

National Park Service Department of the Interior

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



January 2020

Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area

Celebrate New Year's Day Mountain Biking at Big South Fork. Bikers meet at Bandy Creek Visitor Center at 10 a.m. (ET), Wednesday, January 1, and then choose a ride varying anywhere from 8-35 miles, so you can pick a group ride with a length you are most comfortable with. Hot chocolate & coffee will be available at the Visitor Center before the rides start.

Join Our Wildlife Biologist for a Program on the American Black Bear on Saturday, January 18, at 1 p.m. (CT) at Crossville-Cumberland County Gateway to the Big South Fork Visitor Center at I-40, Exit 320. Learn about an animal that has captured the human imagination throughout history. Biologist Jason Fisher will be able to answer all your questions and fill you in on the latest black bear research conducted in the Big South Fork area.

We're Proud to Introduce the GO BIG 2020 Challenge. This year's theme is "A Sense of Place", and visitors will be challenged to connect with park history. Participants can earn points by answering questions about the park and for miles hiked, biked, paddled, or equestrian ridden. Visitors can collect 100 points to earn a 2020 patch, 200 points for a silver medal and 300 points for a gold medal. Pick up a challenge book at Bandy Creek Visitor Center or download one at <https://www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/go-big-2020-challenge.htm>.

Interested in a Summer Job at the Parks? We're hiring trail workers, lifeguards, park guides, visitor use assistants, botany technicians, wildlife technicians, and more. Go to www.usajobs.gov to apply.

Kids to Parks Day is May 16, 2020! The National Park Trust is hosting a Kids to Parks Day National School Contest to help educators engage their students with their local parks. The national contest is open to all Title I schools in the U.S. Classes can receive funding for a Kids to Parks Day field trip at a local park or public land/waterway in their community. **All entries are due by February 14, 2020.** For contest information, go to <https://www.parktrust.org/kids-to-parks-day/school-contest/>.

Bandy Creek Visitor Center
(423) 286-7275 or visit us at:
www.nps.gov/biso
[https://Twitter@BigSouthForkNPS](https://twitter.com/BigSouthForkNPS)
www.facebook.com/BigSouthForkNPS
www.instagram.com/BigSouthForkNPS

Obed Wild & Scenic River

Next Coffee and Climb with a Ranger is Saturday, January 4 at Lilly Bridge. Bring any questions you may have and join rangers for a cup of coffee at 10 a.m. (ET). After that, snow, rain or shine, we'll be leading another Climb with a Ranger program. From 11 to noon is a kids only (12 and under) climbing session and then from noon to 2 p.m. all ages are welcome. All necessary gear is provided, just bring a can-do attitude. If you've ever wanted to try rock climbing, but didn't know where to begin, let us help eliminate some of the uncertainty for you.



As We Welcome in the New Decade, Join Us on Saturday, January 25, as our Dark Sky Ranger and volunteer astronomers lead our first Night Sky program for 2020! The program will be held at the Lilly Bluff Overlook at 6 p.m. (ET) to observe the Orion Nebula under new moon conditions. The Orion Nebula is a diffuse nebula situated south of Orion's Belt in the constellation of Orion which is prominent in the sky on clear winter nights.

DYK? Recently, Obed park biologists inventoried three new native Lepidoptera (taxon group of butterflies and moths) species including the witch hazel dagger moth (*Acrionicta hamamelis*), the turbulent phosphila (*Phosphila turbulenta*), and the banded hairstreak butterfly (*Satyrium calanus*).

Obed Visitor Center
(423) 346-6294 or visit us at:
www.nps.gov/obed
[https://Twitter@ObedNPS](https://twitter.com/ObedNPS)
www.facebook.com/ObedNPS
www.instagram.com/ObedNPS