



SMOKIES GUIDE



RANGER-GUIDED WALKS & TALKS—SEE PAGES 10-12

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK ❖ FALL 2013



ADAM JONES PHOTO

Sunny days and cool nights bring on the brightest fall colors. Too much or too little rain work to the detriment of a great color season.

Autumn Colors Flow from Peaks to Valleys

Elevation profoundly affects when fall colors change in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. At the higher elevations, where the climate is similar to New England's, color displays start as early as **mid-September** with the turning of yellow birch, American beech, mountain maple, hobblebush, and pin cherry.

From **October 1-15**, fall colors are at peak above 4,000 feet. To enjoy them, drive the Clingmans Dome Road, the Blue Ridge Parkway, or Newfound Gap Road.

Fall colors usually peak at the mid and lower elevations between **October 15 and**

November 7. This is the park's most spectacular display as it includes such colorful trees as sugar maple, scarlet oak, sweetgum, red maple, and the hickories.

There are many good drives to enjoy the fall color peak. Little River and Laurel Creek roads between Sugarlands Visitor Center and Cades Cove are noteworthy late in the season. So are the Foothills Parkway segments (East and West) and the Deep Creek area. Keep in mind that late October weekend traffic on Newfound Gap and Cades Cove Loop roads will be *extremely* heavy, especially late in the day.



BILL LEA PHOTO

AMERICAN MOUNTAIN-ASH

This small northern tree reaches the southern limit of its range in the Smokies. It is fairly common at elevations over 5,000' here, especially around Clingmans Dome. Every few years this species produces an abundance of bright red berries that is prized by both bears and songbirds.



Cataloochee Valley is the best place to see and hear elk in fall.

We're in a Real Rut!

This autumn, Smoky Mountain elk will be players in a courtship ritual that is one of the great spectacles of the North American animal kingdom. Mature male (bull) elk will compete for control of groups of females called "harems."

Most of the time, the competition between males will be pure showmanship—prancing, bugling, grunting, and other noncontact methods of intimidation. At times, however, the contests may turn deadly serious with bulls using their sharp antlers to attack other males.

Bugling is one of the most widely-recognized parts of courtship (called the rut). Bulls toss back their heads and utter a long, loud, sonorous call that can be heard for as much as a mile away. Bugling is a way for bull elk to assert their dominance against rival males as larger bulls usually have deeper, louder calls.

The best place to see elk

during the rut is Cataloochee Valley or in the vicinity of Oconaluftee Visitor Center.

The elk rut begins in September and peaks in early October.

Male white-tailed deer (bucks) also have some dramatic courtship rituals. They generally stop eating during the rut and will chase or lock antlers with other bucks to determine dominance. Males may also be observed chasing females and making bleating sounds.

The white-tailed deer rut lasts from October into January with a peak around Thanksgiving. Cades Cove is probably the best place in the park to watch deer. The 11-mile Cades Cove Loop Road is open from sunrise to sunset throughout the year.

Both deer and elk are especially unpredictable in fall. People should never approach or attempt to feed them. Use binoculars and cameras with telephoto lenses to observe their activities.

trees by the numbers

Some amazing facts about trees in the Great Smoky Mountains



Tuliptree

Widest tree

A tuliptree 24 feet in circumference

Tallest tree

A white pine in Cataloochee, 186 feet tall

Total native species

100. Occasionally, new tree species are still discovered in the park. Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone national parks have fewer than 15 native tree species.

Maple trees

Nine species of maple trees live in the Smokies: chalk, box-elder, striped, Norway (non-native), red, trident, silver, sugar, and mountain. Red maples are some of the most common trees in the park and can reach heights of 140 feet.



Scarlet Oak

Oak trees

An even dozen species of oak trees live in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, including northern white, scarlet, southern red, shingle, blackjack, chinkapin, pin (non-native), chestnut, northern red, Shumard's, post, and black. Oak trees are noteworthy for the acorns they produce in fall that feed deer, elk, bear, wild turkey, and other wildlife.

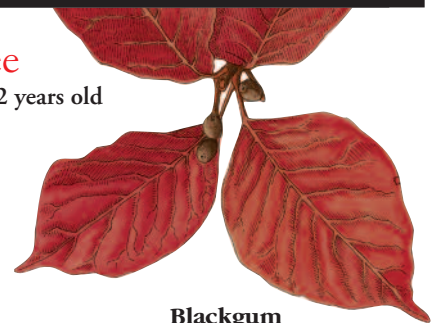
Tree species threatened by non-native pests

At least 11. Fraser fir threatened by balsam woolly adelgid; eastern hemlock threatened by hemlock woolly adelgid; flowering dogwood threatened by dogwood anthracnose; two ash trees threatened by emerald ash borer; butternut threatened by butternut canker; black walnut threatened by thousand canker; American beech threatened by beech bark disease; American mountain-ash threatened by European mountain ash sawfly; American chestnut practically eliminated by chestnut blight; American elm tree threatened by Dutch elm disease.

Mary Ann Kressig

Oldest tree

A blackgum, 562 years old



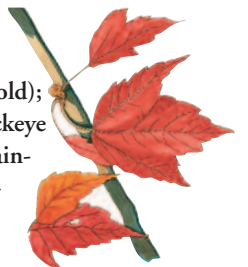
Blackgum

Record trees

Two park trees, a red spruce and cinnamon clethra, are the largest of their species in the world. The red spruce is 147' tall; the cinnamon clethra is 33' tall.

Most spectacular fall colors

Sugar maple (turns yellow or red); red maple (red); blackgum (red); hickory (gold); sourwood (red); yellow buckeye (yellow); American mountain-ash (red); yellow birch (yellow); scarlet oak (red); shining sumac (red).



Red Maple



White cottony fluff at the base of hemlock needles indicates the presence of woolly adelgids.

NPS

trip planning

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

smokies guide

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Format by Lee Riddell

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Gatlinburg, TN 37738
smokiesinformation.org



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BILL LEA PHOTO



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camping in the national park

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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.

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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.

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LOOK ROCK: CLOSED
SMOKEMONT 142 sites, elev. 2,198', \$17-\$20, open year-round, 35'-40' RVs

accommodations

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

For information on lodging outside the park:

Bryson City 1-800-867-9246
Cherokee 1-877-433-6700
Fontana 1-800-849-2258
Gatlinburg 1-800-588-1817
Maggie Valley 1-800-624-4431
Pigeon Forge 1-855-716-6199
Sevierville 1-888-738-4378
Townsend 1-800-525-6834

other services

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

There are no restaurants in the park. Limited food service is available at the Cades Cove Campground store. LeConte Lodge offers lunches and snacks to hikers. Lunch reservations may be required. Visit lecontelodge.com for info.

cell phones

Visitors should be aware that cellular phone service is very limited within the park. Your phone will not work in places like Cades Cove and along most park roads and trails because of terrain.

picnic areas

Locations of picnic areas are shown on pages 8-9. All sites include a picnic table and elevated charcoal grill. Picnic pavilions are available to groups by reservation (1-877-444-6777). Some areas are not open year-round. Collins Creek, Big Creek, and Cosby close Oct. 31. Chimneys closes Nov. 30. Balsam Mountain and Look Rock are closed.

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 through September 25.

Bicycles may be rented from the Cades Cove store (located near Cades Cove Campground). Fall hours are 9-5 (7-5 on Wednesday and Saturday bicycle days).

BILL LEA PHOTO



Helmets are required for riders under 17, and strongly recommended for everyone else.

pets in the park

Pets are allowed in campgrounds, picnic areas and on road sides, but must be physically restrained at all times. Pets are not allowed on park trails, except on the Gatlinburg and Oconaluftee River trails. Pets must be leashed.

visitor centers

Park visitor centers offer information, exhibits, and a bookstore. Fall hours are: Oconaluftee: 8-6 (Sept. & Oct.), 8-5 (Nov.)
Sugarlands: 8-6 (Sept. & Oct.), 8-5 (Nov.)
Cades Cove: 9-6 (Sept. & Oct.), 9-5 (Nov.)
Clingmans Dome 10-6 (Sept. & Oct.), 9:30-5 (Nov.)

park information

The National Park Service maintains over 150 trails in the Smokies

	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"

PARK WEATHER. 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.

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.

horse camps

Five drive-in horse camps provide ready access to back-country horse trails in the national park. Reservations are required.

Please contact 1-877-444-6777 or www.Recreation.gov. There is a \$20 (\$25 at Big Creek) fee per site. Sites may be reserved up to six months in advance.

BILL LEA PHOTO



Park anglers pursue brook, rainbow, and brown 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. A trout stamp is not required for fishing park waters. 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 and information on native fishes is available at the park's visitor centers.

DRIVING DISTANCES & ESTIMATED TIMES

CHEROKEE, NC TO:

Gatlinburg: 34 miles (1 hour)
Cades Cove: 57 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 (2 hours)
Greenbrier Cove: 6 miles
(¼ hour)
Deep Creek:
48 miles (1½ hours)

TOWNSEND, TN TO:

Cades Cove: 9 miles (½ 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 (2¼ hours)

nature's year-round calendar of events

SPRING WILDFLOWERS

The peak of spring wildflower blooming usually occurs in mid-April, although late March and early April feature good showings of spring-beauty, hepatica, and other flowers.

MOUNTAIN LAUREL

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

FLAME AZALEA

This wild shrub blooms 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 rhododendron reaches its peak of bloom in June. Rosebay rhododendron is in bloom during June and July.

playing it safe with bears & other wildlife

BEARS: If you see a bear, remain watchful. Do not approach it. Being too close may promote aggressive behavior from the bear such as running toward you, making loud noises, or swatting the ground. The bear is demanding more space. Don't run; slowly back away.

If a bear persistently follows or approaches you without vocalizing or paw swatting, try changing your direction. If the bear continues to follow you, stand your ground.

If the bear gets closer, talk loudly or shout at it. Act aggressively and try to intimidate the bear. Throw non-food objects such as rocks at the bear. Use a deterrent such as a stout stick. Don't run and don't turn away from the bear.

KEN YOORHIS PHOTO



Mountain laurel is a large shrub that blooms in May and June.

FALL COLORS

At the higher elevations, fall colors often peak during the first two weeks of October. At the lower elevations, colors peak Oct. 15-Nov. 7.

SNOW

Snow is rather uncommon in the valleys. Newfound Gap, however, receives over five feet from November-March.

Don't leave food; this encourages further problems.

If the bear shows no interest in your food and you're physically attacked, fight back aggressively with any available object—the bear may consider you to be prey!

SNAKES: Two species of venomous snakes live in the Smokies, the Northern Copperhead and Timber Rattlesnake. Be mindful of where you place your hands and feet, especially around stone walls and buildings. If a person is bitten, keep them calm and seek medical attention immediately.

INSECTS: Yellow jacket wasps are the insect of greatest concern. Stings cause local swelling and can lead to severe allergic reactions in a few sensitive individuals.

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2013 SPECIAL REPORT

State of the Park



WILDLIFE



Mortality among radio-collared elk has been relatively low with just two adult elk dying so far this year. Combined with at least 20 calves born, this makes 2013 a good year for the Smokies elk herd, which now numbers around 150.

The black bear population experienced synchronized reproduction, a rare event that occurs two years following a major wild food (mast) failure. Most adult female bears produced cubs, with some litters of four cubs. One female bear just outside the park even had a litter of five cubs.



BILL LEVY PHOTO



Wild hogs continue to test positive for pseudorabies, a significant disease for the domestic swine industry. The occurrence of pseudorabies in the Smokies is thought to be directly related to the illegal release of feral hogs near the park boundary.

White-nose Syndrome has been discovered here. The fungus disease has killed millions of bats in the eastern U.S. It affects hibernating bats, and mortality in some caves is as high as 90%. All caves in the park have been closed to protect the bats.

Some visitors continue to approach, harass, disturb and feed wildlife in the park. One visitor even boasted in a magazine article about her blatant disregard for park regulations in her effort to get pictures of a mother bear with cubs. Unfortunately, it only takes a few careless people to impact the behavior of wildlife.

Biologists estimate over 1,500 black bears live in the park.

STREAM LIFE



Recent water quality monitoring data has provided the first evidence of slight improvements in stream acidity. These improvements are attributed to reductions in acid rain (from power plants and factories) in the last decade.

Fisheries research indicates that *brook trout* populations in the park are healthy. These populations are showing signs of recovering from the droughts of 2007 and 2008 and have expanded their downstream range in some streams since that time. The park has some of the best brook trout waters in the Southeast.

Monitoring of reintroduced *endangered and threatened fish* indicates there are now viable reproducing populations in the park.



Twelve park streams (41 miles) remain officially listed as *impaired by acid deposition*. Research is underway to determine how much acid deposition must be reduced for these streams to recover to acceptable levels.

Park fisheries biologists use backpack electroshocking equipment to survey aquatic life.



DON MCGOWAN PHOTO

AIR QUALITY



Ozone pollution, acid rain, particulate matter, and regional haze levels at the park have all improved dramatically since 1999. Cleaner power plants and cleaner motor vehicles are the reasons.

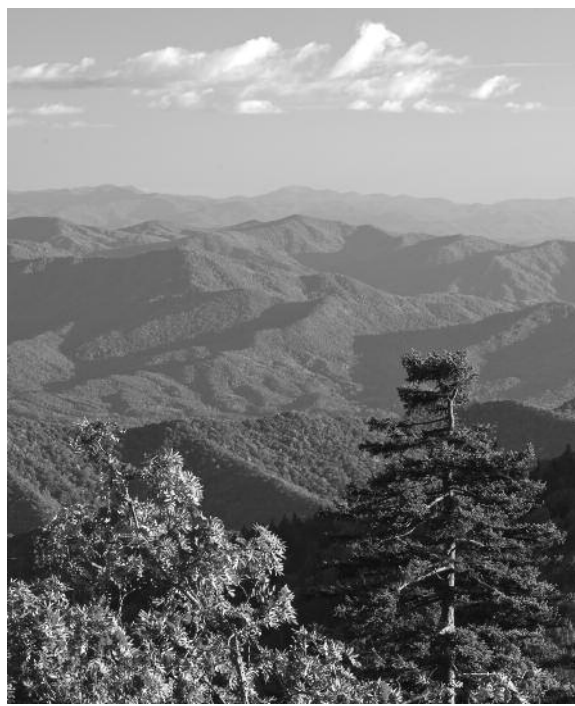
Nearly 12,000 customers have signed up for the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA's) Green Power Program.

Since December of 2008, TVA has installed sulfur dioxide scrubbers on the nearby Bull Run and Kingston coal-fired power plants, reducing emissions and improving air quality. Additionally, TVA plans to install more scrubbers on other nearby smokestacks.



Because of sulfate and nitrate pollution, park rainfall is five times more acidic than natural rainfall, causing streams to become too acidic for Clean Water Act standards.

In summer, ground level ozone pollution can make air in the park unhealthy to breathe.



Thanks to reductions in coal-burning power plants and vehicle emissions, air quality in the Smokies is improving. Still, sulfates from power plants and factories are reducing mountain views from 80 miles (historically) to 24 miles today.

BILL LEA PHOTO

PLANT LIFE

Over 14,000 hemlock trees have been treated with insecticides for hemlock woolly adelgid this year. The treatments last for at least five years. In addition, over half a million adelgid-eating predator beetles have been released in the park to date. Predator beetle populations appear to be increasing at some sites.

Around 21,000 native grass and wildflower plants were grown in the park greenhouse from seeds collected in the park. All were planted in Cades Cove this spring as part of an effort to replace non-natives there with natives.

Park staff worked with Federal Highways engineers to find native plant materials for planting along the new sections of the Foothills Parkway.



The non-native emerald ash borer beetle was discovered in the park last year. The insect will often "stowaway" in firewood and has killed the majority of ash trees in some parts of the U.S.

Rangers have made a number of arrests and seized thousands of ginseng roots from persons who had illegally harvested them in the park. The Smokies is one of the few areas in the country where ginseng is fully protected by law. The native wildflower is a very slow growing, long-lived species and areas ravaged by poachers can take decades to recover.

Thousand Cankers Disease was discovered near Big Creek and Cataloochee campgrounds. The disease kills black walnut trees.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Archeologists from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and Great Smokies completed excavations of two prehistoric Cherokee sites as a part of the Cherokee Archeological Field School. The two week field school provides an opportunity for enrolled Cherokee high school age students to learn archeological excavation techniques and Cherokee cultural history. Artifacts recovered include ceramic sherds, stone tools, groundstone, and chestnut and nut hulls.

Great Smokies is continuing to explore funding opportunities with park partners for the construction of a state-of-the-art joint Collections Preservation Center to house all of the park's historic and archeological collections and historic documents, photographs, and records under appropriate climate-controlled conditions for their long term preservation and use. The facility will leverage scarce federal funds by providing curatorial staff and housing collections for several East Tennessee National Park Service units, including Cumberland Gap, Big South Fork, and Andrew Johnson.

The park is preparing a Historic Resource Study to evaluate the historic structures of the park using *National Register* criteria. This document will help the park prepare National Register nominations for eligible structures.

Rangers are using public social media and visitor reports to catch vandals who write and carve on the Smokies historic buildings. Several cases have been successfully prosecuted.

The park has developed partnerships with regional universities to make many items from the park archives available online. Many photographs, documents, and maps are now available and searchable to researchers.



The park's cabins, churches, and other historic buildings are being damaged by vandals carving or writing their names on walls. If you witness vandalism taking place, please call (865) 436-1230 to report it.

Because the Park Service lacks adequate in-park storage, most historic artifacts are housed 60 miles away, making access for research and conservation difficult.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE



Two areas of the park have been struck by tornados over the past three years. In 2011 a tornado in the Abrams Falls area caused extensive damage to seven park trails. On June 13, 2013 another tornado hit the park near Cosby, again felling trees and damaging trails. Due to the remoteness and extent of the damage, many of these trails have taken months to reopen. The good news is that the last of the damaged trails on the park's west side reopened this summer and the last and most popular trail in the northeastern area of the park, Big Creek Trail, reopened in July.

Phase Two of the Chimney Tops Trail rehabilitation will be completed in October of this year. Phase Three will begin the summer of 2014. An estimated 30,000 visitors hike Chimney Tops Trail annually.

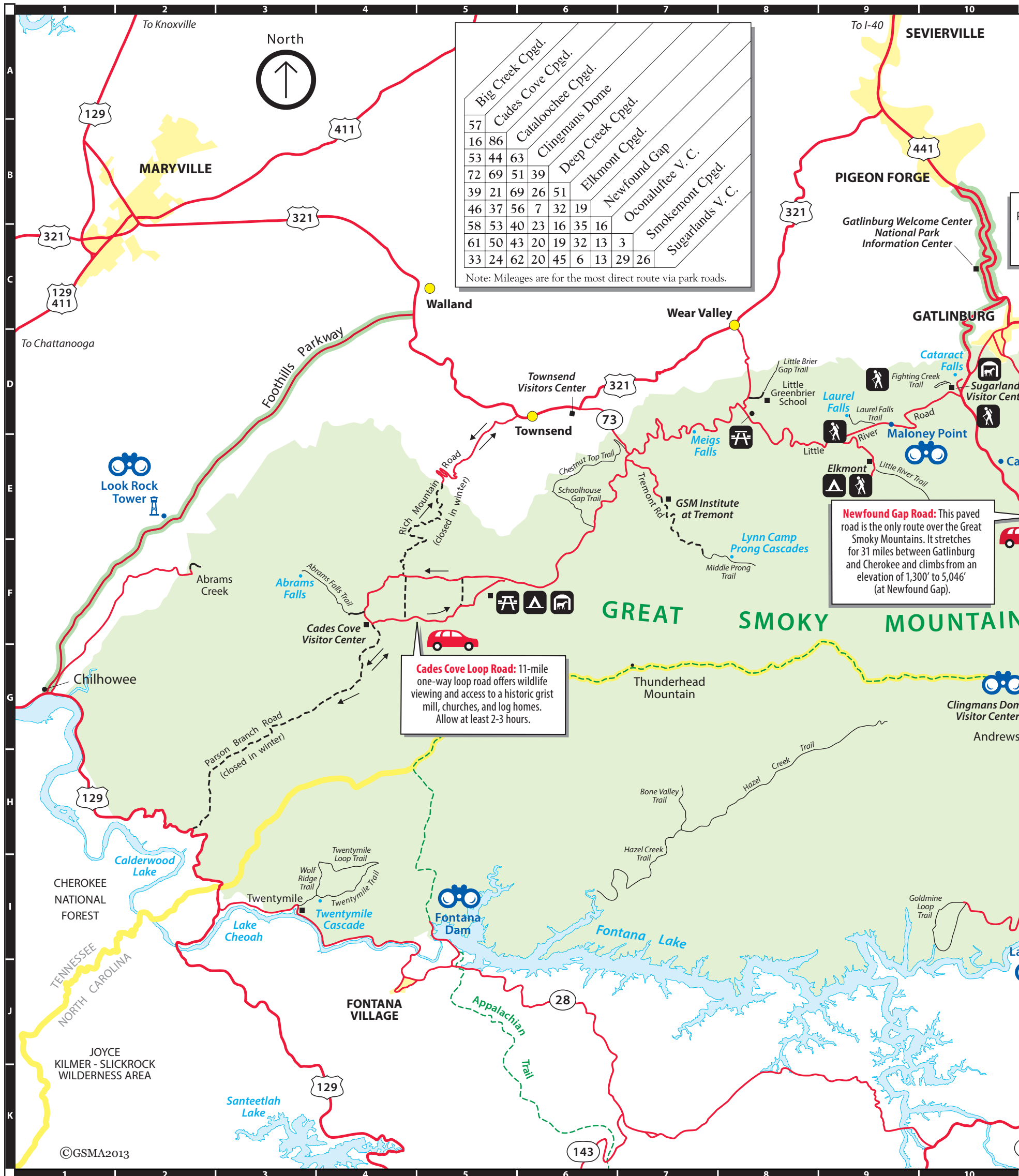
Sugarlands Visitor Center was improved over the winter. Renovations included an updated lobby with new exhibits and information desk. Other improvements include a decorative stone wall, new flooring, fresh paint, new interior lighting, and improved access to the museum and theater. The work was funded with the help of Great Smoky Mountains Association and Friends of the Smokies.

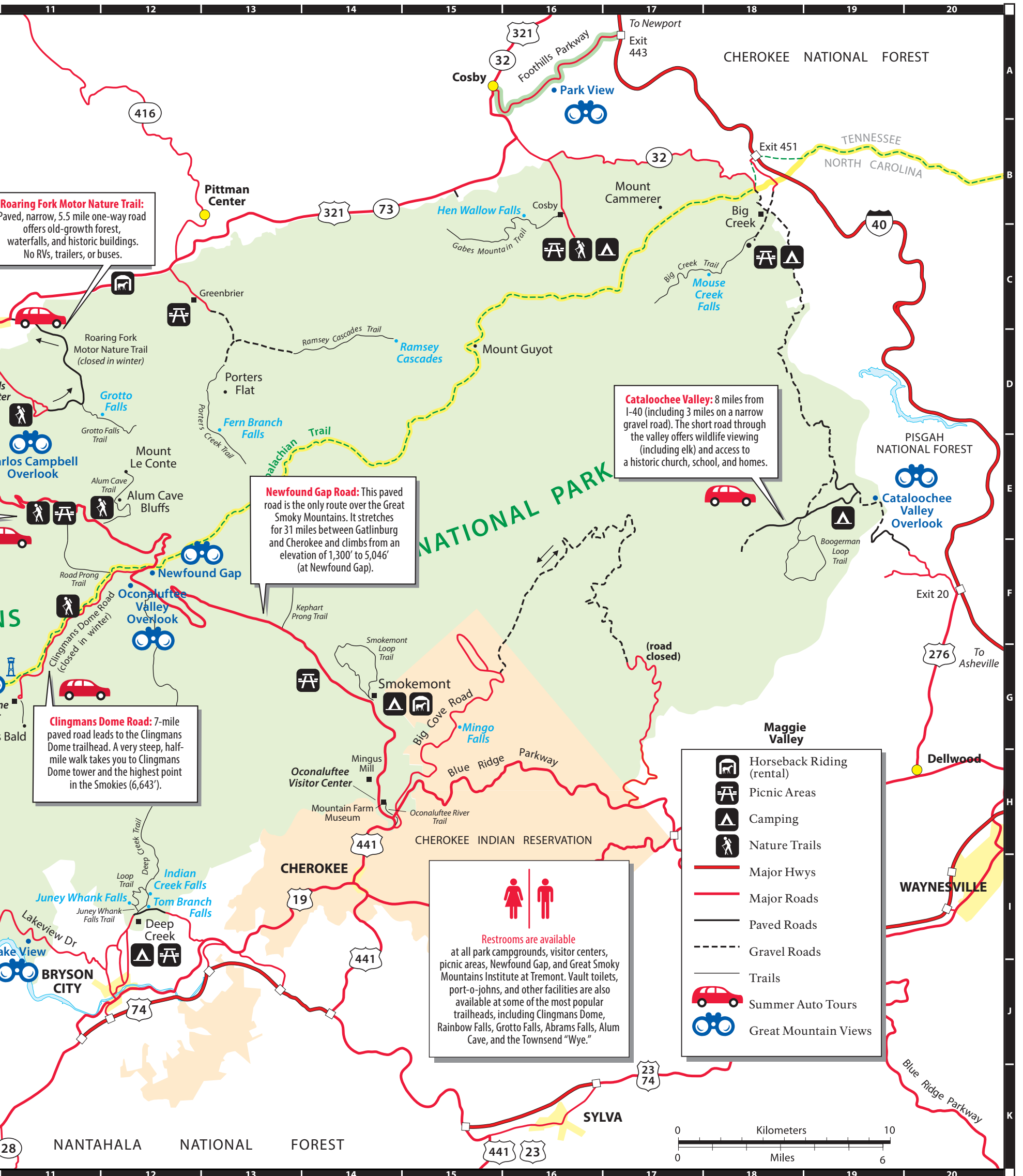
The new year came in with a roar when a 200-foot section of *Newfound Gap Road* (Hwy 441) was washed away by a landslide, closing the road and preventing traffic access between Cherokee, NC and Gatlinburg, TN.

Through a partnership with the Federal Highways Administration, the road reopened April 15, 2013.



GREAT FALL DRIVING TOURS AND SCENIC VIEWS IN THE SMOKIES





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.

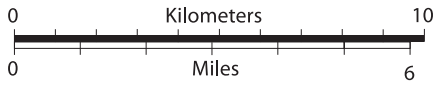
Newfound Gap Road: This paved road is the only route over the Great Smoky Mountains. It stretches for 31 miles between Gatlinburg and Cherokee and climbs from an elevation of 1,300' to 5,046' (at Newfound Gap).

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').

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.

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, Alum Cave, 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



guided walks & talks

Fun and (mostly) free activities in Great Smoky Mountains National Park!



CITY OF GATLINBURG PHOTO

Sept. 15 - Nov. 2, 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 bike 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 to learn more.



Fridays

Snacks and Snores

Meet on Sugarlands Visitor Center Patio

1:00 p.m.

How do animals prepare for the winter months? Find out from a ranger. Fun for the entire family!

Duration: 30 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



Saturdays

Indians, Bushwhackers, and Conscripts: The Civil War in the Smokies

Sugarlands Visitor Center

1:30 p.m.

Learn about how the Civil War divided people in these mountains and how it affected their daily lives.

Duration: 45 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



ELKMONT/LITTLE GREENBRIER AREA

Tuesdays

Junior Ranger: School Days at Little Greenbrier

Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse near Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area

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

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. This program is fun for all ages. Please arrive 15 minutes before program start; space is limited.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy

Wednesdays

Old Town of Elkmont

Meet behind Elkmont Ranger Station

10:00 a.m.

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

GATLINBURG/ SUGARLANDS AREA

Daily

Cataract Falls Walk

Sugarlands Visitor Center

11:00 a.m.

Take a short walk with a ranger to a lovely waterfall and learn more about Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy



Sundays

Junior Ranger: Trees of the Sugarlands Valley

Sugarlands Visitor Center Patio

1:30 p.m.

Join us for a leisurely walk along the Fighting Creek Nature Trail to identify some of the trees found in the Smokies. This is an ideal program for future Junior Rangers.

Duration: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy

Mondays

Twilight in the Forest

Sugarlands Visitor Center

7:00 p.m. in September; 6:00 p.m. starting

October 1

Enjoy a twilight walk in the woods and learn about Smokies' critters that are more comfortable in darkness than in the light of day.

Limit of 30 persons. Sign up at Sugarlands Visitor Center.

Duration: 1 ½ hours

Level: Easy

Tuesdays

Highland Homeland

Noah Bud Ogle Cabin on Cherokee Orchard Road

1:30 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: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy

Wednesdays

Snacks and Snores

Meet on Sugarlands Visitor Center Patio

1:00 p.m.

How do animals prepare for the winter months? Find out from a ranger. Fun for the entire family!

Duration: 30 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



Thursdays

Highland Homeland

Noah Bud Ogle Cabin on Cherokee Orchard Road

1:30 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: 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: 1 ½ hours
Difficulty: 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 **Old Town of Elkmont**

Meet behind Elkmont Ranger Station

10:00 a.m.

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

Duration: 1 ½ hours

Difficulty: Easy

The Tree Army *Elkmont Amphitheater*

8:00 p.m.

2013 marks the 80th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Find out why this park owes so much to this group of young men.

Duration: 45 minutes



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 gristmill in action.

Difficulty: Easy

Accessibility: Two steps into mill

Mountain Farm Museum *Adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center* **Dawn to dusk**

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, gardening, or quilting taking place.



Sundays **Longing for the “Good Ol’ Days”**

Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

1:00 p.m. starting September 22

You've heard it before but was it really the “good ol’ days?” Join a ranger on this walk at the Mountain Farm Museum to learn what life was like on an Appalachian mountain farm.

Duration: 45 minutes



Mondays **What About Corn?**

Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch

1:00 p.m. starting September 23

Could early settlers have survived without corn? How important was corn to life back then and could we survive without corn today? Join a ranger to discover the secret of the kernels!

Duration: 45 minutes

Wednesdays **Augerhole Gap to Woodchuck Branch**

Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch

11:00 a.m. starting September 25

From Augerhole Gap and Woodchuck Branch to Boogerman Trail and Mollies Butt, interesting place names abound in the park. Join park staff to discover the meaning behind these monikers.

Duration: 45 minutes



Fridays **Discover the Oconaluftee Elk Herd**

Porch of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

3:00 p.m. starting September 27

After more of than a century of absence, the elk have returned. Relax, have a seat on the visitor center porch and hear the story of the return of the largest mammal to the Great Smoky Mountains.

Duration: 45 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



Saturdays **Who Pooped on my Boots?**

Smokemont Campground between C-Loop and

D-Loop

6:00 p.m.

Have you ever gotten poop on your hiking boot and wondered who left it on the trail? Join park staff to find out how to identify the culprit! Bring a blanket or chair and become a “scatologist!”

Duration: 1 hour



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 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 the fields!

Duration: 45 minutes

Difficulty: Easy

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.*

Wednesdays **“Step Back in Time” Hike** *Meet at the orientation shelter at the entrance to the Cades Cove Loop Road* **11:00 a.m.**

Join a park ranger for a hike to the John Oliver cabin along the historic Rich Mountain Trail. Learn about the first

white settler in the Cove and the beginning of the Cades Cove community. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water.

Duration: 2 ½ hours

Difficulty: Easy to moderate, 2 ½ miles

Thursdays **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



Fridays **October Night Hike**

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

October 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 9:00 p.m.

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

Flashlights recommended.

Duration: 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy, 2 ½ miles



Saturdays **Junior Ranger Program**

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

1:00 p.m.

Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of the Smokies. Participation counts towards earning a Junior Ranger badge and certificate.

Duration: 30 – 45 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



FAMILIES: Reward yourselves!

HIKE THE SMOKIES & EARN YOUR

10
MILES

40
MILES

← STICKERS & PINS →

50
MILES

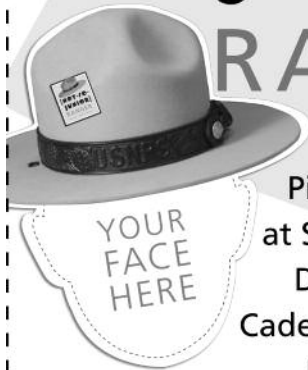
25
MILES

HIKE THE SMOKIES FOR FAMILIES

Available at
park visitor centers!

Anyone between the ages of 13 & 130 can now become a

[NOT-SO-JUNIOR] RANGER



Pick up your card today at Sugarlands, Clingmans Dome, Oconaluftee, or Cades Cove visitor centers! Earn a very cool patch.

CADES COVE (continued)

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



Sundays

Junior Ranger Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road 1:00 p.m.

Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of the Smokies. Participation counts towards earning a Junior Ranger badge and certificate.

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 national park.

Duration: 30 minutes

Difficulty: Easy



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

CCC 80TH Anniversary Celebration

Sugarlands Visitor Center

Saturday, September 14

Join us for walks and talks to celebrate the can-do spirit of the Civilian Conservation Corps and their enduring contributions to the Smokies and other national parks.

Blacksmith Demonstrations

Meet at the Blacksmith building near the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, September 14 & 15

Saturday & Sunday, October 26 & 27

Learn the art of blacksmithing and why it was important in the Cades Cove community.



Sorghum Making Demonstration

Meet at the Becky Cable House halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, September 13 – 15 & September 20 – 22

Saturday, Sunday, Monday, November 9 – 11

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, November 22 – 24 & November 29, 30 & December 1

Watch the Guenther family and their horse-powered mill turn sorghum cane into delicious sorghum molasses.

Cades Cove Full Moon hike

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

7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 19

7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 17

Duration: 2 hours

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



Cades Cove Stargazing

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

8:00 p.m. Saturday, September 28

Join a park ranger and the Smoky Mountain Astronomical

Society as we learn about the stars and galaxies. Numerous telescopes will be available for viewing the night skies.

Bring warm clothes, a blanket to sit on, and a flashlight. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. The program will be postponed in case of rain and/or cloudy weather where the night sky is not clear for viewing. Call (865) 448-4104.

Duration: 2 ½ hours

Difficulty: Easy ¼ mile walk to the program site in an open field



Back Porch Old-Time Music

Oconaluftee Visitor Center porch

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturdays, September 7 & 21, October 5 & 19, November 2 & 16

Bring an acoustic instrument and join in on this old-time jam. Or just bring a chair, sit back, and enjoy the sights and sounds as others play traditional Appalachian music.



Mountain Life Festival

Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to Oconaluftee Visitor Center

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, September 21

Join park staff and volunteers as we celebrate the fall harvest. The Mountain Farm Museum will be alive with history as demonstrators provide visitors with a glimpse into the past as they make soap, apple cider, sorghum molasses, hominy, music and more.

Hike Bradleytown to Campground

Smokemont Baptist Church (near Smokemont Campground entrance)

9:00 a.m. Saturdays, September 14 & October 12

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

Kids 5 - 12:

Become a Junior Ranger!



Purchase a booklet at any park visitor center. Earn a free badge.

On the farm

Rural folk in the Southern mountains and elsewhere often referred to the signs of the Zodiac and moon phases for cues on the best times to plant, harvest, butcher, cut firewood, dig postholes, castrate hogs, and much more.



Full moons were considered good times to do the following activities:

- *Make lye soap, because it will be harder and better.*
- *Butcher a hog, the meat will keep much better and will swell to a larger volume when cooked.*
- *Shear your sheep*
- *Bed sweet potatoes*
- *Plant trees three days before the full moon in December*
- *Trim trees during a full moon in November or February. It is very profitable to do so.*
- *Put in fence posts, they will not rot.*
- *Dig sweet potatoes, they will be sweet.*

Full moon Don'ts

- *Never plant crops; light nights make light crops.*
- *Don't let chickens hatch, they will die of gapes.*
- *Get a haircut, it will regrow faster.*

The best time to save fodder and hay is during the harvest moon in September.

FULL MOON OVER CADES COVE

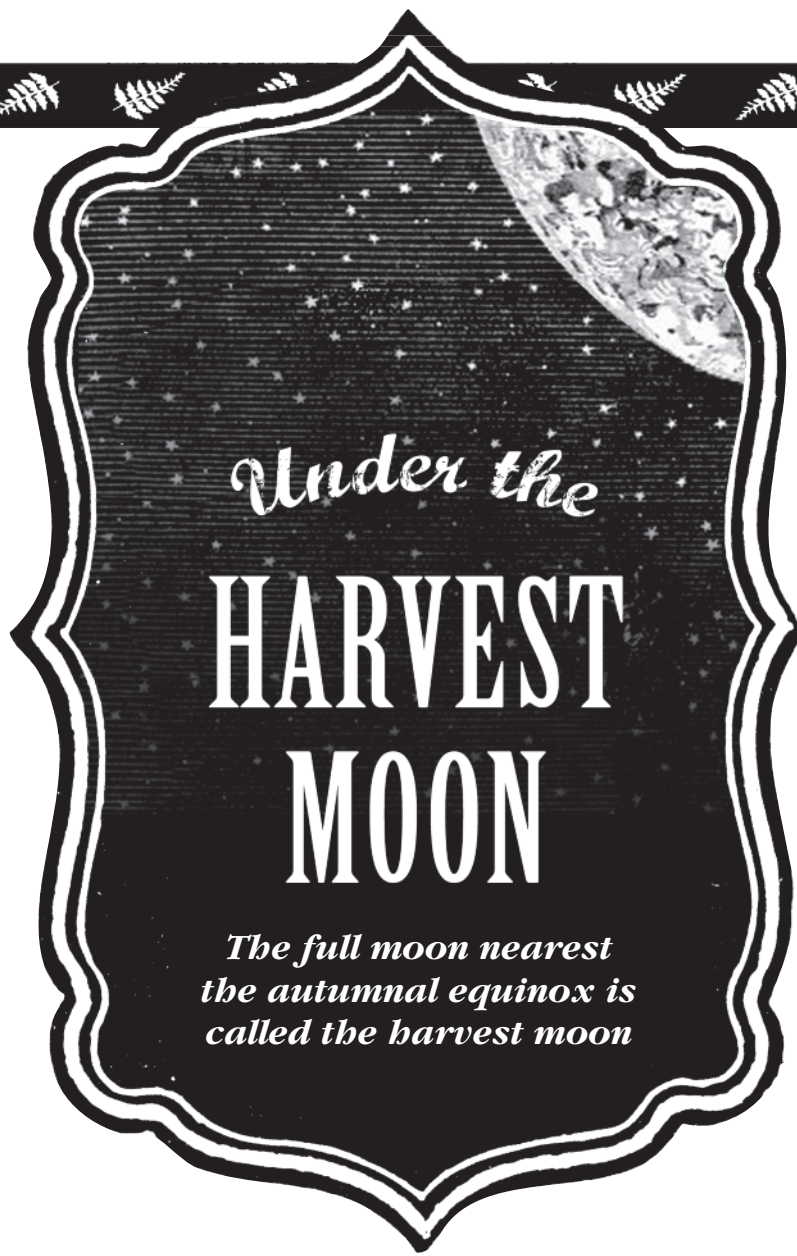
Join a ranger and enjoy Cades Cove in the moonlight.

September 19, 7:00 p.m. • October 17, 7:00 p.m.

Meet at the shelter at the start of the loop road.

An easy, 2-mile, 2-hour walk.

Wear comfortable walking shoes.



Moonshining

When it became illegal to make liquor in the mountains (or the taxes rose to rates residents could not afford), small-time distillers moved their operations ("stills") to dark hollows, ravines, caves, and laurel thickets in hopes of escaping the sheriff and the federal revenue collectors (revenuers). Because smoke from fires and other activities might betray the locations of their stills, the whiskey makers tended to work at night. Moonlight provided the illumination needed to operate a still, and hence the name "moonshiner."

In the backwoods of Appalachia, many claimed their reason for making moonshine was simple economics. The rugged terrain and poor roads made it very difficult to transport crops like corn to market. By turning many bushels of corn into a few gallons of whiskey, the transportation problem was mostly alleviated.

Plant onions on a full moon in September for a good crop

CHEROKEE MOONS

JANUARY: Cold Moon

FEBRUARY: Bone Moon

MARCH: Windy Moon

APRIL: Ducks Return Moon

MAY: Planting Moon

JUNE: Green Corn Moon

JULY: Ripe Corn Moon

AUGUST: Fruit Moon

SEPTEMBER: Nut Moon

OCTOBER: Harvest Moon

NOVEMBER: Trading Moon

DECEMBER: Snow Moon



In the moonlight...

Many animals in the forests of the Smokies are more active at night than during the day. In fact, night can be a very busy time around here. Night active creatures include: opossum, fox, bobcats, skunks, flying squirrels, coyote, wild hogs, raccoons, bats, owls, salamanders, tree frogs, mice, voles, shrews, and beavers.

ccc 80th anniversary!

In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps came to the rescue

Accomplishments of the CCC Endure in the Great Smokies

SPECIAL CCC
80th
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
SET FOR
SEPTEMBER 14

Great Smoky Mountains National Park has scheduled a special day of activities to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the CCC. The special event will include talks on CCC-related topics, exhibits, a hike to a CCC camp, and a few surprises. Most activities will be at or near Sugarlands Visitor Center. Visit www.SmokiesInformation.org for a complete itinerary.

Back in 1933, those in charge of building the infrastructure for the new Great Smoky Mountains National Park benefitted from a lucky coincidence: the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was formed one year before the official establishment of the park. As a result, some of the very first young men to join the CCC were immediately whisked off to camps in the wilds of the Great Smokies.

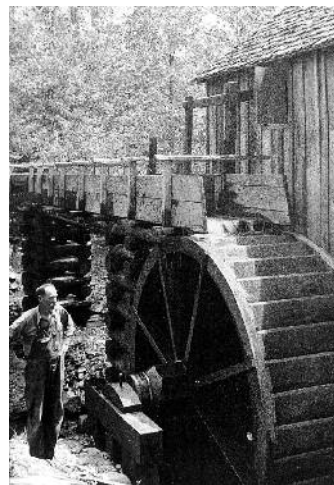
The CCC was a Depression-era “New Deal” program initiated by the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration to put unemployed young men to work on conservation projects across the country. At its peak, over 4,000 CCC enrollees and their support staff were at work in the Smokies. This was more CCC staff than any other two national parks combined.

CCC enrollees had to be single, physically fit men between the ages of 18 and 25. They were paid \$30 per month (equal to about \$520 in today’s dollars), plus room and board. Twenty-five dollars of their monthly pay was automatically sent home to help their families.

The CCC’s accomplishments in this park are legion. They constructed over 500 miles of hiking and horse trails, sometimes blasting routes out of solid rock and laying grades of massive stacked stone. They built the park headquarters building near Gatlinburg, TN and the Oconaluftee Ranger Station near Cherokee, NC. They developed many of the park’s campgrounds and picnic areas and many of the monumental stone bridges that

gracefully span the rivers. They raised thousands of trees and shrubs in nurseries and transplanted them.

And, not surprisingly, because we know of their high standards, most of the infrastructure they built here during their existence (1933-1942) is still standing in the park and is still in use today. In fact, the park superintendent drives to work every day over a CCC-built bridge and conducts his business in a CCC-built headquarters building.



The CCC restored both Cable and Mingus grist mills.



Members of the CCC, Roosevelt’s “Tree Army,” plant a tree in front of Park Service headquarters at Sugarlands. The CCC also built the headquarters building, which served as the first park visitor center, too.

NPS PHOTOS



The artistic and functional stonework on park bridges, tunnels, and roadsides are mostly the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps.



This typical Smokies CCC camp was located at the site of today’s Smokemont Campground, 5 miles north of Cherokee, NC.

join us!

Help preserve the place you love

become a member

SINCE 1953, Great Smoky Mountains Association has supported the educational, scientific, and historical efforts of the National Park Service through cash donations and in-kind services. In 2013 alone, the association plans to provide more than \$1.5 million in assistance to include saving hemlock trees, living history demonstrations, environmental education programs, salaries for backcountry patrols, and historic preservation.

- Association members receive a number of benefits to keep them informed about special events in the park and issues affecting the Smokies:
- Subscription to the semi-annual, full-color magazine *Smokies Life*;
- Coming soon: Exclusive digital access to the award-winning quarterly park newspaper, *Smokies Guide*, and the association's newsletter, *The Bearpaw*
- A 15-25% discount on books, music, gifts, and other products sold at park visitor centers and at our web store
- Discounts up to 20% at more than 400 national park bookstores across the country
- Special discounts at area rental cabins, inns, restaurants, shops, and attractions
- And most importantly, the satisfaction of helping to preserve nature and history in Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Join today using the coupon to the right or visit www.SmokiesInformation.org Or call us at 1-888-898-9102 x222. GSMA memberships start at just \$35 per year.



BILLER PHOTO

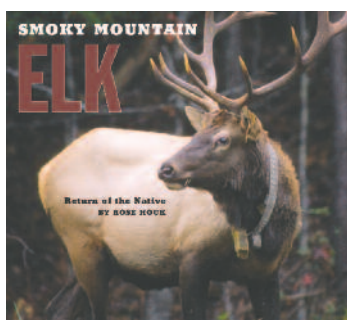
Great Smoky Mountains is the only major national park without an entrance fee. Most scenic parks now charge \$25 per vehicle. Would you like to use some of the money you saved to help preserve nature and history in the Smokies?

visitor programs

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, teacher weekends, wildflower i.d., and more. Contact: (865) 448-6709 & (865) 974-0150. gsmiit.org & outreach.utk.edu/smoky

books & gifts



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

Visit our on-line store at 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 \$539. Fees include meals, lodging, and most equipment.

Next year's offerings include: *Discovery Camp* (ages 9-12), *Wilderness Adventure Trek*, *Field Ecology Adventure*, and *Teen High Adventure* (ages 13-17).

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

support the friends

FRIENDS of Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a nonprofit organization that



assists the National Park Service by raising funds and public awareness and providing volunteers for park projects.

Since 1993, Friends has raised over \$28 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
- fund special educational services like the official park movie
- 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 located at visitor centers, roadsides, and other locations around the park. Use the form to the left to start or renew your membership. Buy or renew your Friends of the Smokies license plate (Tennessee and North Carolina).

However you choose to give, your donation will really help protect the Great Smoky Mountains for many years to come!

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

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION		Count me in!
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Annual Membership \$35	Name(s) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Supporting Membership \$50 <i>covers two persons per household</i>	Address _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Family Membership \$500 <i>payable in 4 annual installments</i>	Email Address (for Cub Report) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership \$250	Phone # _____	
FRIENDS OF GREAT SMOKY MTNS. NAT'L PARK		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 <i>and/or</i> Friends of GSMNP , P.O. Box 1660, Kodak, TN 37764 (865) 932-4794. www.friendsofthesmokies.org
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$35		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wildflower Friend \$50		
<input type="checkbox"/> Creekside Friend \$100		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____		

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 Camping
 (865) 436-1297
www.smokiespermits.nps.gov
To order maps & guides
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.

