Spring Has Sprung and It’s Time to Take a Ride and Spend the Night! Make your campground reservations for Bandy Creek, Group Camp, Blue Heron, and Bear Creek at www.recreation.gov and for Station Camp at www.stationcamphorsecamp.com. No reservations are needed for Alum Ford. The Big South Fork Scenic Railway has started its 2018 season and tickets can be purchased at www.bsfsry.com.

This Year’s Yamacraw 50K is Saturday, April 7. The point-to-point trail race begins in Daniel Boone National Forest and ends at Blue Heron.

Free Camping on the First Day of National Parks Week Saturday, April 21 at Alum Ford Campground and in the backcountry.

Welcome Our Nation’s Newest Citizens on Thursday, April 26. We are partnering with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service to hold a naturalization ceremony at 10:30 am (ET) at Bandy Creek Visitor Center.

Something for Everyone at the Spring Planting & Music Festival on Saturday April 28. Guided Bird Walk at 8 am (ET), Kids Fun Run at 9 am, Oscar Blevins Trail Run at 10 am (sign up at https://runssignup.com/Race/TN/Oneida/OscarBlevinsTrailRunsatBigSouthForkNRRA), crafts, heritage farm life demonstrations, livestock displays, and music all day long at Bandy Creek area. Crafts and Food vendors will be on site. Bring a folding chair and sit under the big tent for more than 10 different Appalachian musical performances.

Come Out for a Ranger-led Wildflower Walk on Friday, April 13 at 10 am (ET). Join us for a moderate out and back hike of 5 miles total along the Cumberland Trail section to Alley Ford. We will discuss the local wildflowers in bloom, plant communities, and forest ecology. Participants should meet at the Rock Creek Campground parking area.

Join Us on Saturday, April 14 for a Birding Walk Along the Point Trail and Lilly Overlook. Both experienced and novice bird watchers are encouraged to attend. Meet at Lilly Overlook parking lot at 8 am (ET).

Bring the Kids to the Visitor Center for Junior Ranger Day on Saturday, April 14, beginning at 1 pm. There will lots of activities as they fill out their Junior Ranger booklets for a patch and a badge.

Celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 21! Join us for the Annual Obed WSR & Cumberland Trail Clean Up and Volunteer Appreciation Potluck Lunch. Meet at Obed Visitor Center at 8:30 am (ET). Everyone is invited to return to the VC at noon for lunch. Burgers and drinks will be provided and everyone is welcome to bring a dish to share.

We Just Received a 2018 Eastern National Competitive Grant for funding to help with our Dark Sky Park interpretation activities.

Come Learn About All the Cool Science in Your Parks on Wednesday, April 18 at the Rugby Visitor Center in Rugby, TN. Registration is free and starts at 8 am (ET) and offers an opportunity to learn about the newest scientific developments on the tuxedo darter, water quality of the Obed, Oscar Blevins historic landscapes and other topics in our two Upper Cumberland Plateau national parks. The Harrow Street Café will be open for lunch and lodging is available at www.historicrugby.org.

Bandy Creek Visitor Center
(423) 286-7275 or visit us at:
www.nps.gov/biso
Twitter@BigSouthForkNPS
www.facebook.com/BigSouthForkNPS
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Obed Visitor Center
(423) 346-6294 or visit us at:
www.nps.gov/obed
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