a Ranger

As the supervisory fishery biologist for Great Smoky Mountains National Park, I am responsible for protecting, preserving and managing more than 70 species of fish, setting fishing regulations for five species of game fish, and maintaining and improving the water quality of more than 2,900 miles of park streams and rivers.

We protect and preserve fish populations by monitoring them annually, restoring native fish in select streams and working with neighboring state

Words with a Ranger continued on page 5

Camping in the national park

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

Campsites at Abrams Creek, Balsam Mountain, Big Creek, Cades Cove, Cataloochee, Elkmont and Smokemont may be reserved. For reservations call 877.444.6777 or contact recreation.gov. Sites may be reserved up to 6 months in advance. Reservations are *required* at Abrams Creek, Balsam Mountain, Big Creek and Cataloochee campgrounds.

Site occupancy is limited to 6 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 877.444.6777 or contact recreation.gov. Group sites may be reserved up to a year in advance.

The list below shows number of campground sites, elevations, camping fees and maximum RV lengths.

For current dates of operation, visit nps.gov/grsm.

- **Abrams Creek** 16 sites, elev. 1,125', opens April 26, \$17.50, 12' trailers
- **Balsam Mountain** 42 sites, elev. 5,310', opens May 17, \$17.50, 30' RVs
- **Big Creek** 12 sites, elev. 1,700', opens April 19, \$17.50, tents only
- **Cades Cove** 159 sites, elev. 1,807', open year-round, \$21-\$25, 35'-40' RVs
- **Cataloochee** 27 sites, elev. 2,610', opens April 19, \$25, 31' RVs
- **Cosby** 157 sites, elev. 2,459', opens April 19, \$17.50, 25' RVs
- **Deep Creek** 92 sites, elev. 1,800', opens April 19, \$21, 26' RVs
- **Elkmont** 220 sites, elev. 2,150', opens March 8, \$21-\$27, 32'-35' RVs
- **Smokemont** 142 sites, elev. 2,198', open year-round, \$21-\$25, 35'-40' RVs.
- **Look Rock** *closed in 2019*

To prevent the spread of destructive insect pests, the NPS has banned outside firewood from entering the park unless it is USDA- or state-certified heat-treated wood. Campers may

gather dead and down wood in the park for campfires. Certified wood may be purchased in and around the park.

Bicycling

Most park roads are too narrow and heavily traveled by automobiles for safe or enjoyable bicycling.

However, from May 8 to Sept. 25, on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from sunrise until 10 a.m., only bicycles and pedestrians are allowed on Cades Cove Loop Road. Bicycles may be rented at the Cades Cove Campground store. Cades Cove Loop Road is an 11-mile, one-way, paved road providing excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing and touring historic homesites.

Helmets are required by law for persons age 16 and under. However, helmets are strongly recommended for all bicyclists.

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

Accommodations

• **LeConte Lodge** (accessible by trail only) provides the only lodging in the park. 865.429.5704 or lecontelodge.com For information on lodging outside the park:

- **Bryson City** 800.867.9246 or greatsmokies.com
- **Cherokee** 828.788.0034 or cherokeesmokies.com
- **Fontana** 800.849.2258 or fontanavillage.com
- **Gatlinburg** 800.588.1817 or gatlinburg.com
- **Maggie Valley** 800.624.4431 or maggievalley.org
- **Pigeon Forge** 800.251.9100 or

mypigeonforge.com

- **Sevierville** 888.766.5948 or visitsevierville.com
- **Townsend** 800.525.6834 or smokymountains.org

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.

Special events

June 15 Women's Work: Mountain Farm Museum

September 21 Mountain Life Festival: Mountain Farm Museum

December 14 Festival of Christmas Past: Sugarlands Visitor Center

December 21 Holiday Homecoming: Oconaluftee Visitor Center

For rent

The Appalachian Clubhouse and Spence Cabin at Elkmont can be rented for daytime events starting April 1 each year. Contact recreation.gov.

Visitor centers

Summer hours of operation are: Oconaluftee and Sugarlands: 8-7; 8-6 in September. Cades Cove: 9-7; 9-6:30 in September. Clingmans Dome 10-6:30; 10-6 in September.

Picnic areas

Picnic areas open year-round are: Cades Cove, Deep Creek, Greenbrier and Metcalf Bottoms. All other picnic areas (except Heintooga) opened on April 19 or earlier. Heintooga opened May 17. Please see the map on page 16



Cyclists can enjoy Cades Cove without automobile traffic Wednesday and Saturday mornings. Image by Bill Lea

SMOKIES GUIDE

Smokies Guide is produced five times per year by Great Smoky Mountains Association and Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Publication dates are roughly as follows:

Spring: mid-March
Summer: early June

Late Summer: mid-August
Autumn: mid-Sept.
Winter: mid-Dec.

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MOVING ROCKS HARMS AQUATIC LIFE.

able 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. 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. At the low elevations, snows of 1" or more occur 3-5 times per year. At Newfound Gap, 69" fall on average. Lows of -20°F are possible at the higher elevations.

Fishing

Fishing is permitted year-round in the park, and a Tennessee or North Carolina fishing license is required. Either state license is valid throughout the park and no trout stamp is required. Fishing with bait is prohibited in the park. A special permit is required for 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.

Camping in the backcountry

Summertime camping can be an exciting adventure for persons properly equipped and informed. To facilitate this activity, the National Park Service maintains more than 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. **Get the map.** Go online to view the park's official trail map (nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/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 SmokiesInformation.org.

2. **Plan your trip.** Call or stop by the park's backcountry office, which is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., for trip planning help. The office is located in Sugarlands Visitor Center, two miles south of Gatlinburg on U.S. 441. 865.436.1297.

3. **Get a permit.** Make your reservation and obtain your permit through the backcountry office at Sugarlands Visitor Center (by phone or in person) or online at 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.

Summer hikers should be especially aware of abrupt weather changes and the danger of hypothermia—the lowering of body temperature. The combination of rain, cold and wind (especially at the higher elevations) is extremely dangerous.

To prevent hypothermia, carry reliable rain gear at all times. Layer clothing that provides warmth when wet (not cotton). Be prepared for sudden and drastic weather changes. Stay dry.

Driving distances and estimated times

Cherokee, NC to:

Gatlinburg: 34 miles (1 hour)
 Cades Cove: 58 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 (2½ 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 (3 hours)

for locations. Picnic pavilions may be reserved for \$12.50-\$80 at recreation.gov.

Other services

There are no gas stations, showers, or restaurants in the national park.

Park weather

- **Spring** - March has the most change-

	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"

These 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.

GREAT SIGHTS TO SEE

1. Cosby

Highlights: hiking, waterfall, evening ranger programs, scenic drive, mountain views

Cosby features a large campground, picnic area and plenty of hiking trails. The 4.2-mile round-trip hike to Hen Wallow Falls is moderate and extremely popular. The mile-long Cosby Self-guiding Nature Trail is a good way to stretch your legs and get acquainted with the area. Sutton Ridge Overlook and its impressive views are accessible from the Lower Mt. Cammerer Trail. It's 2.5 miles out and back.

Cosby Campground is generally one of the last campgrounds in the park to fill up. The picnic area includes a large covered pavilion that can be reserved in advance at recreation.gov. Join us Friday evenings this summer for "Celebrating Cosby" programs at the amphitheater (see program schedule on page 10).

A 6-mile section of Foothills Parkway between Cosby and I-40 provides stellar views of the majestic Smokies and is well worth the drive.

Mileage from Gatlinburg—20
from Townsend—40
from Cherokee—53

2. Look Rock Tower

Highlights: mountain views, short hike, scenic drive

Look Rock, named for a natural rock ledge, is the highest point on the western portion of Foothills Parkway. It is located between the Walland and Chilhowee entrances to the parkway.

A half-mile trail from the parking area to the top of the ridge provides access to Look Rock Tower, with a 360-degree panoramic view of the Great Smokies and neighboring foothills. Thunderhead and Gregory Bald are among the landmarks that can be viewed from this vantage point. This location makes a particularly good spot for stargazing and viewing summer meteor showers.

Please be aware that, although the observation tower is open, other Look Rock facilities, including the picnic area, campground and associated restrooms, are closed.

Mileage from
Townsend—16
from Gatlinburg—38
from Cherokee—68

3. Foothills Parkway West

Highlights: mountain views, scenic drive, newly opened parkway section

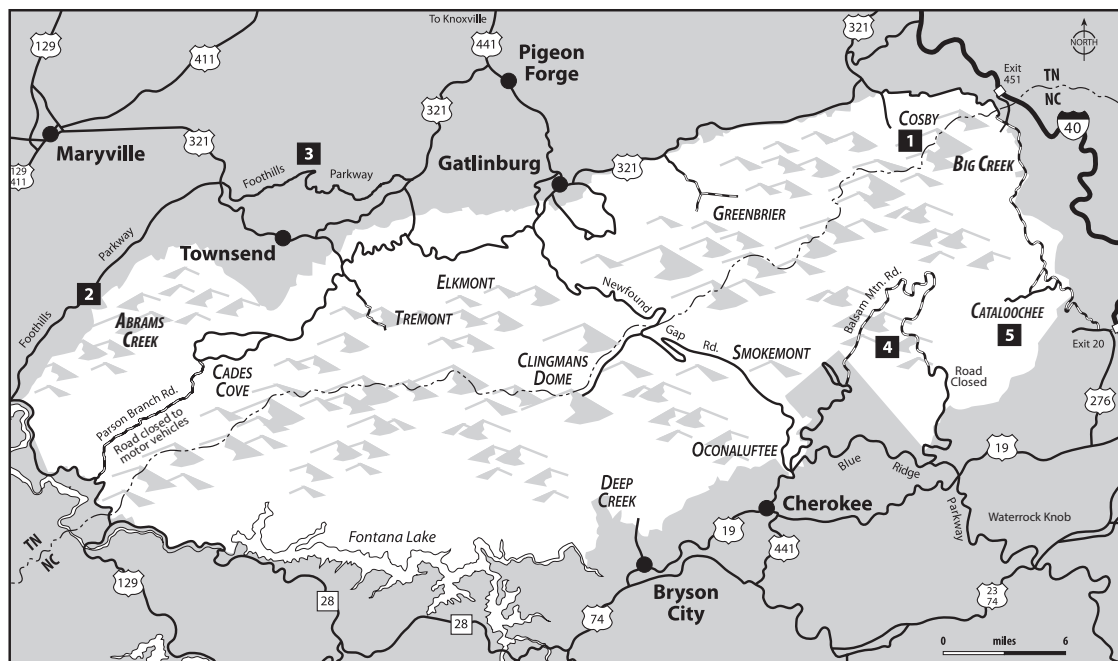
See the Smokies in a new light as you drive 32 miles of continuous parkway—without billboards, utility poles, or commercial traffic—offering stunning views of the park and the Tennessee Valley.

Late in 2018, the Walland to Wears Valley section of Foothills Parkway opened to the public, connecting with the segment between U.S. Highway 129 at Chilhowee Lake and U.S. Highway 321 in Walland that was opened in 1968.

The newest portion of Foothills Parkway features nine bridges, the longest of which spans 800 feet and follows a curvilinear path around the mountain terrain. Known as Bridge 2, it is comprised of 98 pre-cast concrete segments that were lowered into place by a large, specially built gantry crane and tensioned together in a cantilevered construction. The result is an engineering marvel, presenting spectacular views of the wide expanse of the Smokies to drivers on this new roadway.

A parking area at Caylor Gap is an excellent stopping point with views.

Mileage to the Wears Valley entrance to Foothills Parkway (newest section):
from Townsend—8
from Gatlinburg—16
from Cherokee—46



4. Balsam Mountain

Highlights: mountain views, mid-to-late-summer wildflowers, elk, scenic drive

This mile-high area features a campground (reservations required), picnic area, hiking trails and a scenic drive. Enjoy summer wildflowers along the way. To get there, take the Blue Ridge Parkway to Mile 458 and turn onto Heintooga Ridge Road. This paved road runs the ridge past scenic overlooks for 9 miles to Balsam Mountain Campground and Heintooga Picnic Area. You'll pass the trailheads for two outstanding hiking trails—Hemphill Bald and Flat Creek. Either trail offers the opportunity to hike in a mile or more and return the way you came.

From the picnic area, you can continue onto one-way gravel Balsam Mountain Road for 13 miles, then another 14 miles on paved roads back to the town of Cherokee.

Mileage from Cherokee—12
from Gatlinburg—45
from Townsend—62

5. Cataloochee Valley

Highlights: historic buildings, elk viewing, horse and hiking trails

Access to Cataloochee will be more difficult later this fall when the main entry

through Cove Creek Gap is closed due to roadwork. See this scenic valley while you can between now and November.

From just about anywhere you start, the journey to Cataloochee is long and winding. The last four miles are on a curvy, one-lane gravel road. Once safely in the valley, you will find that beauty and history abound.

Historic buildings include nicely preserved frame homes, barns, a church and even a school. Popular trails include the 2-mile-round-trip walk to the Woody House on Rough Fork Trail and the 7.5-mile Boogerman loop hike featuring old grove forests. The latter includes some difficult stream crossings.

During summer, the best times to view elk and other wildlife are early morning and evening. Fields are closed in May and June to protect calves and in September and October during the rut. Fields are also closed when elk are present. Please read the elk-watching guidelines on page 6 to learn how you can protect these magnificent animals and yourself.

Advance reservations via recreation.gov are required for Cataloochee Campground. Mileage from Cherokee—39
from Gatlinburg—65
from Townsend—87

Words with a Ranger

continued from page 1

and federal partners to ensure stream populations remain free from non-native parasites and diseases. We also lead a variety of research studies to inform park managers on current topics such as water chemistry changes associated with acid rain, conservation genetics of our native fish species, and mercury levels in fish tissue.

I became interested in this field after attending local fishing club meetings with my father and watching presentations by the state fishery biologist. The data was fascinating to me and really helped me understand why they managed the populations and set the fishing regulations like they did. We hire a number of interns and seasonal fishery technicians annually that share a similar passion and are starting their careers as I did years ago.

Currently we are working to restore native Brook Trout to three miles of Anthony Creek (TN) and four miles of Little Cataloochee Creek (NC). These efforts are providing visitors with an additional 13 streams and 30 miles of fishing for native Brook Trout, which is an important part of the natural heritage of the Smoky Mountains.

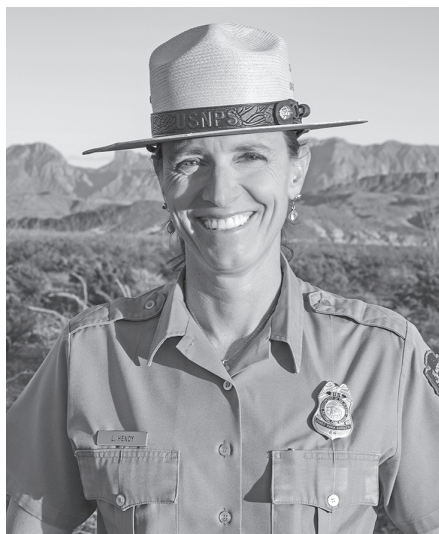
We are also working to provide water quality data to our state and federal partners to determine if air quality policies are helping to improve both air and water quality across the park. These data, collected by Trout Unlimited and other park volunteers since 1993, are being used to adjust air quality policies so that acidified streams will be allowed to recover and once again support fish and aquatic insects.

These air and water quality improvements will not only benefit the Great Smoky Mountains but the entire Southern Appalachian region. And we are very proud of that.

PARK NEWS

Great Smoky Mountains National Park news briefs

New Chief Ranger Joins Park Staff



Lisa Hendy joins the staff at Great Smoky Mountains National Park with a strong background in search and rescue operations, one of the many assets necessary to take on the top law enforcement job at the country's busiest national park. Hendy previously served as chief ranger at Big Bend National Park in Texas.
Image by Amelia Anne Photography

Tremont Acquires Land, Celebrates 50 Years

The rhododendron isn't the only thing growing in the Walker Valley this summer as Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont (GSMIT) announces their landmark purchase of 152 acres of land adjoining the GSMNP boundary in Townsend, TN.

The new space within hiking distance to GSMIT's current campus promises to open a world of possibilities for the Smokies' unique environmental education center, which has long been a trailblazer in the field of experiential learning. This year alone, GSMIT will provide more than 6,000 students of all ages extended opportunities to eat, sleep and learn in the park.

"As an organization, we have big goals for education," said GSMIT President and CEO Catey Terry. "For some time, we have explored ways we

can reach a larger audience and strengthen our community outreach. Once we saw this incredible piece of property, the vision of a second campus began to take shape in real and exciting ways."

The news of expansion comes at an especially fitting time as 2019 marks another significant milestone for GSMIT—half a century of learning in the Smokies. A special 50th anniversary celebration is currently planned as part of GSMIT's homecoming on October 13, 2019.

Stay up to date on both anniversary festivities and plans for GSMIT's new acreage or register for one of the many workshops and courses available at gsmnit.org.

neighboring agencies to help make areas safer for visitors and residents. She is a great addition to the park's management team."

Hendy is the 2011 recipient of the prestigious Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award honoring excellence in protecting resources and serving visitors. In 2007, she received an Intermountain Region Exemplary Service Award for lifesaving efforts within Grand Canyon National Park. Growing up near Chattanooga, TN, Hendy had her first backcountry experiences in the Smokies where she backpacked as a youth. She continues to be a tremendous outdoor enthusiast and enjoys kayaking, climbing, hiking and canyoneering.

"I am delighted to have returned to my home state in the park that provided my first real outdoor adventures," said Hendy. "It is a pleasure to be involved in the efforts to protect a place that was so instrumental in defining my passions and ultimately my career."



Schools from across the country spend 3-5 days during the school-year living on Tremont's campus inside the park. Through their unique co-teaching exchange, skills and teaching techniques used here are easily transferred back to the home classroom. The lessons and memories live on well past the time spent here. *Image by Joye Ardyn Durham*

Following Elk-Watching Guidelines Saves Lives

Feeding and approaching elk increases long-term risks for both elk and visitors

The open fields around Cataloochee, Oconaluftee and Tow String Road are closed to the public during May and June for visitor safety and to protect young elk calves. The same areas are closed during September and October because of dangers posed from bull elk during the annual rut.

The fields are closed to the public, regardless of the time of year, when elk are present. You may observe and photograph elk in the fields from your vehicle or by standing near the road. It is illegal to approach elk closer than 150 feet.

Bull elk can weigh 900 pounds and are dangerous. You may be gored or trampled by elk if you approach them.

Feeding elk harms the animals and causes them to lose their natural fear of people and thereby become threats to visitor safety. In order to protect visitor safety, park wildlife staff may need to euthanize elk that have lost their fear of people. ***By not feeding or approaching wildlife, you are protecting them.***



Average lifespan of an elk in the wild:

12 years

Young elk are at risk of learning to associate people with food rewards when they separate from their mothers and must find their own food sources for the first time.



Lifespan of the food-conditioned bull elk that was euthanized in 2013 when he became aggressive towards humans:

1 ½ years

Graffiti Ruins Views for Everyone

Removal requires extra labor hours and isn't always an option

Illustration by Emma DuFort

PARK

Etiquette

Escaping to the mountains allows us to forget our everyday routines. Unfortunately, some park visitors also forget basic good manners.

Graffiti is a serious issue affecting Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and evidence shows that many vandals may be acting out of a lapse of judgment and a desire to leave their mark in a place they have enjoyed—much like signing a registry book. Those who leave behind graffiti should be aware that it is a crime the park service is actively battling.

In late 2017, a group of park managers met at a popular scenic overlook on Newfound Gap Road to discuss the graffiti problem. “Three large stone walls that surround extremely popular pull-offs were covered in spray paint, nail polish and permanent marker,” said Trails and Facilities Volunteer Coordinator Adam Monroe. “The graffiti had become very obvious, even to drive-by visitors.”

A signature feature of Newfound Gap Road is beautiful stone masonry that was completed in the 1930s. These natural materials were chosen to blend into the landscape and complement mountain views from the roadway. Graffiti stands in stark contrast to those aesthetic values, so the park group determined that cleaning the entire surface

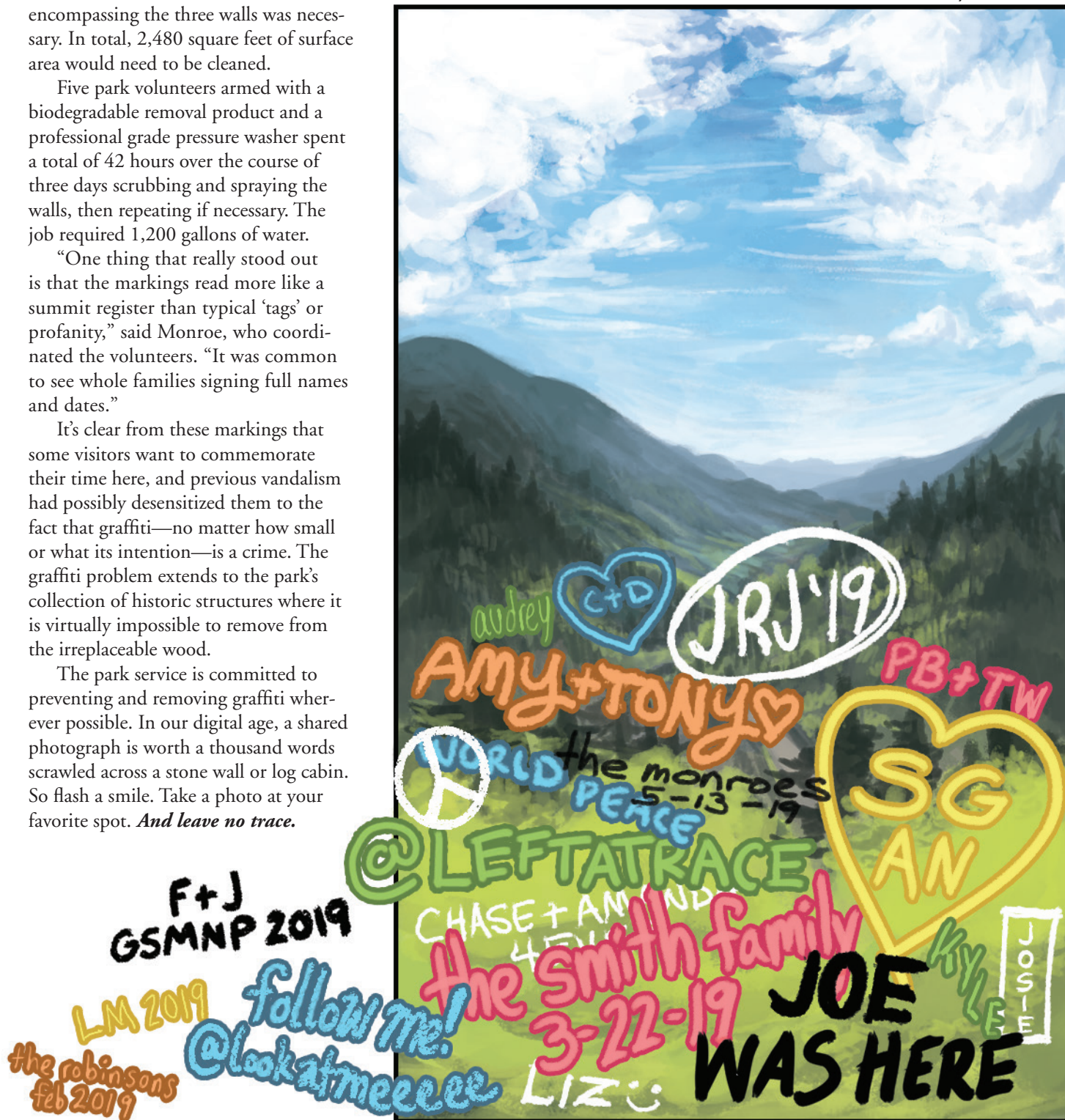
encompassing the three walls was necessary. In total, 2,480 square feet of surface area would need to be cleaned.

Five park volunteers armed with a biodegradable removal product and a professional grade pressure washer spent a total of 42 hours over the course of three days scrubbing and spraying the walls, then repeating if necessary. The job required 1,200 gallons of water.

“One thing that really stood out is that the markings read more like a summit register than typical ‘tags’ or profanity,” said Monroe, who coordinated the volunteers. “It was common to see whole families signing full names and dates.”

It’s clear from these markings that some visitors want to commemorate their time here, and previous vandalism had possibly desensitized them to the fact that graffiti—no matter how small or what its intention—is a crime. The graffiti problem extends to the park’s collection of historic structures where it is virtually impossible to remove from the irreplaceable wood.

The park service is committed to preventing and removing graffiti wherever possible. In our digital age, a shared photograph is worth a thousand words scrawled across a stone wall or log cabin. So flash a smile. Take a photo at your favorite spot. *And leave no trace.*

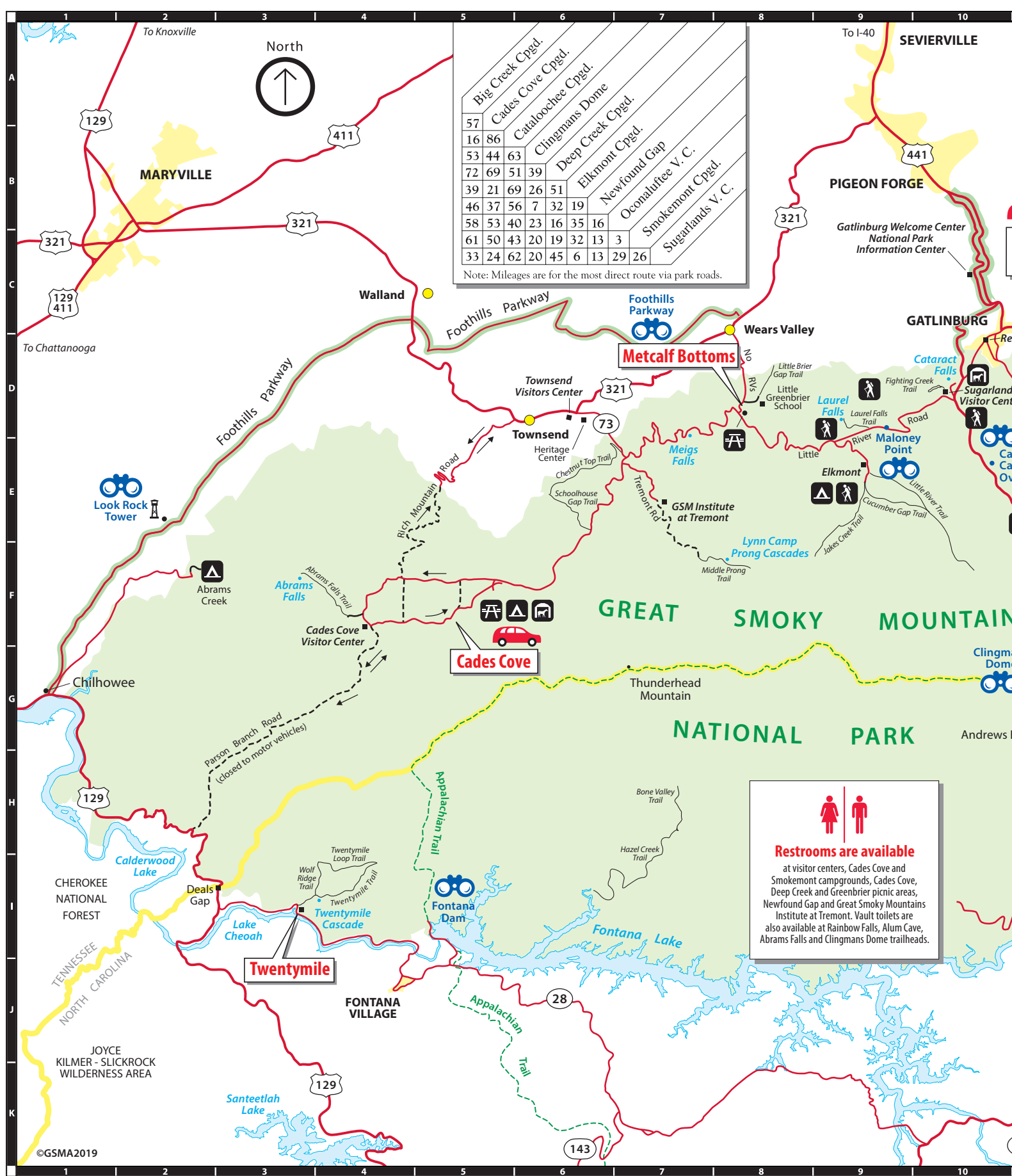


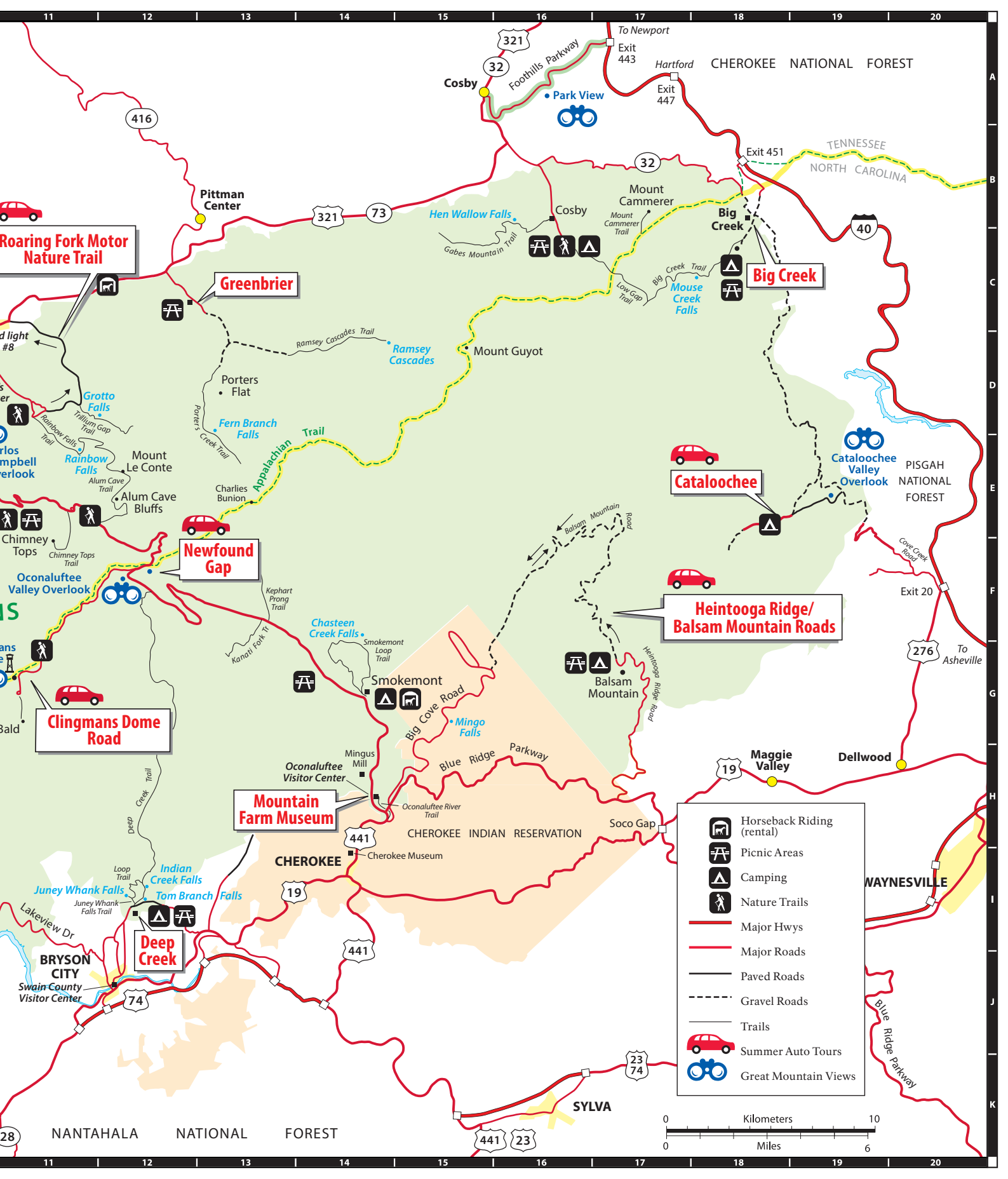
The Ten Essentials Checklist

Before you head out on that backpacking trip, ask yourself these basic questions: Can I respond positively to an accident or emergency? Can I safely spend a night or more in the backcountry?

The items you carry along on your trip can determine whether you are prepared for a safe backcountry experience. Below are ten essentials that all backpackers should have:

- Navigation: map and compass
- Insulation: extra clothing, sleeping bag
- Illumination: headlamp, flashlight
- First-aid supplies
- Fire: waterproof matches/lighter/candle
- Repair kit and tools
- Nutrition: extra food
- Hydration: extra water, filter or tablets
- Shelter: tent, tarp, garbage bag, emergency blanket
- Sun protection: sunglasses, sunscreen





Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail

Greenbrier

Big Creek

Newfound Gap

Cataloochee

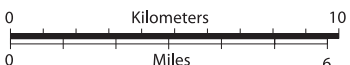
**Heintooga Ridge/
Balsam Mountain Roads**

Clingmans Dome Road

Mountain Farm Museum

Deep Creek

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



11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20



In addition to what you see here, stop in at any visitor center and get information about current ranger programs happening in the park!

CELEBRATING COSBY

New this summer!

Friday evenings at 7 p.m.* at Cosby Amphitheater • In the event of rain, meet at the Picnic Pavilion

June 14: 4 p.m. – *Flag Day Ceremony** at picnic pavilion
7 p.m. – *Mountain Edge Band* Bluegrass with Judge Carter Moore, Andy Williams, Jamie Clark and Limmy Workman

June 21: *Moonshiners* Mark Ramsey, Digger Manes and Kelly Williamson

June 28: *Children of Cosby, Yesterday and Today:* Visit Mountain Rest School, see small mammals and hands-on science in Cosby Creek

July 5: *Ella V. Costner and a Presentation of Quilts of Valor* to US Veterans, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Disabled American Veterans and AMVETS

July 12: 6:30 p.m. – *A Walk Down Memory Lane:** A Visit to Cosby prior to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park with former Cosby residents

July 19: *Eastern Band of Cherokee:* Storytelling, dance and music

July 26: *An Evening of Artifacts:* Family heirlooms like firearms and spinning wheels and a visit to a historic car with a peek at the national park archives.

August 2: *Richard Bennett:* Flatpicking guitarist, singer and songwriter who played with Bill Monroe

**exceptions*

SUGARLANDS/ELKMONT/COSBY AREA

	WHEN?	MEETING LOCATION	DURATION/DIFFICULTY
Junior Ranger Program: From pollinators to otters, nature detectives to Appalachian music, the Smokies nurtures the soul and stirs the imagination! Join a ranger to learn more during this “ranger’s choice” style program. <i>Limited to 25 participants. Call 865.436.1291 up to 4 days in advance to make reservations.</i>	Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 10 a.m.	Sugarlands Visitor Center	45 minutes Easy
Old Town of Elkmont: Is it lost? Is it a ghost town? Find out what happened at Elkmont before it became a campground.	Sundays 2 p.m.	Elkmont Campground Office	2 hours Moderate
Sugarlands Night Hike: Challenge your senses and experience the mystery of the Smokies after dark. <i>Limited to 25 participants. Call 865.436.1291 up to 4 days in advance to make reservations.</i>	Fridays 9 p.m.	Sugarlands Valley Nature Trail	1 hour Easy
Secrets of the Smokies: The Smokies are home to many hidden treasures. Join a ranger for a hike to explore the Avent Cabin and other secrets of the Smokies. <i>Limited to 25 participants. Call 865.436.1291 up to 4 days in advance to make reservations.</i>	Wednesdays June 19, July 3, July 17, July 31 & August 14 8 a.m.	Jakes Creek Trailhead in Elkmont	3+ hours Moderate
Coffee with a Ranger: Start your morning with a ranger and a cup of joe to hear what’s happening in the park and plan your day’s activities.	Wednesdays & Saturdays 9 a.m.	Wednesdays at Starbucks Saturdays at Anakeesta Plaza Gatlinburg, TN	1 hour Easy ♿
A Resilient Forest: Explore the park’s dynamic ecosystems and their resilience in times of change. Join a ranger to learn about how change affects the landscape.	Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.	Cove Hardwood Nature Trail in Chimneys Picnic Area	1.5 hours Moderate
Let’s Chat About It! The Smokies staff loves a good debate! Join a ranger to philosophize, pontificate, cajole or contemplate as we discuss hot topics in the park. Topics vary from week to week.	Wednesdays 2 p.m.	Sugarlands Visitor Center	1 hour Easy ♿
Talking Tombstones: Cemeteries are a wealth of information. Find out what the tombstones have to tell us about communities of the Smokies. Great for families!	Thursdays 2 p.m.	Jakes Creek Trailhead in Elkmont	1 hour Easy
Let’s Explore the Backcountry: Do you know what to pack before you make tracks? Do you know how to set up a campsite? Learn what you need to bring, proper food storage, and where the best places are to camp in the Smokies!	Thursdays 3:30 p.m.	Elkmont Amphitheater	1 hour Easy
Parks in Focus: Discover, Create and Explore: Develop a new connection to the uniqueness of the Smokies through the lens of a camera. Bring your own device (35mm, digital camera, phone, ipad, etc.) <i>Limited to 25 participants. Call 865.436.1291 up to 4 days in advance to make reservations.</i>	Fridays 10 a.m.	Sugarlands Valley Nature Trail	1 hour Easy ♿

SUGARLANDS/ELKMONT/COSBY AREA (CONTINUED)
WHEN?
MEETING LOCATION
DURATION/DIFFICULTY

<p>Celebrating Cosby: Join rangers and community members in celebrating all that Cosby has to offer! Generations will come together in these programs to share the rich cultural history of Cosby. ◀ Refer to box call out for specific dates and subject matter varying from bluegrass to Cherokee to archaeology, and more.</p>	<p>Fridays 7 p.m. <i>some exceptions— see full schedule on facing page</i></p>	<p>Cosby Amphitheater <i>In the event of rain, meet at the Picnic Pavilion</i></p>	<p>1 hour Easy ♿</p>
<p>Where are the wildlife? Scientists use tools to locate and track species throughout the park. Learn more about these tools and ways that you can help map species in the park too!</p>	<p>Saturdays 10 a.m.</p>	<p>Chimneys Picnic Area</p>	<p>1 hour Moderate</p>
<p>Elkmont Evening Program: Join a ranger for a National Park Service tradition—the evening campfire program. Topics vary but you’re guaranteed to learn something new about the Smokies!</p>	<p>Times vary—check at Sugarlands VC or Campground Office for times and topics</p>	<p>Elkmont Ampitheater</p>	<p>1 hour Easy</p>

METCALF BOTTOMS AREA

<p>Junior Ranger: School Days at Little Greenbrier: 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, and great for Junior Rangers. <i>Please arrive 15 minutes before program start. Space is limited.</i></p>	<p>Tuesdays 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.</p>	<p>Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse</p>	<p>1 hour Easy</p>
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CADES COVE AREA

Because of slow moving traffic it may take over an hour to drive six miles from the start of Cades Cove Loop Road to programs at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill Area. Plan accordingly. Additional programs may be scheduled daily. Please check the bulletin boards at the Cades Cove Campground Office, Cable Mill Visitor Center and Orientation Shelter.


<p>John P. Cable Mill: Experience what it was like to grind corn into meal at the gristmill. <i>Cable Mill area is halfway around the loop road.</i></p>	<p>Daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.</p>	<p>Cable Mill</p>	<p>Ongoing, 8 hours Easy ♿</p>
<p>Bear Aware Hike: Take a short walk to the John Oliver cabin, look for signs of bears along the trail, and learn to be “bear aware” in the park. <i>Bring water and wear closed-toed shoes. Orientation shelter is at the entrance of the loop road.</i></p>	<p>Sundays 10 a.m.</p>	<p>Cades Cove Orientation Shelter</p>	<p>1.5 hours Moderate, 2.5 miles</p>
<p>Cabin Fever: What’s a half-dovetail notch? Learn about mountain homes of the Smokies and the families that lived in them. <i>John Oliver Cabin is 1.2 miles around the loop road.</i></p>	<p>Sundays 12 p.m.</p>	<p>John Oliver Cabin</p>	<p>30 – 45 minutes Easy</p>
<p>Junior Ranger Program: Join park staff for a hands-on exploration of the Smokies. <i>Visitor Center is halfway around the loop road.</i></p>	<p>Daily, Sundays – Thursdays & Saturdays 1 p.m.</p>	<p>Cades Cove Visitor Center/ Cable Mill Area</p>	<p>45 minutes Easy ♿</p>
<p>WILD by Design: A talk and hands-on demonstration about the wild things in the park. <i>Visitor Center is halfway around the loop road.</i></p>	<p>Sundays, Mondays & Saturdays 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Cades Cove Visitor Center/ Cable Mill Area</p>	<p>45 minutes Easy ♿</p>
<p>Precious Memories: Go back in time to discover how the church influenced the Cove and its residents.</p>	<p>Tuesdays 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.</p>	<p>Cades Cove Primitive Baptist Church</p>	<p>30 minutes Easy</p>
<p>Bear Aware Walk: Take a short walk to learn to identify signs of bears along the trail and how to be “bear aware” in the park. <i>Visitor Center is halfway around the loop road.</i></p>	<p>Tuesdays 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Cades Cove Visitor Center/ Cable Mill Area</p>	<p>30 minutes Easy ♿</p>
<p>Cades Cove Night Hike: What was that? Join park staff for an evening ramble discovering the night sights and sounds of the Cove. <i>Children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a flashlight. Orientation shelter is at the entrance of the loop road.</i></p>	<p>Tuesdays 8:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Cades Cove Orientation Shelter</p>	<p>1.5 hours Easy, 2 miles</p>
<p>Mountain Life: Go back in time for a hands-on exploration of what life was like 100 years ago. No electricity required! <i>Visitor Center is halfway around the loop road.</i></p>	<p>Wednesdays 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Cades Cove Visitor Center/ Cable Mill Area</p>	<p>45 minutes Easy ♿</p>
<p>Junior Ranger: Blacksmithing: Join a park ranger in the blacksmith shop for a hands-on exploration of the art of blacksmithing. Other programs will be going on for younger kids. <i>Participants must wear closed-toed shoes. Visitor Center is halfway around the loop road. Limited to children 8 to 12 years old with group sizes limited to 8 per program.</i></p>	<p>Thursdays June 27 – July 18 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Cades Cove Visitor Center/ Cable Mill Area</p>	<p>45 minutes Easy</p>

CADES COVE AREA (CONTINUED)
WHEN?
MEETING LOCATION
DURATION/DIFFICULTY

Cades Cove Morning Hayride: Join park staff for an open-air ride through the Cove, viewing wildlife and discovering the history and diversity of life. Hayrides can fill up quickly. *First-come, first-served. Call Cades Cove Stables at 865.448.9009 or visit cadescovestables.com for cost and other information. Be advised: high winds, rain, storms or special conditions may cause program cancellation.*

Fridays
9 a.m.

Cades Cove Riding Stables

2 hours (traffic dependent)
Easy


Junior Ranger: Stream Splashers: Come roll up your pants and wade through a mountain stream searching for aquatic creatures. Be prepared to get wet. *Closed-toed shoes that can get wet are recommended. Visitor Center is halfway around the loop road.*

Fridays
1 p.m.


Cades Cove Visitor Center

45 minutes – 1 hour
Easy

Jr. Ranger: Discovery Hike: Jr. Rangers are invited for a short woodland walk to discover the plants and animals that share a Smokies home. *Program is geared to young children. Must be accompanied by an adult. Visitor Center is halfway around the loop road.*

Fridays
2:30 p.m.

Cades Cove Visitor Center

30 minutes
Easy


OCONALUFTEE AREA

Mingus Mill Demonstration: Chat with a miller and feel the rumble of this historic gristmill in action. *Mingus Mill is located a half-mile north of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center on U.S. 441 (Newfound Gap Road).*

Daily
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Mingus Mill

Ongoing, 8 hours
Easy


Mountain Farm Museum: 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, or gardening taking place.

Daily
Dawn till dusk


Mountain Farm Museum
adjacent to Oconaluftee Visitor
Center

Ongoing, all day
Easy

A Sunday Stroll on the Farm: Take a leisurely stroll with a ranger to explore Southern Appalachian farm life more than a century ago.

Sundays
11 a.m.


Davis House on Mountain Farm
Museum

1 hour
Easy


Down on the Farm: Walk down to the Mountain Farm Museum and see what past-times settlers may have been engaged in, such as gardening, woodworking or other endeavors. Activities vary.

Sundays
1 p.m.

Mountain Farm Museum
adjacent to Oconaluftee Visitor
Center

1 hour
Easy


Junior Ranger: Smokemont Night Hike: Move beyond the comfortable glow of the campfire and explore the Smokes nightlife. Red flashlights provided for the hike. *Limited to 25 participants. Call 828.497.1904 up to 4 days in advance to make reservations.*

Sundays
8:45 p.m.

Bradley Fork Trail in the
Smokemont Campground/
end of D-Loop

1 hour
Easy

Hike: When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder: Hike with a ranger to two cemeteries and learn about end-of-life traditional rituals of early southern Appalachia settlers in the region. Discover how these traditions are similar to your family traditions and surprisingly, may still be used today.

Mondays
1 p.m.

Mingus Mill Parking Area

3 hours/Moderate 4-mile
round trip with stream
crossings on bridges

Walking the Spine of the Smokies: Did you know 72 miles of the Appalachian Trail go through Great Smoky Mountains National Park? Join a ranger on a 1.5-mile hike up on the AT. Learn about high elevation life and the history of this iconic footpath. Leisurely hike back to the parking lot on your own after reaching Clingmans Dome Tower. *Sturdy footwear, jacket and water are recommended.*

Tuesdays
10 a.m.

Forney Ridge Trailhead at the base
of Clingmans Dome paved trail

2 hours
Moderate, 1.5 miles
300' elevation change

Junior Ranger Walk: 'Please, pleased, pleased, pleased-to-MEETCHA': Or you may hear the call of 'drink your tea, drink your tea'. Learn the valuable basic skills of bird identification using simple guides so you can be the one to answer "what kind of bird is that?"

Wednesdays
10 a.m.


Oconaluftee River Trailhead

1 hour
Easy







Junior Ranger: Eeek! Bats! 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.

Wednesdays
1 p.m.



Oconaluftee Visitor
Center Porch

45 minutes
Easy


OCONALUFTEE AREA (CONTINUED)

	WHEN?	MEETING LOCATION	DURATION/DIFFICULTY
How Ancient Are these Mountains? Have you wondered how old these mountains are and how they formed? The story is nearly as old as time. Come, sit, rest and enjoy the story of how these rocks were formed, how they have changed and how they now offer visitors solitude and restoration.	Wednesdays 2:30 p.m.	Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch	45 minutes Easy 
Mammal Mania! Otters and rabbits and bears, Oh my! Join a ranger for a hands-on discovery of some mammals in the park.	Thursdays 11 a.m.	Oconaluftee River Trailhead	45 minutes Easy, 1/2-mile walk
Junior Ranger: Salamanders! Explore the world of salamanders and help collect real data for our scientists! Participants explore salamander habitat, experiencing the proper way to look for and examine some of our air and water quality indicators. <i>Be prepared to get a little wet and even a little dirty as we search for this amazing creature.</i>	Thursdays 1 p.m.	Mingus Mill Parking Area	1.5 hours Moderate
Junior Ranger: Blacksmithing! Learn a new skill. Be a blacksmith and create your own item to take home. Limited to ages 10-12. Other Junior Ranger programs will be going on simultaneously for younger kids.	Fridays 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m.	Mountain Farm Museum Blacksmith Shop	30 minutes Easy
Junior Ranger: Batteries Not Included! Join park staff for a fun morning of games. Learn a mix of historic games as well as a more modern take on board-games. Each half hour features a different game. All ages welcome!	Fridays 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m.	Mountain Farm Museum/ Davis Queen House	30 minutes Easy 
What Did You Say? “Don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater! “Cut out the light!” Have you ever heard a saying or a phrase and wondered its meaning? Join a ranger to explore the origin and history behind some common southern sayings, and how they might just connect to mountain farm life or even your own.	Fridays 2 p.m.	Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch	45 minutes Easy 
Coming Home! Join a ranger for a national park tradition—the evening campground program. Hear how several species of animals came home to the Smokies after many years of absence. Once again we can watch the peregrine falcon soar, the otter play and hear the majestic sound of the elk bugle.	Fridays 7 p.m.	Smokemont Campground between C and D Loops	1 hour Easy 
Junior Ranger: Stream Splashers! Roll up your pants and wade through a mountain stream to look for mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies and other aquatic critters. <i>Be prepared to get wet. Closed-toed shoes recommended.</i>	Saturdays 10:30 a.m.	Deep Creek Picnic Area	2 hours Easy
A Great Rangering Skill: Orienteering! Rangers need many skills to be good at their jobs, but everyone wants to find their way home after a long day in the woods. Learning the basics of reading a compass will help you get home too after a great day in the forest.	Saturdays 11 a.m.	Oconaluftee Visitor Center/ Under the maple tree	1 hour Easy
Junior Ranger: How Do I Get There from Here? Reading a map to drive is becoming an uncommon skill, learning to read a map in the woods is even less common. Join us and understand the basic skill needed to read topographical maps and quadrangle maps when venturing into the wilds.	Saturdays 1:30 p.m.	Oconaluftee Multipurpose Room adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center	1 hour Easy 
Junior Ranger: Explore More! Explore more what? Take a short hike and experience the extreme diversity of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Learn the basics to identify trees and plants using simple field guides and keys, unlocking the mysterious question of ‘what is that?’	Saturdays 2:30 p.m.	Oconaluftee Visitor Center/ Under the maple tree	1 hour Easy
Evening Campground Program—a Ranger Tradition! Join a ranger for an evening campground program. Topics vary, but you are likely to discover something exciting about the Great Smoky Mountains that you may not have known before. <i>Remember to bring a chair or blanket to sit on.</i>	Saturdays 7 p.m.	Smokemont Campground between C and D Loops	1 hour Easy 

CATALOOCHEE AREA

Junior Ranger: Smoky Mountain Elk! 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!	Sundays 3:30 p.m.	Palmer House in Cataloochee Valley	45 minutes Easy 
Return of the Elk! Come enjoy a guided hike to the elk acclimation pen and explore how, when and why the elk were returned to the Smokies.	Tuesdays July 2, 9, 23, 30, August 20, 27 5 p.m.	Cataloochee Valley/ Rough Fork Trailhead	1.5 hours Moderate
Cataloochee Elk! Cataloochee is a great place for viewing elk. Learn about the history of the elk through “show and tell” activities. Then stay and watch the elk come into in the fields!	Saturdays, June 8, 15, 29, July 6, 20, 27, August 10, 17, 31, Sept. 21, 28 3:30 p.m.	Palmer House in Cataloochee Valley	45 minutes Easy 

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

	WHEN?	MEETING LOCATION	DURATION/DIFFICULTY
Fire Science and Salamanders: How does fire affect salamanders? Explore the role of fire in forest ecosystems and collect real scientific data on salamander populations in a burned area of the park. <i>Limited to 15 participants, ages 8+. Call 865.436.1291 up to 4 days in advance to make reservations.</i>	Thursdays, June 27, July 25, August 15 9 a.m.	Location Varies	2 hours Strenuous
Stream Snorkel: Put on a snorkel and unlock the river's mystery. Join a ranger to unveil the water's energy through a glimpse into the life it harbors. Equipment available for loan. <i>Limited to 10 participants, ages 8+. Call 865-436-1291 up to 4 days in advance to make reservations.</i>	Saturdays, June 29, July 27, August 24 1:30 p.m.	Location Varies	1.5 hours Moderate
Back Porch Old-Time Music Jam: 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.	Saturdays, June 1 & 15, July 6 & 20, August 3 & 17 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch	Ongoing, 2 hours Easy ♿
Women's Work Festival: 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.	Saturday, June 15 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Mountain Farm Museum	Ongoing, 6 hours Easy ♿
Science at Sugarlands: Join a scientist on the third Friday of the month to learn about and engage in scientific research happening inside Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Topics vary each month, June 21: <i>Restoring Fish in the Smokies' Most Diverse Streams</i> , July 19: <i>The National Ecological Observatory Network and its Work in the Smokies</i> , August 16: <i>Appalachian Balds: Ecological Enigma and Conservation Dilemma</i> .	Fridays June 21, July 19 & August 16 1 p.m.	Sugarlands Visitor Center	2 hours Easy ♿
Shaped-Note Singing School: Singing schools in the mountains were scheduled when people were not occupied with their work. Usually held when the “literary” schools were adjourned, singing schools taught the rudiments of the music to the general population by the use of shaped notes (also called Old Harp Singing). Come and participate or just listen. <i>Songbooks will be provided.</i>	Sunday, July 21 2 p.m.	Little Greenbrier School	2 hours Easy
Blacksmith Demonstrations: Learn the art of blacksmithing and why it was important in the Cades Cove community. <i>Visitor Center is halfway around the loop road.</i>	Dates & times vary —check the bulletin boards at the Cades Cove Campground Office and Orientation Shelter 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Blacksmith building near the Cades Cove Visitor Center/ Cable Mill area	Ongoing, 6 hours Easy
Cades Cove Star Party with the Smoky Mountain Astronomical Society: Escape the city lights and observe the heavenly objects of the night sky. Join rangers for an evening of viewing stars with equipment and instruction provided by the SMAS. <i>Orientation shelter is at the entrance of the loop road. Weather permitting (cancelled in case of rain/heavy clouds. Wear comfortable walking shoes & bring a jacket. Red-covered flashlights are recommended.</i>	Saturday, September 7 7:30 p.m.	Cades Cove Orientation Shelter	2 hours Easy

SnapIt & MapIt: Contribute to Park Science with iNaturalist App

Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Discover Life in America (DLiA) need your help to find out more about the park's wondrous diversity of life—and it couldn't be easier! All you need is your smart device and some time to enjoy the outdoors in the Smokies.

DLiA manages the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI), a project seeking to identify every variety of plant, animal and other life form in the park. With the help of park visitors using the iNaturalist app, the organization is able to add new distribution maps to an interactive web application called Species Mapper. “SnapIt & MapIt is a fun and simple way for park visitors to learn more about the biodiversity of the Smokies and help study the park at the same time,” said Dr. Will Kuhn, DLiA's Director of Science and Research. “By showing where different species live across the park, we can help park management decide where their conservation efforts will have the greatest effect.”

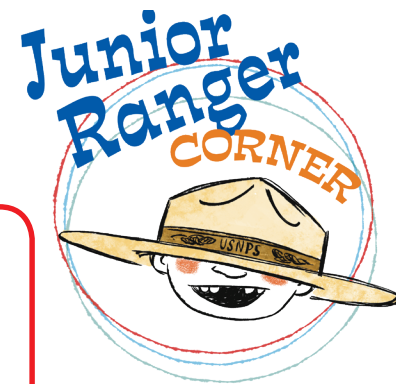
Visitors can get the free iNaturalist app for their Android or Apple smart devices and then refer to DLiA's “Species SnapIt & MapIt Priorities” guide, a list of high-interest species. Within the app, choose More > Guides > All, then search for ‘snapit.’ Download the guide for use in areas where cell coverage is poor.

Next, take a hike in Great Smoky Mountains National Park and start making observations—including photos—using the app. Thus far, there are around 900 species mapped but nearly 20,000 species known to the park, and the visiting public can make important contributions toward developing maps for these remaining species through this ‘SnapIt & MapIt’ initiative. Learn more at dlia.org/snapit-mapit/.

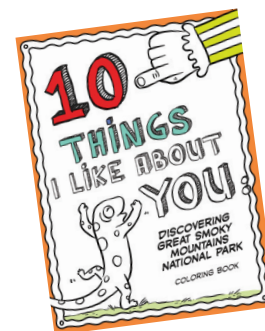
Download the free iNaturalist app to identify species as you explore the park and contribute to DLiA's SnapIt & MapIt initiative. *Image by Valerie Polk*



SMOKIES BINGO



Test your detective skills! Here are a few things you might see while visiting the Smokies. Each time you see one as you go through the park, put an X in its square until you get four in a row. For extra challenge, see if you can find all 16.

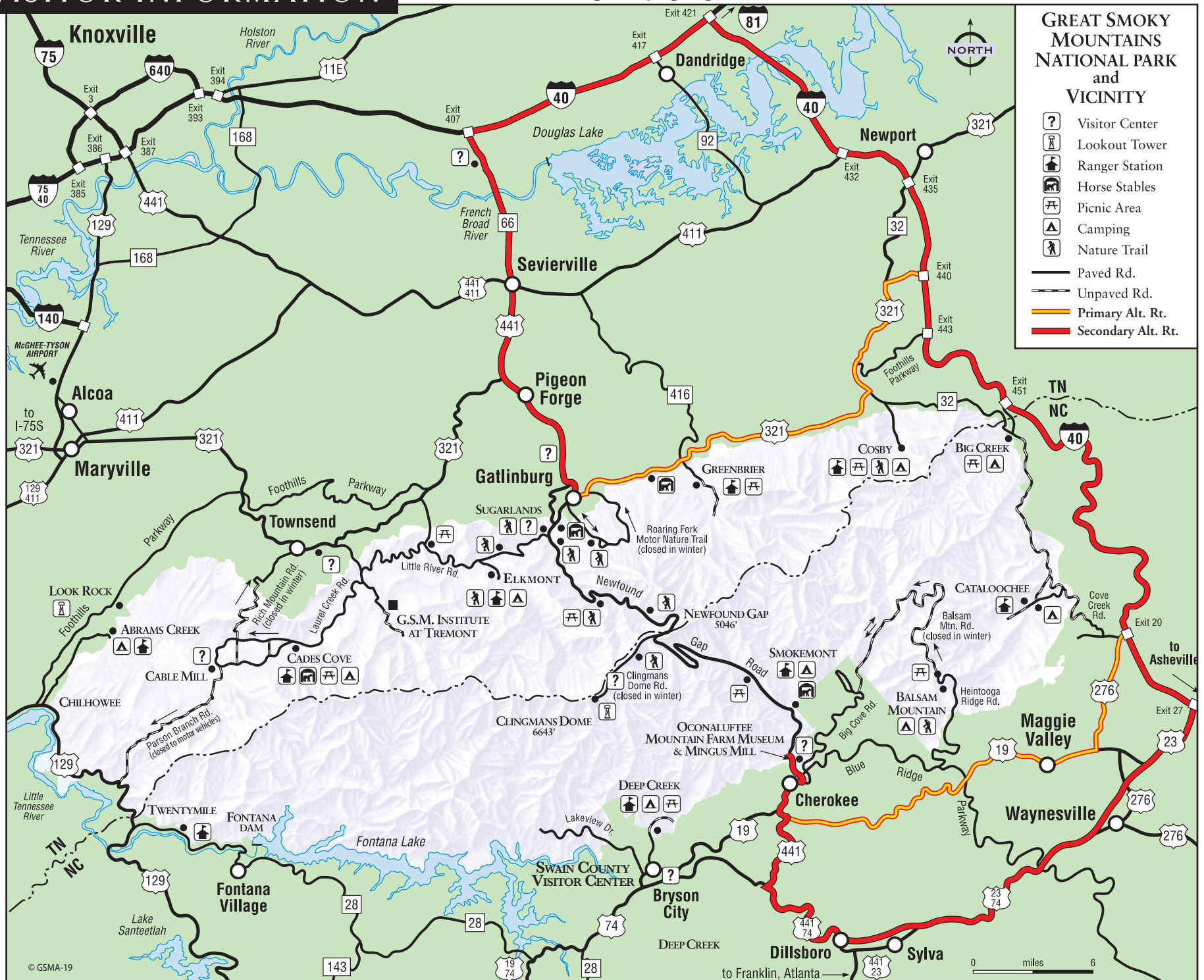


For more fun stuff about Great Smoky Mountains National Park, pick up a copy of *10 Things I Like About You* coloring book at any of the visitor centers in the park.

 Clingmans Dome	 salamander	 log cabin	 elk
 millipede	 park ranger's hat	 ladybug	 Park Service logo
 anvil	 llama	 wildflower	 pottery
 kid on a bike	 national park entrance sign	 ferns	 bear cub

VISITOR INFORMATION

For more information, go to nps.gov/grsm



GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK and VICINITY

- Visitor Center
- Lookout Tower
- Ranger Station
- Horse Stables
- Picnic Area
- Camping
- Nature Trail
- Paved Rd.
- Unpaved Rd.
- Primary Alt. Rt.
- Secondary Alt. Rt.

Information

General park info:
865.436.1200 • nps.gov/grsm
Backcountry information:
865.436.1297
smokiespermits.nps.gov
To order maps and guides:
865.436.7318 x226
SmokiesInformation.org

Emergencies

For emergencies 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

All-access

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

Avoid the fine

Picking or digging plants is prohibited in the park. Persons feeding wildlife are subject to a \$5,000 fine. Pets are only permitted on the Gatlinburg and Oconaluftee River trails, which allow dogs on a leash.