

National Park Service Department of the Interior

Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area
Obed Wild & Scenic River



January 2017

Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area

Kick Off the New Year with the Big South Fork Mountain Bike “Mail Run” on Sunday, January 1st at 10 am (ET).

The bike ride is open to everyone and traditionally has been called “The Mail Run” because ‘neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of the night’ keeps folk from getting out there on the first of the year. Rides start at Bandy Creek Visitor Center and hot coffee will be brewing. Riders may select from group rides ranging from 8 to 35 miles.

Time for Toys on Saturday, January 21st

from 10 am to 2 pm (CT) at the Gateway to the Big South Fork Crossville-Cumberland County Visitor Center. Enjoy classic wooden toys, playthings of yesteryear such as Jacobs’ Ladder, cup and ball, Gee-Haw Whammy Diddle plus many more that require no batteries, 100% imagination and a little physics for both adults and children alike. Join us in exploring these toys of our past; before computers, PDAs and video games. Children should be accompanied by an adult.



Free Camping on MLK Jr Day. We are observing Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Monday, January 16) by authorizing one night of free camping at Alum Ford Campground (on the KY side of the park) as well as for all backcountry permits.

Junior Ranger Books Now Available in Spanish. Both versions are available on the web at <https://www.nps.gov/biso/learn/kidsyouth/beajuniorranger.htm> and at the park Visitor Centers.

Bandy Creek Visitor Center
(423) 286-7275 or visit us at:

www.nps.gov/biso
[Twitter@BigSouthForkNPS](https://twitter.com/BigSouthForkNPS)
www.facebook.com/BigSouthForkNPS
www.instagram.com/BigSouthForkNPS

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Make Good on Those New Year Resolutions and Join Us on a Healthy Hike Program on Friday, January 6th,

beginning at 10:30 am (ET). This Ranger-led hike will explore both the Lilly Bluff Overlook Trail and a portion of the Point Trail. Those in attendance will have a chance to observe the beautiful vista of Clear Creek, as well as walk across the Melton Mill Creek Bridge. Meet the ranger at the Lilly Bluff Overlook parking lot, which is located just off of

Ridge Road in Morgan County. Interested hikers should wear comfortable shoes and dress accordingly for the weather. Feel free to bring your camera and a hiking stick, and all ages are invited to participate. Well behaved dogs on leash are always welcome.

Astronomy Grant Enhances Night Sky Programs.

Earlier this year Obed received a competitive grant from Eastern National to enhance the park’s dark sky and astronomy programs. The park purchased a Dobsonian reflector telescope with a 12-inch parabolic primary mirror, complemented with specialized eyepieces. The grant was also used to offer a new youth-focused night sky activity; the National Park Service’s Junior Ranger Night Explorer program, an activity guide for youth ages 5-12 to encourage young visitors to explore the “dark side” of their park.

DYK? Botanists have documented approximately 800 different plant species in the park, and this number continues to grow as new research is conducted.

Obed Visitor Center
(423) 346-6294 or visit us at:

www.nps.gov/obed
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