



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Great Smoky Mountains National Park



SUMMER 2015 PROGRAMS

This summer, park rangers will be presenting special Junior Ranger programs all over the Smokies for ages 5 - 12. They're free, they're fun, and if you attend three or more, you'll earn a special badge.

1. Take this booklet with you in the park, and have the ranger sign it whenever you attend a Junior Ranger program or other Ranger-led program.

2. When you get three signatures, stop by Cades Cove Visitor Center, Sugarlands Visitor Center, or Oconaluftee Visitor Center and pick up your free badge.

Ranger signature #1

Ranger signature #2

Ranger signature #3

Thanks to Friends of the Smokies, Great Smoky Mountains Association, and Toyota for their contributions.
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	SUN.	MON.
9 A.M.		
10 A.M.		
10:30 A.M.		*Being A Kid in the Mountains
11 A.M.		
11:30 A.M.		
12 P.M.		
12:30 P.M.		
1 P.M.	*Blue & Gray	*Creepy Critters *Eager Weaver
1:30 P.M.		
2 P.M.	*Geology Rocks!	*Welcome Home!
2:30 P.M.		
3 P.M.		
4 P.M.		
5:00 P.M.		
5:30 P.M.	*Elk	
6:00 P.M.		*Feeding Time
7 P.M.		
8 P.M.		
8:45 P.M.	*Night Hike	

SCHEDULE INFORMATION AT A GLANCE



TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
			•Slimy Salamanders	
•Yucky Animal Stuff		•Creepy Critters •Hike to Chasteen Creek Waterfall	•Batteries Not Included •Blacksmithing	
•Animal Olympics •Blacksmithing	•Stream Splashers		•Batteries Not Included •Blacksmithing	
•School Days	•Neighbors or Nuisances?		•Batteries Not Included •Blacksmithing	
•Blacksmithing •Blue & Gray			•Batteries Not Included •Blacksmithing	
			•Leave No Trace!	
•Blacksmithing •Animal Olympics •Find Your Park	•Explore Cades Cove •Schoolhouse Hike •Pack Your Day Pack	•Family Adventure: Avent Cabin	•Explore Cades Cove	•Animal Olympics
•Blue & Gray •Blacksmithing •School Days •Stream Splashers		•Animal Defenses		•Bear Mania!
•Blacksmithing •Find Your Park				•Stream Splashers
		•Mammal Mania!		
				•Find Your Park
•Feeding Time	•Feeding Time	•Feeding Time	•Feeding Time	

BLUE & GRAY

Sundays at 1:00 p.m June 14 - August 2
Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. June 16 - August 4



The army needs young folks to enlist for the Union or Confederacy. As a recruit you will learn about the life of a soldier. Join a park ranger to see how the Civil War affected communities such as Cades Cove.

Where: Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area half way around the Loop road

How long: 1 hour &

✓ Check the box if you did this activity.



GEOLOGY ROCKS!

Sundays at 2:00 p.m.
June 14 - August 2



Amaze your friends
with newfound knowledge
about how these mountains
were born and how they have
changed over time.



Where: Newfound Gap Overlook

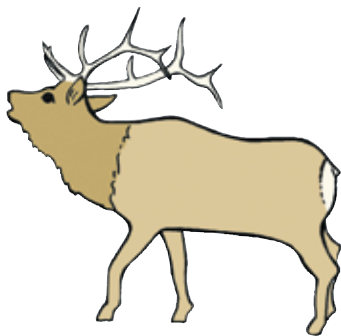
How long: 45 minutes



✓ Check the box if you
did this activity.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN ELK

Sundays at 5:30 p.m. June 14 - August 2



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!

Where: Palmer House,
Cataloochee Valley

How long: 45 minutes

✓ Check the box if you did this activity.



NIGHT HIKE

Sundays at 8:45 p.m. June 21 – August 2



Take a walk on the dark side with a ranger and learn about some of the mysteries and wonders found only after the sun goes down.



Where: Bradley Fork Trailhead, D-Loop Smokemont Campground

How long: 1 hour

Limited to 25 participants. Call 828-497-1904 up to four days in advance to make reservations.



✓ Check the box if you did this activity.

BEING A KID IN THE MOUNTAINS

Mondays at 10:30 a.m. June 15 – August 3



What was it like to grow up in these mountains before any of the modern conveniences we enjoy today? Join a ranger to experience how life used to be in these mountains, including how kids explored and what they liked to do for fun.



Where: Sugarlands Visitor Center

How long: 1 hour ♿

✓ Check the box if you did this activity.

CREEPY CRITTERS

Mondays at 1:00 p.m. June 15 – August 3,
Elkmont Amphitheater

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. June 18 – August 6,
Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Pavilion



Join a ranger on this adventure into the dark and mysterious world of bugs and macro-invertebrates. Get up close and personal with the use of equipment such as “sucky-uppy-things,” leaf litter boxes, and magnifying glasses.



How long: 1 hour; 0.5 mile hike on Thursdays

✓ Check the box if you did this activity.

EAGER WEAVER

Mondays at 1:00 p.m. June 15 – August 3



Join a park ranger
to learn the art of
weaving using a loom.
Take home your work.



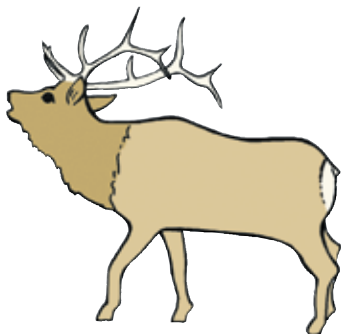
Where: Cades Cove Visitor Center/
Cable Mill area half way around the
Loop Road

How long: 45 minutes ♿

✓ Check the box if you
did this activity.

WELCOME HOME!

Mondays at 2:00 p.m.
June 15 - August 3



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.



Where: Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch

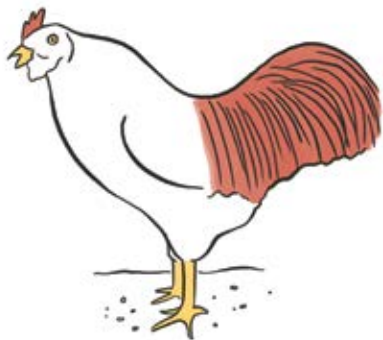
How long: 45 minutes ♿



✓ Check the box if you did this activity.

FEEDING TIME!

*Mondays-Fridays at 6:00 p.m.
June 15 - August 7*



Join park staff
as they close up the
Mountain Farm Museum for
the evening. You'll even be
able to help feed the pigs
and chickens!



Where: Mountain Farm Museum

How long: 30 minutes

*✓ Check the box if you
did this activity.*

YUCKY ANIMAL STUFF

Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.
June 16 - August 4



Want to know some gross stuff about animals? Check out some skulls, smells, and scat. Learn some disgusting facts. Join a ranger for this fun and entertaining program.



Where: Sugarlands Visitor Center

How long: 1 hour &

✓ Check the box if you did this activity.

ANIMAL OLYMPICS

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m.
June 16 - August 4

Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. June 13 - August 8



This interactive,
fun activity compares
your abilities to the
animals of the park.



Where: Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable
Mill area halfway around the Loop Road

How long: 45 minutes ♿



✓ Check the box if you
did this activity.

BLACKSMITHING

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m.,
2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. June 16 - August 4

Where: Cades Cove Visitor Center/Blacksmith Shop, half-way around the Cades Cove Loop Road

How long: 45 minutes. Limited to children ages 8-12 with group size limited to 8 children per program.



Fridays at 10:00 a.m.,
10:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
June 26 - August 7

Where: Blacksmith shop at the Mountain Farm Museum, adjacent to Oconaluftee Visitor Center

How long: 30 minutes. Limited to children ages 10-12.

Join a ranger in the blacksmith shop to learn about the blacksmith. Create your own item to take home. Other Junior Ranger programs will be going on simultaneously for younger kids.



✓ Check the box if you did this activity.

SCHOOL DAYS

Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
June 16 - August 4



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. Please arrive 15 minutes before program start; space is limited.



Where: Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse

How long: 1 hour



✓ Check the box if you did this activity.

FIND YOUR PARK

Tuesdays at Sugarlands Visitor Center, 1:00 p.m.
at Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch, 3:00 p.m.
June 23 - August 4

Saturdays at Tree Cookie area adjacent to Oconaluftee
Visitor Center, 5:00 p.m.
June 27 - August 8

FIND YOUR PARK

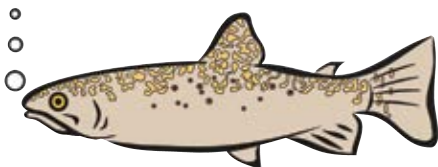
Join a ranger
for a look into national
parks across the country
and find out which one
might be yours!



How long: 1 hour &

✓ Check the box if you
did this activity.

STREAM SPLASHERS



Tuesdays at 2 p.m. June 16 – August 4
Saturdays at 3:00 p.m. June 27 – August 8


Where: Oconaluftee River adjacent to the Mountain Farm Museum

How long: 1.5 hours

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. June 17 – August 5

Where: Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area Pavilion

How long: 1 – 1.5 hours



Roll up your pants and wade through a mountain stream to look for mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies, and other aquatic critters. Be prepared to get wet. Closed-toed river shoes recommended.



✓ Check the box if you did this activity.

NEIGHBORS OR NUISANCES?

Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.
June 17 - August 5



Join park staff on the porch to learn about three small animals found right here around the Mountain Farm Museum. As cute as they may be, you decide whether they are friend or foe.

Where: Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch

How long: 45 minutes ♿

✓ Check the box if you did this activity.



EXPLORE CADES COVE

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. June 17 – August 5



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



Where: Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill area half way around the Loop Road.

How long: 30–45 minutes ♿



✓ Check the box if you did this activity.

FAMILY ADVENTURE: SCHOOLHOUSE

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. June 17 – August 5



Not sure how to explore the Smokies with the whole family? Learn hiking basics that are ranger tested and kid approved as we hike along a mountain stream to a one-room schoolhouse where we will learn what it was like to be a student 'back then'. Wear sturdy hiking boots and bring plenty of water.



Where: Metcalf Bottoms
Picnic Area Pavilion

How long: 2 hours (1.5 miles)



✓ Check the box if you did this activity.



PACK YOUR DAY PACK

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.
June 24 - August 5



Scenic vistas,
waterfalls, and home
sites...Let's hit the trail! But
wait...what should we take with
us? Join a ranger and learn the
knack of what to pack before
you make tracks!



Where: Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch

How long: 45 minutes ♿



✓ Check the box if you
did this activity.

GUIDED HIKE: CHASTEEN CREEK

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.
June 18 - August 6



Pack a snack and water and join a ranger on a moderate 3-mile round-trip hike along Bradley Fork to Chasteen Creek Falls.



Where: Bradley Fork Trailhead,
D-Loop Smokemont Campground

How long: 3 hours (4 miles)



✓ Check the box if you did this activity.

FAMILY ADVENTURE: AVENT CABIN

Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. June 18 – August 6



Not sure how to explore the Smokies with the whole family? Learn hiking basics that are Ranger tested and kid approved as we hike up an old railroad grade. Our final destination will be a pre-park historic cabin, hidden off any established trail. Wear sturdy hiking boots and bring plenty of water.



Where: Elkmont area: Jakes Creek Trailhead

How long: 2 hours (2.5 miles)



✓ Check the box if you did this activity.

ANIMAL DEFENSES

Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.
June 18 - August 6



Skunks aren't the only animal that defends themselves in the woods. Join a ranger for a look at how animals big and small fend off those larger than themselves



Where: Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch

How long: 45 minutes ♿

✓ Check the box if you did this activity.

MAMMAL MANIA!

Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. June 25 – August 6

Otters and rabbits
and bears, oh my! Join
a ranger for a hands-on
discovery of mammals in
the park.



Where: Oconaluftee Visitor Center, South Porch

How long: 45 minutes ♿

✓ Check the box if you did this activity.

SLIMY SALAMANDERS

****9:00 a.m. June 26 and July 10 only ****



Where: Sugarlands Visitor Center

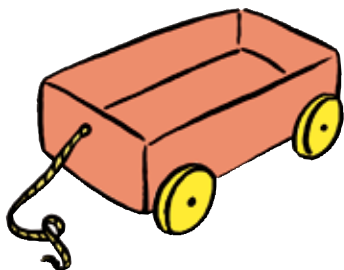
How long: 1.5 hours ♿

✓ Check the box if you did this activity.

Join a ranger to explore the damp, dark world of the park's most popular amphibian. Be prepared to get a little wet and even a little dirty as we search for this slimy creature. Closed-toed shoes that can get wet are recommended.

BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED

Fridays at 10:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
June 26 - August 7



What kind of toys did kids play with in the "old days"? Join a ranger to discover (or remember!) how kids were entertained before video games and iPods. You'll be able to take home a "buzz button" of your very own. All ages welcome.



Where: Mountain Farm Museum

How long: 30 minutes ♿



✓ Check the box if you did this activity.

LEAVE NO TRACE!

Fridays at 12:30 p.m. June 26 - August 7



When you explore the wilderness, can anyone tell you've been there? How can you minimize the impact you leave behind? Join a ranger to find out!



Where: Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch

How long: 45 minutes ♿



✓ Check the box if you did this activity.

EXPLORE CADES COVE

Fridays at 1:00 p.m. June 26 – August 7



Meet a ranger
to get the scoop on
Cades Cove wildlife
and other topics.

Where: Cades Cove Visitor
Center/Cable Mill area half way
around the Loop Road.

How long: 1 hour ♿



✓ Check the box if you
did this activity.

BEAR MANIA!

Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.
June 27 - August 8

So you think you know a lot about bears, huh? Well, join a ranger to test your knowledge and learn more about this "symbol of the Smokies."



Where: Sugarlands Visitor Center

How long: 45 minutes &

✓ Check the box if you did this activity.

THE JUNIOR RANGER PROMISE

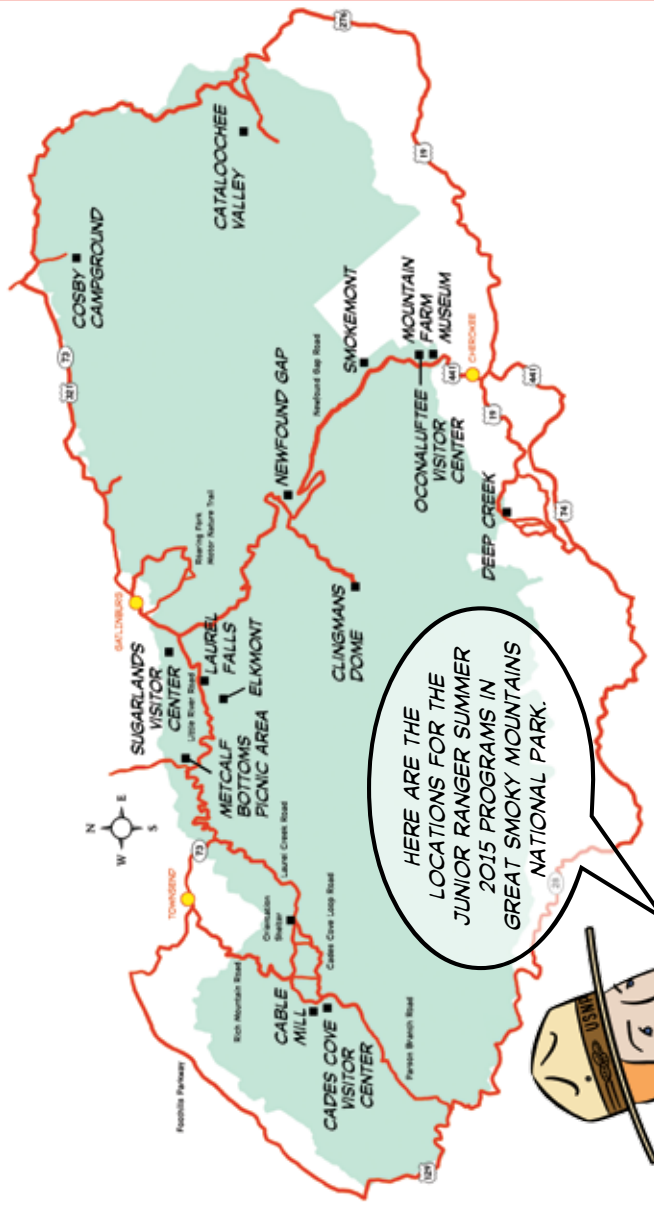
***Report to your nearest
visitor center to recite your
Junior Ranger promise.***

As a Junior Ranger,

I _____

***will do all I can to learn about
and protect Great Smoky
Mountains National Park
and the plants and animals
that live here. When I return
home, I will continue to learn
about and protect the natural
world where I live.***





HERE ARE THE
 LOCATIONS FOR THE
 JUNIOR RANGER SUMMER
 2015 PROGRAMS IN
 GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS
 NATIONAL PARK.

