As you venture into this beautiful park, you will discover that it has a great deal to offer. Whether you are into hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, camping, or exploring the river, you are in for an exciting adventure at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Visitors from all over the world come to the Big South Fork. They come here to not only take part in the many recreational opportunities, but also because of the vast beauty of this unique part of the country. As you will notice, the park has some real hidden gems. Take the time to see them, you won't be disappointed. Here are just a few that you should see while you are here.

Whether you're exploring Twin Arches – considered the largest natural bridge in Tennessee; East Rim Overlook – a short paved trail providing you with the easiest access to a great overlook of the deep gorge that so many people associate with the Big South Fork; or, on the Kentucky side of the park, visit the Blue Heron Outdoor Museum. Here, you can see what a coal mining community from the early to mid-1900s would have looked like. You can even climb the tipple bridge and walk across the river. The view is definitely worth it. These are just a few of the hidden, and not-so-hidden gems that await your discovery.

From all of us here at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, thank you for visiting with us. I would also encourage you to continue to explore other National Parks. With over 400 national park sites to explore in the United States, the journey that you have begun here at the Big South Fork can continue and lead to some incredible adventures in YOUR national parks.

Welcome to Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area!

Although spring officially begins March 21, signs of its arrival can be seen, and felt much sooner, with the sounds of frogs croaking, trees budding, and warmer weather beckoning. During this exciting time of seasonal change, many visitors eagerly come to the park to experience these familiar and missed sights and sounds.

As park staff prepare for the year ahead, the magic of spring also requires visitors to plan ahead and be prepared. Water levels at Big South Fork may change quickly from one day to the next, trail conditions may be impacted by weather, as well as other unforeseen events.

Regardless of what your interest is, the best place to begin your visit to the park is at the visitor center. Our knowledgeable staff is available to answer your questions, provide park updates, and offer recommendations on how to best spend your available time.

Whether it’s your first time experiencing the park, or your 20th, I hope you come prepared and have a safe visit. And may your experience exceed your expectations.

Niki Stephanie Nicholas
Superintendent
Events Calendar

All events are Eastern Time. All interpretive programs are subject to change.
Contact Bandy Creek Visitor Center at (423) 286-7275 (PARK) or the Blue Heron Interpretive Center at (606) 376-3787 or (606) 376-5073 for program details.

SPRING PLANTING & MUSIC FESTIVAL -- APRIL 29
Bandy Creek Area 9:00 am until 4:00 pm ET
Join in a celebration of spring at a 1920s era farm. Demonstrations of horse and mule drawn equipment, plowing, planting, music concerts, farm animals and tasks of the homemaker will be presented throughout the day at Bandy Creek, Lora Blevins homeplace and Oscar Blevins Farmsite. Food, craft demonstrations and sales items will also be available.

BLUE HERON DECORATION DAY -- MAY 20
Blue South Fork 11:00 am until 4:00 pm ET
Big South Fork is proud to host the 3rd annual event on Saturday, May 20, from 11:00 pm to 4:00 pm ET. This event’s focus is on inviting the friends and families that once lived and worked in the Blue Heron and surrounding communities to come home and reminisce with one another. The day will be accompanied by local music groups and there will be plenty of space for families to bring picnic lunches.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY -- JUNE 3
Volunteers will be working throughout the park on hiking, biking, horse and multiple-use trails. National Trails Day is held each year throughout the United States on the first Saturday in June. Thousands of volunteers participate in work projects in national areas, parks and forests. If you would like to volunteer, contact Effie Houston for information at (423) 569-9778, or online at www.americanhiking.org.

NIGHT SKY PROGRAMS AT BANDY CREEK
Paul Lewis from the University of Tennessee will be presenting astronomy programs with the help of astronomy volunteers (weather permitting).
• May 20 -- Solar Viewing: 3:00 pm ET
Astronomy: 9:30 pm ET
• June 24 -- Astronomy: 9:30 pm ET
• July 22 -- Astronomy: 9:30 pm ET
• August 27 -- Astronomy: 9:30 pm ET
• October 7 -- Solar Viewing: 3:00 pm ET
Astronomy: 9:30 pm ET

BLUE HERON GHOST TRAIN -- SEPTEMBER 9
Blue Heron Outdoor Museum 7:30 pm until 9:30 pm ET
During the 7th annual Blue Heron Ghost Train, park staff will lead groups of visitors in the darkness of night by only the flickers of lanterns to local storytellers. They, through the age-old tradition of the spoken word, will share their traditional tales from around the region with you. Visitors have the option of either descending to this abandoned coal-mining camp by rail or road.

STORYTELLING FESTIVAL -- SEPTEMBER 16
Bandy Creek Area starting at 9:00 am ET
The 25th annual “Haunting in the Hills” Storytelling Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 16, 2017. Make plans now to join thousands of folks who will come to the Bandy Creek field and enjoy the beautiful Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area for a fun-filled day of stories, music, crafts and more. Craft classes and concerts are free and open to the public.

Each year thousands of students in area schools get to experience dynamic storytelling programs by world renowned storytellers during festival outreach programs. Local schools will again have an opportunity to see these tellers in action during the week leading up to the event.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY -- SEPTEMBER 30
Volunteers will be working on hiking, biking, horse and multiple-use trails. Public Lands Day is an annual event traditionally held on the last Saturday in September. Thousands of volunteers participate in work projects in national areas, parks and forests. If you would like to volunteer, contact the volunteer coordinator for more information at (423) 569-9778, or online at www.publiclandsday.org.

Become a Junior Ranger

Big South Fork has a Junior Ranger book and a badge for you to earn for your jacket or book bag. Kids (and adults) are invited to use this book to explore Big South Fork with Oscar, the river otter. Many activities will help you learn about animals, plants, rocks, rivers, and a coal mining town.

Become a Volunteer

For information on how you can become a National Park Service volunteer, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (423) 569-9778, or email us at biso_information@nps.gov. Visit us online at http://www.nps.gov/biso/workwithus.htm to see all of the wonderful opportunities that are available.
Fee Free Days 2017

On a variety of holidays, as well as the annual “National Park Week,” entrance fees are waived at all national parks. Learn more about fee free days in the national parks at http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm.

Although Big South Fork does not collect entrance fees, we do have user fees. Fee free days include fee waivers for backcountry camping, swimming pool use, and camping at Alum Ford Campground. Permits will still be required, but there will be no charge when they are obtained at one of the park contact stations (see page 16).

The following dates are the official fee free days of 2017:

- January 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 20: Presidents Day
- April 15-16 & April 22-23: National Park Week Weekends
- August 25: National Park Service Birthday
- September 30: National Public Lands Day
- November 11-12: Veterans Day Weekend

Every Kid in a Park

If you are 10 years old or in fourth grade, you can participate in a fun online activity and receive a voucher for a free 4th Grade Annual Pass. Print out the voucher and take it with you and your family to a national park, where you can serve as an ambassador and introduce your family to the National Park System. This program, called Every Kid in a Park, can be found online at https://www.everykidinapark.gov. National parks and other federal lands and waters all across America are excited to share their heritage with young people.

After-hours Pool Reservations

A Special Use Permit is required for all after-hour pool reservations. The fee is $125 for a two-hour minimum reservation and no more than 50 persons. There is an additional $50 charge for each additional hour. In order to obtain a reservation, contact the Bandy Creek Office at 423-286-8368. Reservations must be submitted no later than five business days prior to the event.

Weddings in the Park

Special events such as weddings, foot races, and endurance rides require a special use permit. If you need more information about how to obtain a special use permit, contact the Fee Program Manager at (423) 569-2404, ext. 240, or by email at tish_neal@nps.gov. Information can also be found on our website at www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/permits.htm.

*Holders of the Interagency Senior or Access Passports pay only half the fee.
Hey Ranger!

Most commonly asked questions at Big South Fork....

**How many bears are in the park?**
The most recent scientific study indicates there are approximately 300 bears living in Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and Daniel Boone National Forest.

**Can I camp in a rockshelter or historical buildings?**
No. Park regulations have been established to protect the cultural and historical significance of these structures.

**What kind of poisonous snakes live in the park?**
Timber rattlesnakes and copperheads.

**Is Big South Fork a National Park?**
Yes. Big South Fork NRRA is one of over 400 parks managed by the National Park Service.

**Where does the Big South Fork River flow?**
The river flows north from Tennessee to Kentucky into Lake Cumberland.

**What are those trees with the two-foot long leaves?**
Most likely the tree is either a Big Leaf Magnolia or an Umbrella Magnolia.

**Why shouldn’t I throw away food scraps in my campfire?**
Bears and other wild animals are attracted to food scraps and burned residue. Bears that become habituated to human food often stop foraging for food and are typically the animals that cause problems.

**Can I drink water out of the streams or river?**
It is strongly advised that water from any water source be filtered before drinking. Even then, there is no guarantee it is completely free of contaminants and microorganisms.

**Do I need a backcountry permit to camp in the woods?**
Yes. Backcountry camping permits are available online at http://www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/permits.htm. Permits will also be sold at park visitor contact stations (see page 16) and at selected local vendors (see page 5). All locations will accept cash, and Bandy Creek Visitor Center can process credit card orders in person or over the phone.

**Can I camp in a rockshelter or historical buildings?**
No. Park regulations have been established to protect the cultural and historical significance of these structures.

**How many bears are in the park?**
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**What kind of poisonous snakes live in the park?**
Timber rattlesnakes and copperheads.

**Is Big South Fork a National Park?**
Yes. Big South Fork NRRA is one of over 400 parks managed by the National Park Service.

**Where can I buy one of the Interagency Passes?**
You can purchase any of the Interagency passes at one of the visitor centers (see page 16 for locations and operational hours) or online at http://store.usgs.gov/pass/index.html.

**Where does the Big South Fork River flow?**
The river flows north from Tennessee to Kentucky into Lake Cumberland.

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**Safety Tips**

Keep safe and enjoy your trip to Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area by following these precautions:

1. Be aware that there are poisonous snakes (copperheads and timber rattlesnakes), ticks, chiggers, and poison ivy found here. Be cautious as you hike the trails or use the backcountry. Always use a flashlight when walking at night to avoid stepping on a snake.

2. Plan ahead and leave information about your trip with someone at home.

3. Backcountry camping permits are required. These provide information to park rangers in case of emergencies. Obtain a permit online or at a park visitor center.

4. Store all food, food containers and coolers out of reach from wildlife. Hang food in the backcountry so bears cannot reach it. A copy of the food storage regulations can be obtained from the visitor centers or the campground kiosks.

5. Ticks and chiggers can cause irritating itchy bumps and sometimes a rash. Other insects like gnats, deer flies and mosquitoes can also be a nuisance while camping, horseback riding or hiking. Ticks can carry diseases. Protect yourself and your pets by using an insect repellent. Check yourself after being outdoors to remove ticks.

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**Lost and Found**

Report any lost items to rangers at Bandy Creek Visitor Center in Tennessee or at Blue Heron Interpretive Center in Kentucky. Found items should be turned in at the same locations.

**Resource Protection Hotline Available**

Any park visitor or neighbor who witnesses what they believe to be an illegal activity such as digging arrowheads, poaching wildlife or harvesting plants is encouraged to call the Resource Protection Hotline at (423) 569-2404, ext 505. All information will be treated confidentially. No name or phone number will be required; however, persons wishing to leave contact information may do so.

**Trails Condition Reporting Hotline Available**

Park visitors or neighbors are encouraged to report any trail conditions they find by calling the Trails Condition Reporting Hotline at (423) 569-2404, ext. 505.
Third Annual Photo Contest

The National Park Service invites photographers to submit entries for an exhibit at the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The NPS is looking for striking digital images highlighting the spectacular views, historic sites, recreational opportunities, and diversity of life in the park. Images may show wildlife, plant life, natural landscapes, historic areas, weather, or people interacting with nature within the boundaries of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. All photographs, except those submitted in the artistic category, should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared.

Photographs may be submitted into one of seven categories:
• **Action/Adventure** (photographs of people participating in recreational activities)
• **Artistic** (artistic compositions in nature both natural and manipulated in post processing)
• **Cultural** (photographs that illustrate historic or culturally significant structures)
• **Flora & Fauna** (animals in their natural habitat, including close-ups of invertebrates, or plants in their natural habitat, including close-ups of flowers, fungi, lichen, and algae)
• **Kentucky Landscapes** (expansive and dramatic views of the land and its features within the Kentucky park boundaries)
• **Tennessee Landscapes** (expansive and dramatic views of the land and its features within the Tennessee park boundaries)
• **Youth** (entries in any category by photographers under 18 years of age).

Entries will be judged on technical excellence, originality, creativity, visual impact, and artistic merit. Judges’ decisions are final. Selected images will be printed for an exhibition at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center that will open on Saturday, September 2, 2017. Selected images may also be displayed on the internet and other venues.

Contest is open to all photographers except NPS employees and their immediate families and household members. Each person can only submit three photos into the competition. All photos must be in a digital format. Entries must be received no later than Friday, July 3, 2017. Each entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form with all information clearly filled out. Entry forms may be downloaded from http://www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/biso-photo-contest.htm. Entries may be emailed to biso_information@nps.gov or dropped off at or mailed to the park headquarters at:

Big South Fork NRRA
Attn: Photo Contest
4564 Leatherwood Road
Oneida, TN 37841

For more information, please call (423) 286-7275.

We want to see the Big South Fork THROUGH YOUR EYES

Backcountry Camping Permit Vendors

These vendors provide backcountry camping permits at their locations near the park. Hours of operation will vary so be sure to call ahead.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VENDOR NAME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>PHONE NUMBER</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shepherds One Stop</td>
<td>Whitley City, KY</td>
<td>606-376-5200</td>
<td>Intersection of Hwy 700 and US 27, Kentucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raider One Stop</td>
<td>Stearns, KY</td>
<td>606-376-5025</td>
<td>Hwy 92 near the Kentucky Ranger Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Hitching Post</td>
<td>Jamestown, TN</td>
<td>931-752-2888</td>
<td>Less than 1 mile west of park boundary on Hwy 297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R&amp;M Brooks</td>
<td>Rugby, TN</td>
<td>423-628-2533</td>
<td>West of Rugby on Rugby Road, Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henbos Number 2</td>
<td>Jamestown, TN</td>
<td>931-879-0366</td>
<td>At the intersection of BYP 127 and Hwy 52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Park Programs & Events

Schedules are effective from Memorial Day Weekend until Labor Day 2017

#### TENNESSEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM TITLE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DURATION</th>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THU</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GO BIG 2017 Challenge Program</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Go Big 2017 Challenge is divided into four challenge categories: Overlooks, Wayside Exhibits, Cemeteries, and Hiking. Each category is a list of questions to complete along with the point values. Get to know your Big South Fork by accomplishing all of the questions! Participants who receive 100 or more points earn a distinctive Go Big 2017 patch. Obtain program booklet at visitor centers and park website.</td>
<td>Locations Vary</td>
<td>Times Vary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wildlife of Big South Fork</strong>&lt;br&gt;Join a park ranger at Bandy Creek Visitor Center to learn more about wildlife at Big South Fork. Wildlife talks are followed by additional time for an open question and answer session. This park does not confine living wildlife for routine interpretational purposes. Therefore, these programs are centered around a collection of mounted animals along with related specimens and program materials. These programs provide visitors opportunities to examine, at close range, hoofs, claws, hair textures, and other features without stress to animals.</td>
<td>Bandy Creek Visitor Center</td>
<td>30-45 minutes</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Experience the Gorge</strong>&lt;br&gt;Explore the ecology, geology, and history of the Big South Fork gorge and the river that flows through it. Inquire at Bandy Creek Visitor Center for program information. Meet at Leatherwood Ford Gazebo.</td>
<td>Bandy Creek Visitor Center</td>
<td>30-45 minutes</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Junior Ranger Nature Ride</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hey parents, are your kids bored? Why not come explore Big South Fork on two wheels. Each Saturday afternoon, a park ranger will lead a short, family-friendly bike ride along gentle terrains around the Bandy Creek area. This outdoor activity is designed for families with children of Junior Ranger age and includes stops for them to enjoy nature. Bicycle helmets are mandatory for bicyclists under the age of 16.</td>
<td>Bandy Creek Visitor Center</td>
<td>60-90 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bandy Creek Evening Program</strong>&lt;br&gt;Become better acquainted with Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Evening programs are presented each Saturday night throughout the summer at the Bandy Creek Campground area. Topics range from minibeasts below your feet to bears along the trail to stars up high. Up-to-date program announcements for these programs are posted throughout the Bandy Creek campground and visitor center.</td>
<td>Bandy Creek Campground Area</td>
<td>45-60 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due to unforeseen circumstances, all programs subject to change, or cancellation.

### NOW SHOWING DAILY

**Big South Fork Movie -- Generations**<br>Watching this 12-minute movie is a great way to start your visit. Shown daily at Bandy Creek Visitor Center, this new park movie was more than a year in the making, with footage shot across all four seasons and featuring many of the park’s most prominent outdoor activities such as hiking, mountain biking, hunting, horseback riding, whitewater paddling, camping, fishing and rock climbing.
### Kentuckiana Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gentleman's Swimming Hole Hike</strong></td>
<td>Gentleman's Swimming Hole Trailhead</td>
<td>60-90 minutes</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Join a ranger to enjoy on a short, moderately difficult hike to the Clear Fork River. This guided hike offers park visitors with a great opportunity to experience the spectacular scenery.

### Rugby Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blue Heron Depot Talks</strong></td>
<td>Blue Heron Interpretive Center</td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
<td>2:15 PM</td>
<td>12:45 PM</td>
<td>12:45 PM</td>
<td>12:45 PM</td>
<td>12:45 PM</td>
<td>4:15 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Blue Heron Coal Mining Talks provide park visitors with a unique opportunity to gain insight into the cultural heritage of Blue Heron Mining Community. This program is scheduled during the time that the Scenic Railroad is at Blue Heron, so if you join us by train make sure not to miss this program!

| **Yahoo Falls Nature Hikes**  | Yahoo Falls Parking Area | 1 hour  | 11:00 AM |       |       |       |       |       |

Join a ranger at the Yahoo Falls Scenic Area to enjoy on a short, moderately difficult hike to Yahoo Falls. This guided hike offers park visitors with a great opportunity to experience the spectacular scenery provided by 113 foot tall Yahoo Falls, towering sandstone cliffs, and a huge rock shelter. Every other week this hike is our Healthy Hike of the Week, so be sure to join us for your weekly dose of exercise! Pets are welcomed as long as they are on a leash and well behaved.

| **Blue Heron Hike**           | Blue Heron Interpretive Center | 45 minutes | 2:30 PM |       |       |       |       |       |

Enhance your understanding and enjoyment of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area by taking an enjoyable hike along one of the trails starting from the Blue Heron Interpretive Center. Please watch for our program announcements around the park and surrounding newspapers for this week’s hiking destination. Every other week this hike is our Healthy Hike of the Week, so be sure to join us for your weekly dose of exercise! Pets are welcomed as long as they are on a leash and well behaved.

| **Blue Heron Campground Evening Programs** | Blue Heron Campground | 45 minutes |       |       |       |       |       | 7:00 PM |

Park rangers offer a variety of interpretive evening programs. Park-related topics vary week to week and may range from general natural and cultural history to special topics of concern.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, all programs subject to change, or cancellation.

### Know Before You Go

All programs are free. Program schedules are effective from Memorial Day Weekend until Labor Day. Up-to-date program announcements will be posted throughout all campgrounds and visitor centers.

Wear sturdy walking shoes for hikes. You may also want to bring along bug spray and drinking water.

All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times.

Programs may be cancelled due to extreme weather conditions.

Black bears and other wildlife frequent the area; visitors must follow food and garbage storage regulations.

Pets must be restrained on a leash at all times. Owners are expected to clean up pet waste and dispose of it properly.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Name</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angel Falls Overlook</td>
<td>Moderate/Diff</td>
<td>6 miles round trip</td>
<td>half day</td>
<td>Begin this trail by hiking across HWY 297 Bridge from the parking area. The trail passes along the river for the first 2 miles then travels up a series of switchbacks for 1 mile to the bluff. Turn right at the junction and follow the green hiking blazes for 350 yards to Angel Falls Overlook.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angel Falls Rapids</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>4 miles round trip</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>Beginning at the lower end of Leatherwood Ford parking area, this trail passes along the river to Angel Falls rapids. Expect to see wildflowers along this route during late spring through early summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honey Creek Loop</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>5.6 mile loop</td>
<td>6-7 hours</td>
<td>This naturally beautiful trail is technical and tough. It features a waterfall, several bolder scrambles, and points in the trail where you hike in or over creek beds. Rangers recommend hikers begin at the trailhead located across the road from parking area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charit Creek Trail</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>2.8 miles round trip</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>Departing the trailhead, hikers continue along Fork Ridge road to reach this hiking trail at the rear of the old parking area. Hikers descend along switchbacks passing by bluffs, large beech trees, and field stones. At the trail's end, hikers walk across a swinging bridge and turn right to reach Charit Creek Lodge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Gap Loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>7 mile loop</td>
<td>half day</td>
<td>This trail provides spectacular views of formations and the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River. Please watch for mountain bikers who also enjoy this trail too.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Litton Farm Loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>5.6 mile loop</td>
<td>2-3 hours</td>
<td>Descend into a valley where the John Litton historic farmhouse, barn and outbuildings provide hikers a glimpse of the lifestyle of Big South Fork families during the first half of the twentieth century.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Creek Loop</td>
<td>Easy/Moderate</td>
<td>3.5 mile loop</td>
<td>1-2 hours</td>
<td>This trail begins on an old roadbed atop a ridge then descends below the bluff line. Large rock overhangs, rock houses, and high cliffs are a treat for hikers along the way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscar Blevins Farm Loop</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>3.7 mile loop</td>
<td>2-3 hours</td>
<td>This woodland trail takes visitors to the Oscar Blevins Farm. On your way to the farm enjoy wet-weather waterfalls, sandstone bluffs and rock shelters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slave Falls Loop Trails</td>
<td>Easy/Moderate</td>
<td>3.2 mile loop</td>
<td>1-2 hours</td>
<td>From Sawmill trailhead, this loop trail also provides short side trip to the 60-foot Slave Falls. Hikers can also enjoy geological formations such as Needle Arch and a large rockshelter along this route.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin Arches Upper Loop</td>
<td>Easy/Moderate</td>
<td>1.2 mile loop</td>
<td>1-1 1/2 hours</td>
<td>From the trailhead, this short loop trail travels to the Twin Arches. These double sandstone arches are considered the largest natural bridge in the states of Kentucky and Tennessee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Split Bow Arch Loop Trail</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>1.2 mile loop</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>From the Bear Creek overlook trailhead, this short hike takes you through one of the most accessible but also unique arches in the park. The Bear Creek overlook is right around the corner and is well worth the short 0.3-mile hike.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Heron Loop Trail</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>6.4 mile loop</td>
<td>half day</td>
<td>This loop trail hikers by a spectacular several scenic overlooks. The trail visits the Blue Heron Mining Camp and its extensive exhibits. It also goes through a natural opening in the cliff known as “Cracks in the Rocks.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catawba Overlook-Dicks Gap Overlook</td>
<td>Moderate/Diff</td>
<td>3.2 miles round trip</td>
<td>1-2 hours</td>
<td>This trail starts on the west side of the River at the end of the tipple bridge. The trail goes out to Dicks Gap and Cawtaba overlook. The trail climbs steeply uphill and has several sets of steps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yahoo Falls Loop Trail</td>
<td>Easy/Moderate</td>
<td>1.2 mile loop</td>
<td>1-2 hours</td>
<td>Provides access to and allows good views of 113 foot Yahoo Falls. The trail is easy with the exception of some very steep metal steps. The trail actually passes behind the falls under one of the largest rock shelters in the area. As with most waterfalls in the region, water volume is significantly reduced during periods of drier weather.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Driving Directions to Twin Arches from Bandy Creek Visitor Center: Make right turns at the following intersections in sequence-Visitor Center parking lot, Bandy Creek Rd, TN 297, TN 154, Divide Rd, and Twin Arches Rd. The trailhead is located at the end of the road.

Driving Directions to Yahoo Falls Loop Trail from Stearns, KY: Continue north on US 27 through Whitley City until you reach KY 700W. Turn left and drive 4.7 miles. Turn right to enter the Yahoo Falls Scenic Area. The trailhead is located at the end of the road.

Driving Directions to Blue Heron Loop Trail from Stearns, KY: Turn off US27 onto KY 92W at Stearns, KY. Travel on KY 92W for 1.3 miles. Merge left onto KY 1651 and go 1 mile to reach Revelo, KY. Turn right onto KY742W and go 5 miles. The campground entrance will be on your right. Continue on KY742W a short distance and turn left on Gorge Overlook road. The Blue Heron Loop Trail is accessible from the Devils Jump Overlook trailhead. This trail is also accessible from the Blue Heron Interpretive Center.
“GO BIG” 2017 Challenge

Get ready to “GO BIG” in 2017 as you explore, experience, and connect with the park in your backyard! The GO BIG 2017 Challenge is a year-long, self-paced, park-wide event created to encourage you to go out and explore YOUR park.

From April 1 through December 9, participants will earn points on the honor system by answering questions about the nature, and history of the park that will require exploration in search of site-specific information at over 50 different destinations. Some destinations may even require a photo to be taken. Participants are encouraged to share their photos via social media using #GOBigSouthFork17. Points will also be given for miles hiked, biked, paddled, or equestrian-ridden. All participants who earn a total of 100 points are eligible for the GO BIG 2017 Challenge patch that was specially designed for this event.

All of the sites visited for the Go BIG 2017 Challenge are located within the boundaries of the Big South Fork NRRA. Within the park there are natural wonders and important cultural sites. These landscapes and sites are fragile resources. So, while you are in the park, experience all of the amazing natural beauty and evidence of 13,000 years of human culture, but please take nothing with you except your memories and leave the sites unaltered.

A special note on cemeteries
There are 58 cemeteries located within Big South Fork NRRA. These sites are the resting places of relatives of people living in this region. When entering the cemeteries be respectful of those sites, as you would like people to be of the resting places of your deceased family members. Grave stones may be natural stones or carved stones and may be loose or fragile. Please be careful when you are visiting the cemeteries. Do not remove stones, walk, sit, or lean on the graves. Please close the gates when departing and report any downed trees or access problems.

GETTING STARTED
Download the Go Big 2017 challenge booklet, or pick one up at Bandy Creek Visitor Center. The booklet is broken up into five different challenge categories. Pick and choose the challenges that are right for you, or choose to do them all. When completed, bring the booklet and any challenge photos to the Bandy Creek Visitor Center, or mail to:

Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area
4564 Leatherwood Road
Oneida, TN 37841
Attn: Go Big 2017 Coordinator

Technology and Navigating at Big South Fork NRRA

Have you ever come to a trail intersection in a park and not known where to go? Or ever got lost while driving to a trailhead? Don’t fret, you are not alone, but with modern technology it has never been easier and safer to find your trailhead, start exploring, and experiencing the beautiful remote places at Big South Fork NRRA.

If you have a smartphone free mobile apps could help you plan your trip and avoid a wrong turn or two. They turn your smartphone into a GPS and in some cases provide information like trail conditions and elevation profile. Most of these new mobile apps also allow you to use them while the phone is in airplane mode thus save battery life.

While the information is helpful it is still always best to call or stop by one of the park’s visitor centers to get trail updates. Don’t forget to report any trail issues while downloading your apps at the visitor centers using the free wi-fi.

These digital resources may increase your safety and potentially your enjoyment, but they can’t beat the reliability of a compass and a map (both are sold at park bookstores). The Big South Fork NRRA National Geographic Trails Illustrated map is by far the most comprehensive resource for trail information.

So whether you hike, bike or paddle plan ahead and enjoy your trip!

12 Spring/Summer 2017 Edition
Pets are allowed within Big South Fork. However, in order to protect your pet and the park's wildlife, all pets must be kept on a leash (no longer than 6 feet) at all times even if you have your dog with you when riding a horse. Be sure to clean up after your pet especially in the campground.

During hunting season, a dog that is with a licensed hunter and actively following game does not have to be leashed. However, when entering a designated Safety Zone, hunting dogs must be restrained on a leash, crated or caged.

Know that some trails have steep ladders and rock ledges. Some pets may not be able to negotiate these areas without your help. Check with park rangers for trail information.

Lodging

There are no motels or rental cabins located within the Big South Fork other than Charit Creek Lodge. The lodge is located in the Station Camp Creek drainage and offers a full range of amenities including cabin and dormitory rentals, meals, restrooms, and showers. Access to the remote lodge is by foot, bike or horse only. Well-maintained hiking and horse trails lead you through interesting and beautiful places on your way to the lodge. For information about Charit Creek Lodge or reservations, call (865) 696-5611. You may also send an email to charitcreeklodge@gmail.com.

Communities surrounding the national park offer a wide choice of accommodations including hotels, cabins, bed and breakfasts, and campgrounds. For information about accommodations please contact the County Chambers of Commerce listed below.

Tennessee

Fentress County (931) 879-9948 or (800) 327-3945
Morgan County (423) 346-5740
Pickett County (888) 406-4704
Scott County (423) 663-6900

Kentucky

McCreary County (606) 376-7275
Wayne County (606) 348-3064

Outfitters

Backwoods Adventures
Hiking and Backcountry Guide
3144 Martha Washington Rd
Clarkrange, Tennessee 38553
(931) 863-3853
(931) 397-3490
http://backwoodsadventures.wix.com/backwoods-adventures
backwoodsadventureshiking@gmail.com

Sheltowee Trace Outfitters
Guided River Trips, Equipment Rental and Shuttles
P.O. Box 1060
Whitley City, Kentucky 42653
(800) 541-RAFT or (606) 526-7238
www.ky-rafting.com

Ace Kayaking School
River Guide
2368 Old Federal Rd
Ocoee, TN 37361
(865) 385-3204
acekayaking@gmail.com
www.acekayaking.com

Borderland Expeditions
Rentals and Self-Guided Tours for Mountain Biking, Kayaking and Canoeing
Jamestown, Tennessee
(931) 310-7771
borderlandexpeditions.com
andrew@borderlandexpeditions.com

Wilderness Taxi and Tours
Shuttle services
Oneida, Tennessee
(423) 215-4800
(423) 569-2669
wilderness-taxi.wix.com/wilderness-taxi
wilderness.taxi.bsf@gmx.com

R&M Brooks General Store
Bike Rentals
Rugby, Tennessee
(423) 663-7503
tiffanyterry7503@gmail.com

More information about outfitters may be found online at www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/permitted-commercial-services-operators.htm.

Concessions

Bandy Creek Stables
Horse Boarding, Camp Store, ATM, and WiFi
(423) 286-7433
www.bandycreekstables.com

Big South Fork Scenic Railway
Ride the Train to Blue Heron
(800) 462-5664
www.bsfsry.com

Blue Heron Concession Stand & Vending Services
Open every day the train runs
(606) 376-5620

Eastern National
Bookstores
(423) 286-7275
www.eparks.com/store

Station Camp Horse Camp
(931) 319-6893
stationcamphorsecamp.com

Backwoods Adventures
Hiking and Backcountry Guide
3144 Martha Washington Rd
Clarkrange, Tennessee 38553
(931) 863-3853
(931) 397-3490
http://backwoodsadventures.wix.com/backwoods-adventures
backwoodsadventureshiking@gmail.com
Tennessee Campgrounds

BANDY CREEK CAMPGROUND

- 98 hook-up sites—$22 per night
- 49 tent sites—$19 per night
- Open year-round
- Reservation system period: April-October
- Honor system period: November-March
- Phone number: (423) 286-8368
- Reservations: (877) 444-6777

All sites offer level 20’x35’ fine-graveled pads with table, fire ring, and lantern pole. Area-A offers 49 tent sites. Areas-B, C, and D offer 98 sites, which have electric/water hookups. 50-amp service is available on sites B11, C12, C32, D31 and D48. Restroom/bathhouse facilities are located in Areas-A, C, and D, which have hot showers and are handicapped accessible. There are three accessible campsites in Area-A and four campsites in Area-D.

Although Area-A has no electric hook-ups on each site, RVs, pop-ups, and horse trailers are permitted in sites A1-A12. Sites A13-A49 are restricted for tents only.

Horseback riders staying at Bandy Creek Campground need to make separate reservations for their horses at Bandy Creek Stables. The stables are located a short distance across the road from the campground. Paddocks and stalls are available for rent. For more information, call (423) 286-7433.


STATION CAMP HORSE CAMP

Station Camp—24 sites
Reservations: (931) 319-6893
www.stationcamphorsecamp.com

Station Camp is operated by a concessionaire. There are water and electric hookups plus a tie out area for four horses at each site. The bathhouse has hot water showers.
**BEAR CREEK HORSE CAMP**

6 primitive sites—$5 per night
Open year-round
Phone number: (423) 286-7275

Alum Ford is a primitive campground and offers six campsites with a vault toilet facility. No drinking water is located at this area. Alum Ford also has a boat ramp. There are no fees to use the ramp.

**BLUE HERON CAMPGROUND**

45 hook-up sites—$17 per night
Open April-November
Phone number: (423) 286-7275
Reservations: (877) 444-6777

Blue Heron offers 45 sites, with one site designated as accessible to mobility impaired individuals. Restroom facilities are also handicapped accessible. There is a fire ring and a dump station provided. Although a reservation system is in place, campers are still welcome on a first-come, first-served basis for unreserved campsites. Campsite length details can be found at http://www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/upload/Blue-Heron-CAMPGROUND-SITE-LENGTH.pdf.

**ALUM FORD CAMPGROUND**

23 sites—$28 per night
Open April-November
Reservations: (877) 444-6777

Bear Creek Horse Camp offers 23 sites with water and electric hookups as well as accommodations for horses. There is a dump station provided. The bathhouse has hot water showers. Although a reservation system is in place, campers are still welcome on a first-come, first-served basis for unreserved campsites. Campsite length details can be downloaded at www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/upload/Bear-Creek-Horse-Camp-SITE-LENGTH.pdf.