

National Park Service Department of the Interior

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



Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area

Environmental Assessment for Remediation of Selected Contaminated Mine Drainage Sites Now Available. The document's comment period will continue through July 20 and can be viewed at <https://www.nps.gov/biso/learn/management/publicinvolvement.htm>.

Centennial Challenge Hikes for July:

- **Laurel Fork Creek Trail on Saturday, July 9.** Meet at Sawmill Trailhead for a moderate to difficult 4.4 mile hike at 9 a.m. (ET). The half day hike starts on the Yellow Cliff Horse Trail before connecting to Laurel Fork Creek Trail. Be prepared for interesting rock formations, fording the creek, large boulders, & spectacular hidden beauty. Bring water, snacks, water shoes for crossing the creek, & bug spray.
- **Bandy Creek Night Hike on Saturday, July 23.** Meet at Bandy Creek Swimming Pool parking lot at 8:30 p.m. (ET) for an easy 5 mile hike along Duncan Hollow Rd. This is a great way to log those Centennial miles while avoiding the mid-day heat. Be sure and bring a flashlight.

Improved Access to Yahoo Falls. The Yahoo Falls Road Improvement Project, funded by the Federal Lands Access Program, has just been completed. The road is now paved. Watch your speed, especially near the picnic sites.

Join the Next Reading Ranger Program on Saturday, July 30, at 10:30 a.m. (ET) at the McCreary County Public Library in Whitley City, Kentucky. Bring the kids for story time and arts & crafts activities.

Folks are Finding Their Parks on the Upper Cumberland Plateau.

This year's visitation so far at Big South Fork is up almost 12 percent and Obed is up 25 percent.

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

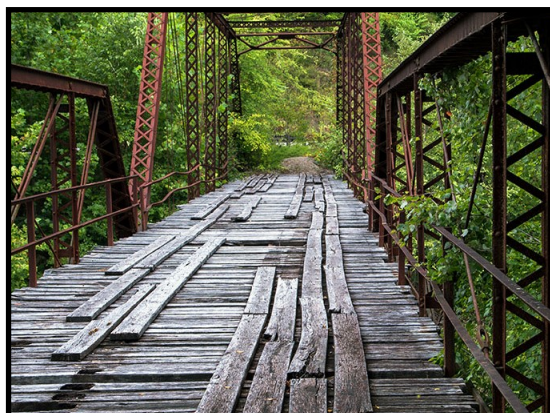
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Find Out "What it Means to be a Ranger" on Thursday, July 14, at 1 p.m. (ET) at Onsite Rock Gym, 5335 Western Avenue in Knoxville. The target audience is children ages 6 -12. Participants will have an opportunity to go "hands-on" with a wide variety of the tools of the trade, including gear used in rock climbing and high angle rescue, law enforcement, emergency medical response, wildland firefighting and swift water rescue. Children interested in becoming a park ranger or just wanting to know more are encouraged to attend.

Preschooler Activity Time Every Friday Morning at 10:30 a.m. (ET). Bring the kids to listen to stories, play games and learn about animals that live in the park.

DYK? July is a great time of year to see the showy white or pale pink flower of rhododendron. The Great Rhododendron is a common inhabitant of the Cumberland Plateau and commonly greets hikers along the trails at the Obed. Early Appalachian pioneers referred to this evergreen plant as laurels.

Night Skies Over the Obed on Saturday, July 23, from 9:30 to 11 p.m. (ET). Join park staff and guest speaker Owen Hoffman at Nemo Bridge to view the night sky over the Emory River. This will be an amazing opportunity to view the Milky Way, Mars, Saturn and Jupiter, and other stellar constellations. All ages are welcome for this free event. Participants are encouraged to wear sturdy shoes, and bring a flashlight, blanket or chair for comfortable seating.



Show Off Your Park Vision and Enter One or Both Parks' Photo Contests by Friday, July 22.

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