



SMOKIES

GUIDE

The Official Newspaper of Great Smoky
Mountains National Park
Late Summer 2016



BILL LEA PHOTO

Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail is a cross between a nature trail and a road—a scenic, steep, narrow, winding, but paved primitive roadway.

Backroads and Byways of the Great Smokies

During the peak summer season, many of the national park's main roads such as Cades Cove Loop and Newfound Gap will become busy and congested. Fortunately, this 800 square mile park offers a variety of backroads and off-the-beaten-path routes for those who long to escape the crowds.

Please see the map on pages 8-9 for more information on roads and destinations.

Heintooga Ridge & Balsam Mountain roads (16-F). Motorists can make a scenic 45-mile loop from downtown Cherokee and take in mile-high vistas as well as wildflower-rich forests and crystal clear mountain streams.

One-half mile north of Cherokee on U.S. 441, the Blue Ridge Parkway begins its 469-mile journey to Shenandoah National Park in Virginia.

Follow it for 11 miles to Wolf Laurel Gap, then turn onto the Heintooga Ridge Road. After nine gorgeous miles, it becomes the gravel Balsam Mountain Road for 13 miles before reverting to a paved road back to Cherokee.

From downtown Gatlinburg, visitors can drive a 10-mile loop along **Cherokee Orchard Road & Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail** (11-D). Just turn onto Historic Nature Trail—Airport Road at traffic light #8 on the main parkway and follow it into the national park. The entire road is paved, but steep, narrow, and winding. Highlights include wildlife, old-growth forests, historic buildings, and three trails to waterfalls.

The Foothills Parkway West (3-E) near Townsend offers loads of mountain views and a 0.5 mile hike to Look Rock observation tower.

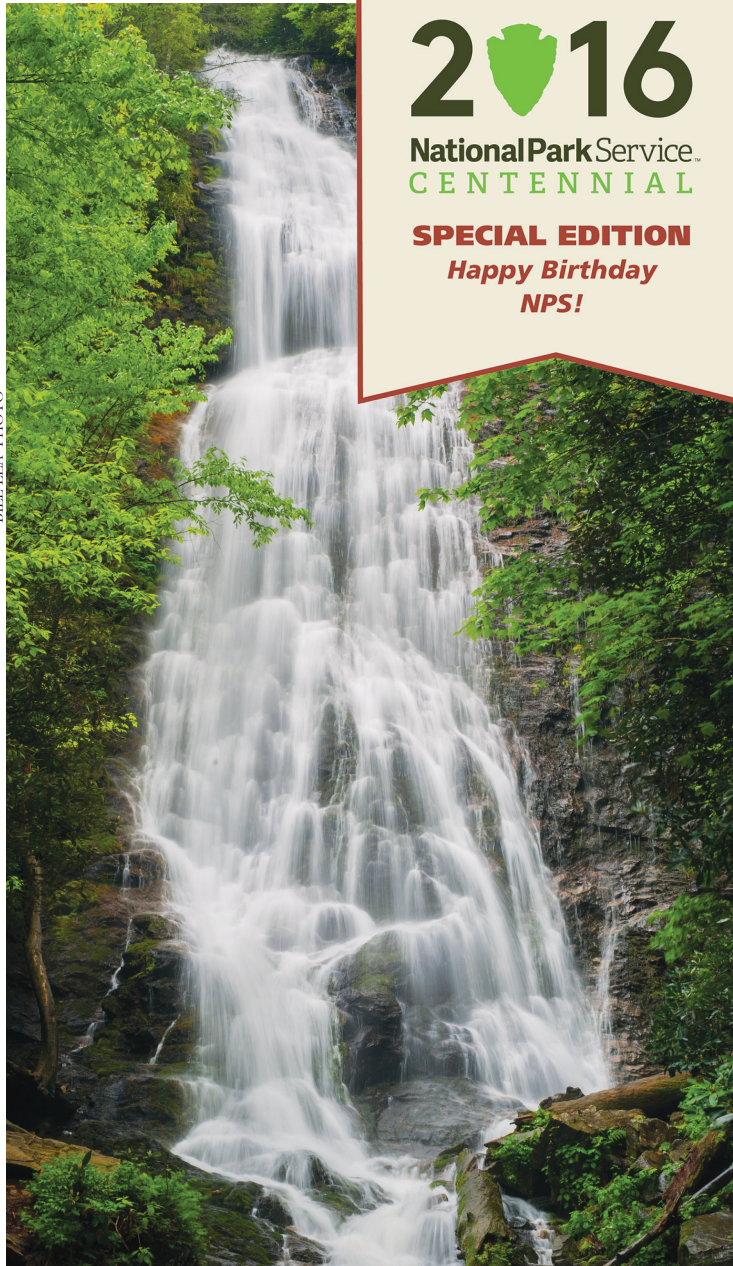


COMMON RAVEN

This bird looks similar to the American Crow, but it is quite different. Ravens are larger, have a heavier bill, and tend to be found at the park's higher elevations. Look for them near cliffs and crags at places like Mt. Le Conte and along the Appalachian Trail.



Free, fun ranger-guided programs: pages 12-15



180-foot-tall Mingo Falls is a 5-mile drive from downtown Cherokee.

2016

National Park Service
CENTENNIAL

SPECIAL EDITION
Happy Birthday
NPS!

Waterfall Watching

Over 80 inches of annual rainfall drench the summits of the Great Smoky Mountains before plummeting more than a vertical mile to the valleys below. This combination of climate and geography make the Smokies a premier place for watching waterfalls.

Of the park's 40 or so major waterfalls, three are visible from a road: Meigs Falls and The Sinks along Little River Road and Place of a Thousand Drips on Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail. Most of the others require roundtrip hikes of between two and eight miles. Please see the map on pages 8-9 for more information.

- Three Waterfalls Loop (12-I) starts from Deep Creek Trailhead near Bryson City and packs three waterfalls into a 2.4 mile moderate hike.
- The moderate 4-mile

roundtrip hike to Mouse Creek Falls (18-C) starts at the Big Creek Trailhead located 3.4 miles from Interstate 40.

- Mingo Falls (15-G) is just outside the national park near the town of Cherokee. Follow Big Cove Road 5 miles from downtown. The short trail to the falls is very steep.

- Hen Wallow Falls (16-B) is located along Gabes Mountain Trail which starts near Cosby Campground. The moderate hike is 4.2 miles roundtrip.

- Cataract Falls (10-D) is an easy 0.4 mile roundtrip hike that starts from Sugarlands Visitor Center.

- The strenuous 8-mile roundtrip hike to Ramsey Cascades (14-C) begins in the Greenbrier area of the park outside Gatlinburg. Allow at least six hours to complete this hike.



smokies trip planner

to order maps and guides: www.SmokiesInformation.org

smokies guide

Smokies Guide is produced four times per year by Great Smoky Mountains Association and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Publication dates are roughly as follows:

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BILL LEA PHOTO



Nine campgrounds will be open in the national park this year.

camping in the the national park

The National Park Service maintains developed campgrounds at nine locations in the park. There are no showers or hookups other than circuits for special medical uses at Cades Cove, Elkmont, and Smokemont.

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-served.

Site occupancy is limited to six people and two vehicles (a trailer = 1 vehicle). The maximum stay is 14 days.

Special camping sites for large groups are available seasonally at Big Creek, Cades Cove, Cataloochee, Cosby, Deep Creek, Elkmont, and Smokemont. Group sites must be reserved. Call 1-877-444-6777 or contact www.recreation.gov. Group sites may be reserved up to one year in advance.

The list below shows number of sites, elevations, fees, approximate 2016 operation dates, and maximum RV lengths. **Dates are subject to change.** Visit www.nps.gov/grsm for current information.

ABRAMS CREEK 16 sites, elev. 1,125', \$14, open May 27-Oct. 10, 12' trailers
BALSAM MOUNTAIN 46 sites, elev. 5,310', \$14, open May 27-Oct. 10, 30' RVs
BIG CREEK 12 sites, elev. 1,700', \$14, open April 8-Oct. 31, tents only
CADES COVE 159 sites, elev. 1,807', \$17-\$20, open year-round, 35'-40' RVs
CATALOOCHEE 27 sites, elev. 2,610', \$20, open March 25-Oct. 31, **reservations required**, 31' RVs
COSBY 157 sites, elev. 2,459', \$14, April 8-Oct. 31, 25' RVs
DEEP CREEK 92 sites, elev. 1,800', \$17, open April 8-Oct. 31, 26' RVs
ELKMONT 220 sites, elev. 2,150', \$17-\$23, open March 11-Nov. 27, 32'-35' RVs
LOOK ROCK *Closed*
SMOKEMONT 142 sites, elev. 2,198', \$17-\$20, open year-round, 35'-40' RVs

accommodations

LeConte Lodge (accessible by trail only) provides the only lodging in the park. Call (865) 429-5704.

For information on lodging outside the park:
Bryson City 1-800-867-9246
Cherokee 1-828-788-0034
Fontana 1-800-849-2258
Gatlinburg 1-800-588-1817
Maggie Valley 1-800-624-4431
Pigeon Forge 1-855-716-6199
Sevierville 1-888-889-7415
Townsend 1-800-525-6834

pets in the park

Pets are allowed in frontcountry campgrounds and beside roads as long as they are restrained at all times. Pets are not allowed on park trails, except for the Gatlinburg and Oconaluftee River trails. Dogs on these trails must be leashed.

opportunities

SUMMER CAMPS AT TREMONT: gsmit.org; (865) 448-6709. Educational programs from the SMOKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SCHOOL: smfs.utk.edu; (865) 974-0150.

Join GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION at SmokiesInformation.org; 1-888-898-9102
Support the park with FRIENDS: friendsofthesmokies.org; 1-800-845-5665.

special events

June 18
Womens Work at Oconaluftee Mountain Farm Museum

September 9-11
Music of the Mountains
Sugarlands Visitor Center

September 17
Mountain Life Festival
Mountain Farm Museum

picnic areas

Please see pages 8-9 for locations of picnic areas. All have charcoal grills for cooking. Look Rock picnic area will not open this year.

visitor centers

Summer hours of operation for park visitor centers are; Oconaluftee & Sugarlands, 8-7:30. Cades Cove, 9-7:30. Clingmans Dome, 10-6.

other services

There are no gas stations, showers, or restaurants in the national park. Mt. LeConte Lodge is the only lodging.

MARY ANN KRESSIG PHOTO



Bicycle and pedestrian morning on Cades Cove Loop Road.

bicycling

Most park roads are too narrow and heavily traveled by automobiles for safe or enjoyable bicycling. However, Cades Cove Loop Road is an exception. This 11-mile, one-way, paved road provides bicyclists with excellent opportunities for viewing wildlife and historic sites.

Helmets are required for persons age 16 and under and are strongly recommended for all bicyclists.

From May 11-Sept. 21, on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from sunrise to 10:00 a.m., only bicycles and pedestrians are allowed on Cades Cove Loop Road. Bicycles may be rented at the Cades Cove Campground store.

park information

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

Gatlinburg, TN elev. 1,462'			Mt. Le Conte elev. 6,593'		
AVG. HIGH	LOW	PRECIP.	AVG. HIGH	LOW	PRECIP.
Jan. 49°	27°	4.0"	36°	18°	6.7"
Feb. 53°	28°	4.1"	37°	19°	5.6"
March 62°	35°	5.5"	44°	25°	7.0"
April 71°	42°	4.5"	52°	31°	6.7"
May 77°	50°	5.7"	58°	39°	8.0"
June 82°	58°	5.8"	64°	47°	8.7"
July 85°	62°	6.3"	67°	50°	9.0"
Aug. 84°	61°	5.3"	67°	49°	7.6"
Sept. 79°	55°	4.7"	62°	44°	7.2"
Oct. 70°	43°	2.9"	55°	35°	4.7"
Nov. 60°	34°	3.4"	46°	27°	6.8"
Dec. 51°	28°	4.6"	38°	20°	6.4"

The above temperature and precipitation averages are based on data for the last 20 years. Temperatures are in degrees fahrenheit. An average of over 84" (7 feet) of precipitation falls on the higher elevations of the Smokies. On Mt. Le Conte, an average of 82.8" of snow falls per year.

horse riding

Horseback riding is generally available from early March through November. Rates are \$30 per hour. Most stables have maximum rider weight limits of 225 or 250 pounds and age restrictions for children. Please call the stables below or stop at a visitor center for detailed information.

CADES COVE (865) 448-9009
cadescovestables.com
SMOKEMONT (828) 497-2373
smokemontridingstables.com
SMOKY MTN (865) 436-5634
smokymountainridingstables.com
SUGARLANDS (865) 436-3535
sugarlandsridingstables.com

Hayrides and carriage rides (\$12 per person) are available from Cades Cove Riding Stable. Wagon rides (\$10 per person) are offered at Smokemont. Souvenir photos, tee-shirts, hats, and ice may be available. Soft drink vending is available.

The Park Service operates horse camps at Cades Cove, Big Creek, Cataloochee, and Round Bottom. Call 877-444-6777 or visit www.Recreation.gov for reservations.

MARY ANN KRESSIG PHOTO



Fishing for brook trout is now allowed in park streams.

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 and no trout stamp is required. A special permit is required for the Cherokee Reservation and Gatlinburg. Licenses are available in nearby towns. Fishing with bait is prohibited.

A free fishing map with information about park streams and a complete list of all park fishing regulations is available at park 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 (¼ 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)

JIM MOWBRAY PHOTO



Primitive backcountry shelters like this one at Double Springs Gap are located along the Appalachian Trail and near the summit of Mt. Le Conte. Reservations are required for all campers in the backcountry.

Backcountry Camping in the Smokies

Camping at a backcountry campsite or shelter can be an exciting adventure for persons properly equipped and informed. To facilitate this activity, the National Park Service maintains over 800 miles of trails and more than 100 backcountry campsites and shelters throughout the park. One of the greatest challenges for backcountry campers is deciding where to go. Here are some tools to help.

1. Go online to view the park's official trail map (www.nps.gov/grsm/plan-yourvisit/maps.htm), which shows all park trails, campsites, and shelters. Park rules and regulations are also listed here. If you wish, you can purchase the printed version of the trail map for \$1 by stopping at any park visitor center or calling (865) 436-7318 x226 or shopping online at www.SmokiesInformation.org.
2. Call or stop by the park's backcountry office (open every day from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). The office is located in Sugarlands Visitor Center, two miles south of Gatlinburg on Newfound Gap Road (U.S.

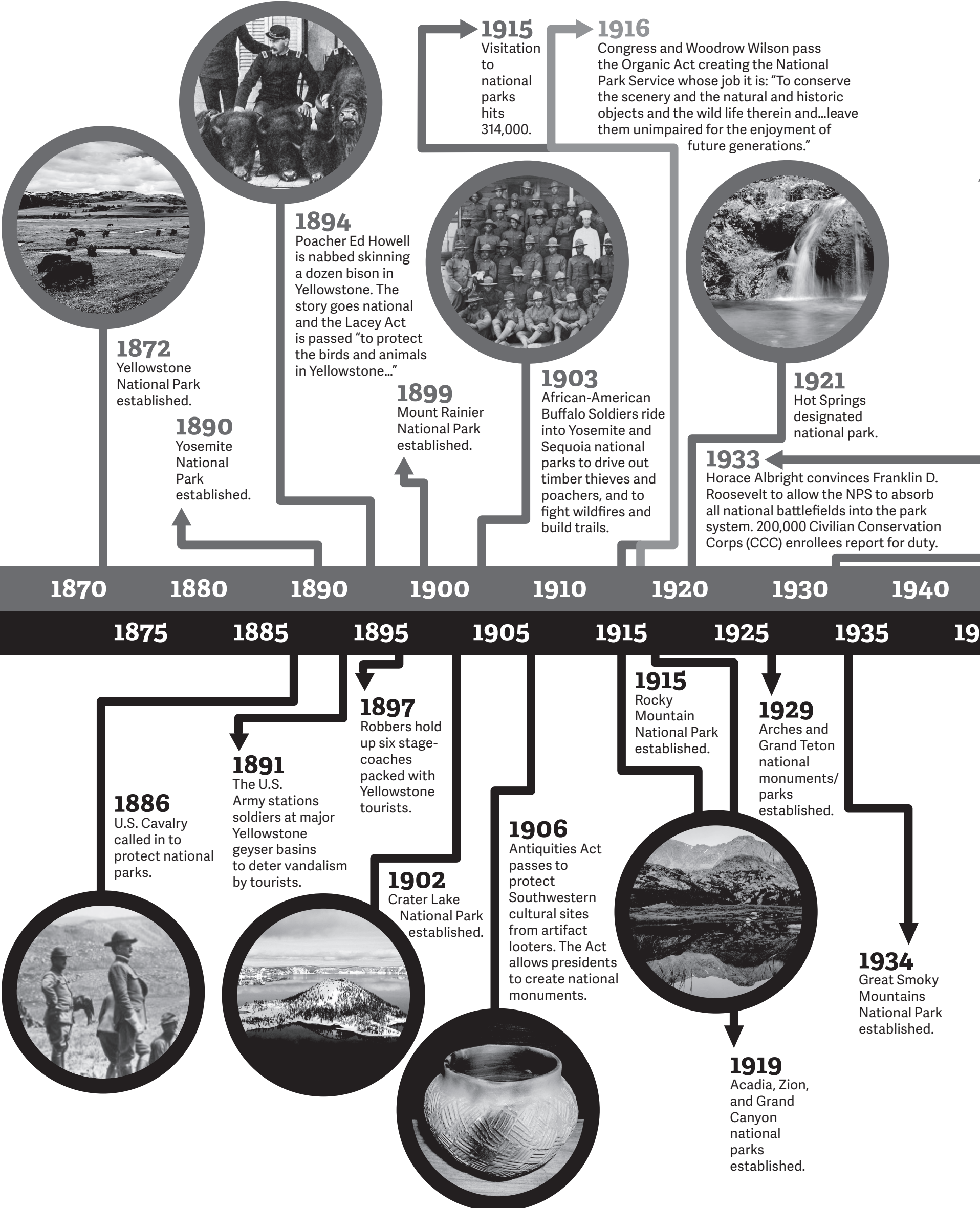
441). (865) 436-1297.

3. Make your reservation through the backcountry office at Sugarlands Visitor Center (by phone or in person) or online at www.smokiespermits.nps.gov.

Reservations and permits are required for all overnight stays in the backcountry. The cost is \$4 per person per night. Reservations may be made up to 30 days in advance.

Rangers will need to rescue over 100 people in the backcountry this year. If you don't want to be one of them:

- **Ditch the sandals.** Sturdy hiking boots are the best way to prevent a lower leg injury.
- **Know when the sun sets.** Many hikes turn into rescues because people get caught out on trails after dark without flashlights or headlamps.
- **Know your limits.** Don't plan a 15-mile hike unless you are in spectacular physical condition and have done such hikes in mountain terrain recently.
- **Prepare for the weather.** These mountains are green because it rains a whole lot here. Always carry rain gear. Stay dry.

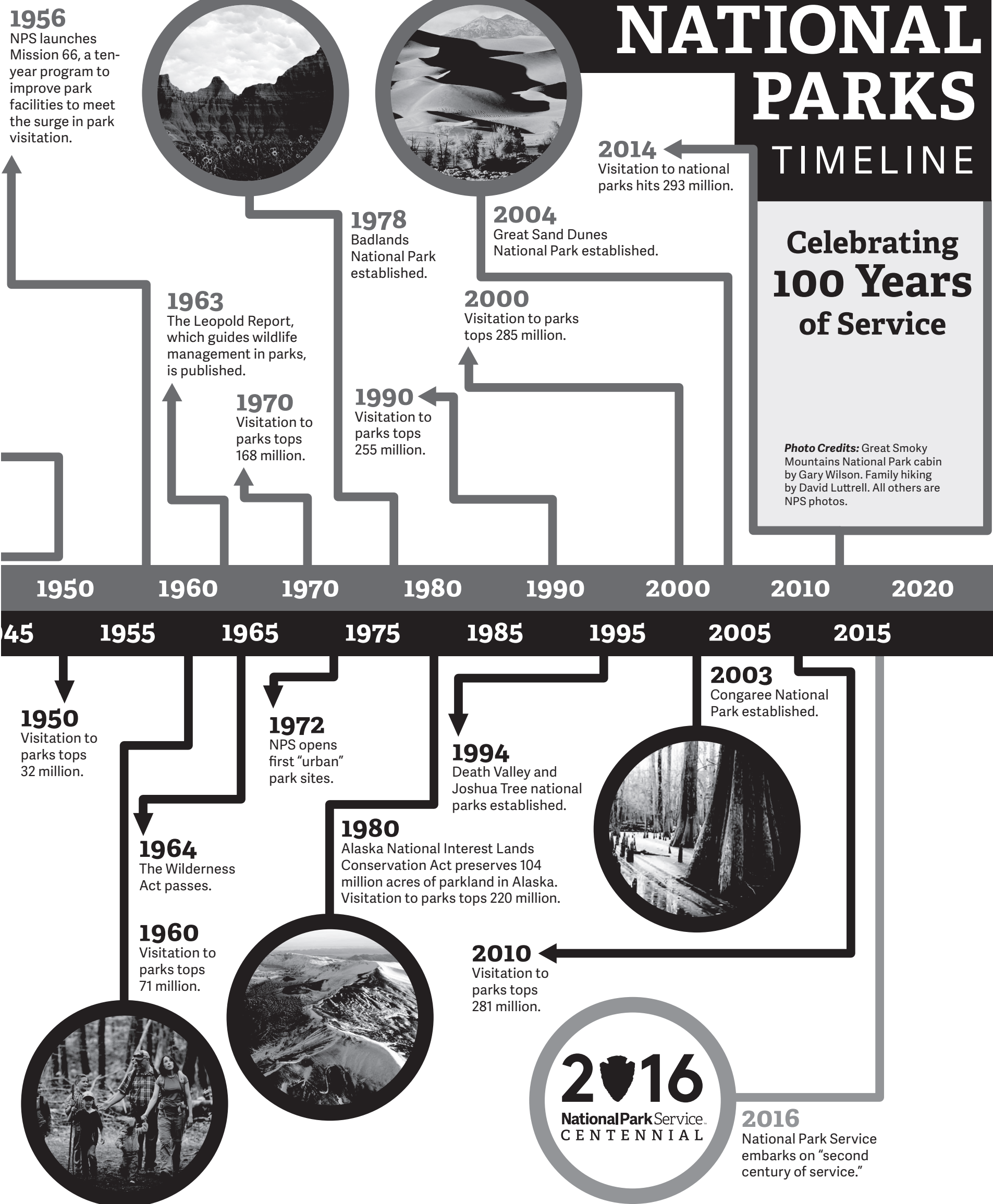


NATIONAL PARKS

TIMELINE

Celebrating 100 Years of Service

Photo Credits: Great Smoky Mountains National Park cabin by Gary Wilson. Family hiking by David Luttrell. All others are NPS photos.



Q & A with the Superintendent

Cassius Cash, Superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park



DAVID LUTTRELL PHOTO

The following goals have been officially adopted by the National Park Service to guide the agency and its partners and volunteers into 2016 and beyond.

1. Connect people to parks and help communities protect what is special to them.
2. Advance our educational mission based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.
3. Preserve America's special places and be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries.
4. Enhance professional and organizational excellence by adapting to the changing needs of visitors, communities, and partners.

Q: The National Park Service turns 100 years old in 2016. What does that mean to you?

A: If we don't create the next generation of national park users, advocates, and supporters, I think the work we've done in the first 100 years of the National Park Service will be in vain. You protect what you value. If you haven't visited parks and public lands in your formative years, you run the risk of not knowing or caring about them.

As I get older, I realize I want to be doing something that lasts beyond me. At this point in history, with the Park Service turning 100, I want to tell my daughters that I left the Smokies a better place than when I found it. There's a lot riding on this. I don't want to be the one to let this go.

Q: What does the Second Century of the National Park Service look like?

A: When the National Park Service was created, the country was 50 percent urban. Now it's 80 percent urban. The Park Service is a very traditional organization—and we honor those traditions. But we need to hand the NPS arrowhead over to the next generation and let each person define his or her own park experience.

We don't want to try too hard to define what we think a park experience should be. Our millennials are very different, their values are very different. They approach the outdoors a lot differently.

That's why "Find Your Park" is the theme of our Centennial. It's an individual thing.

We're looking at this as the right time to reach out to audiences that haven't traditionally been park visitors, or park employees, for that matter.

Q: How are you celebrating the Centennial in the Smokies?

A: We are hosting some fun events like *Smokies Centennial Challenge: Hike 100* where participants log their miles and earn a special reward. We especially want to involve families from nearby urban areas.

FIND YOUR PARK

And I am hiking 100 miles on park trails myself, split between the North Carolina and Tennessee sides of the park.

We've also worked with our park partners on some beautiful publications commemorating the first 100 years. Plus we've developed a lot of commemorative merchandise that is now featured in the visitor center stores and will benefit the Smokies and the whole park system.

BILL LEA PHOTO



Many Americans today grow up in cities and have only a limited exposure to wild places like the Great Smoky Mountains. Superintendent Cash and the National Park Service are especially enthusiastic about offering urban youth the opportunity to explore the great outdoors.



NPS PHOTO

Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

Across our nation, from northern Alaska to the Virgin Islands, from Acadia to Zion, the National Park Service is responsible for protecting 411* of America's most beautiful natural areas and most significant historic places. Here is a sampler of the diversity of public lands that have been set aside and protected by the National Park Service "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARKS (49)

Example: Cumberland Gap, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia. Starting around 1775, this mountain pass became the primary route for American settlers moving west into Kentucky.

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES (78)

Example: Andersonville, Georgia. The Camp



NPS PHOTO

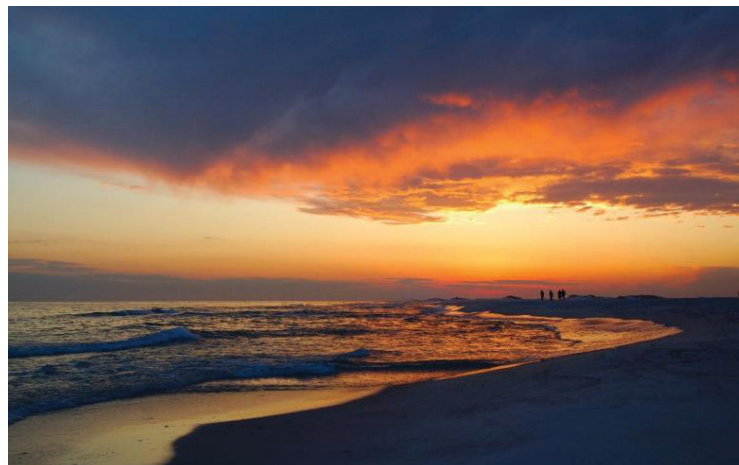
The commemorative courtyard, entitled "The Price of Freedom Fully Paid" serves as a memorial to all prisoners of war at Andersonville National Historic Site.

NATIONAL PARKS (59)

Example: Grand Teton, Wyoming. Preserves the magnificent Grand Teton mountain range and the wildlife-rich valley of Jackson Hole.

Sumter military prison at Andersonville was one of the largest Confederate military prisons during the Civil War.

NATIONAL HISTORIC AND SCENIC TRAILS (3)



NPS PHOTO

Sunset at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore.

constructed by the Sinagua, a pre-Columbian cultural group that lived in Walnut Canyon from about 1100 to 1250 CE.

NATIONAL PARKWAYS (4)

Example: Natchez Trace, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee. Commemorates the historic Old Natchez Trace, an ancient buffalo trail used by Native Americans and 18th century European-Americans for commerce.

NATIONAL PRESERVES (19)

Example: Little River Canyon, Alabama. This verdant, biologically-diverse area includes one of the deepest canyons in the eastern U.S.

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA (18)

Example: Chattahoochee River, Georgia. This 48-mile stretch of river offers public recreation and access to historic sites.

NATIONAL RIVER (15)

Example: Big South Fork, Kentucky, Tennessee. The Big South Fork of the Cumberland River region contains one of the highest concentrations of natural bridges in the eastern U.S.

NATIONAL SEASHORE (10)

Example: Gulf Islands, Florida, Mississippi. Offers recreation opportunities and preserves natural and historic resources along the Gulf of Mexico barrier islands.

NATIONAL MALL AND MEMORIAL PARKS (20)

Example: Korean War Veterans Memorial, Washington, D.C. Commemorates those who served in the Korean War.

**As of summer, 2016. Not all categories of parks are listed here.*



NPS PHOTO

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Example: Appalachian Trail, Georgia to Maine. 2,180 miles of scenic foot trail along the crest of the Appalachian Mountains.

NATIONAL BATTLEFIELDS (11)

Example: Moores Creek Park, North Carolina. Commemorates the 1776 victory by a thousand Patriots over about eight hundred Loyalists at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge.

NATIONAL LAKESHORES (4)

Example: Sleeping Bear Dunes, Michigan. Sunny beaches and sky-high dunes. Cool forests and inland lakes. Picturesque farmsteads and a historic maritime village.

NATIONAL MEMORIALS (30)

Example: Flight 93, Pennsylvania. Commemorates the site of the crash of United Airlines Flight 93, which was hijacked in the September 11 attacks.

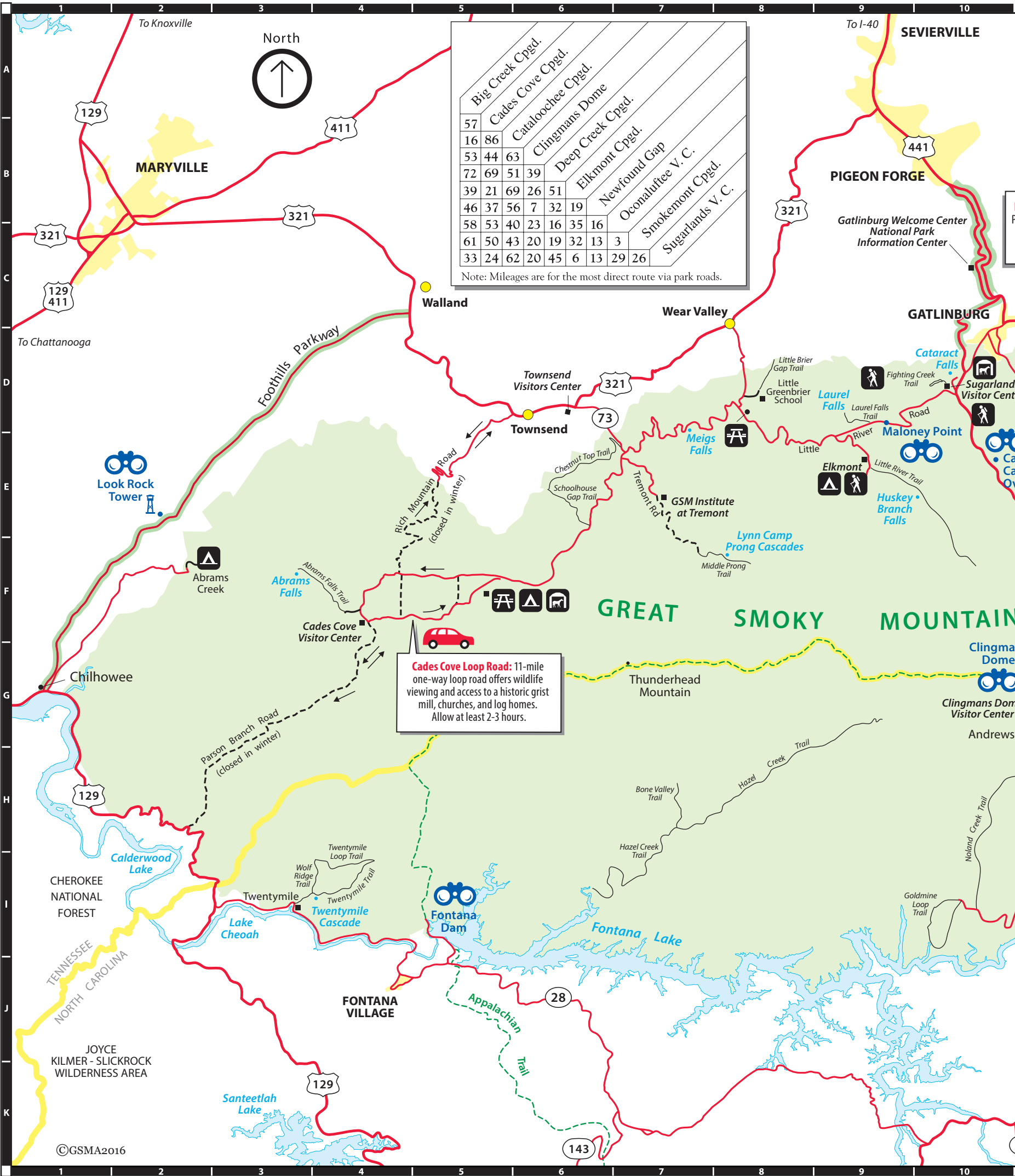
NATIONAL MILITARY PARK (9)

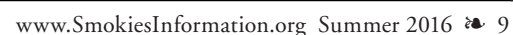
Example: Kings Mountain, North Carolina, South Carolina. Commemorates the Battle of Kings Mountain, a pivotal victory by American Patriots over American Loyalists during the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War.

NATIONAL MONUMENTS (80)

Example: Walnut Canyon, Arizona. Includes 25 cliff dwelling rooms

GREAT SUMMER DRIVING TOURS AND VIEWS IN THE SMOKIES





great sights to see

A dozen must-see places in the Great Smoky Mountains



KENT CAVE PHOTO

The observation tower atop the Smokies highest peak, 6,643'.

1. clingmans dome

A paved, but very steep, 0.5 mile trail leads to an observation tower that offers 360° views of the Great Smoky Mountains and beyond. To get there: turn off Newfound Gap Road 0.1 mile south of Newfound Gap and follow the 7-mile-long Clingmans Dome Road to the large parking area at the end. A visitor center is located along the trail to the tower.

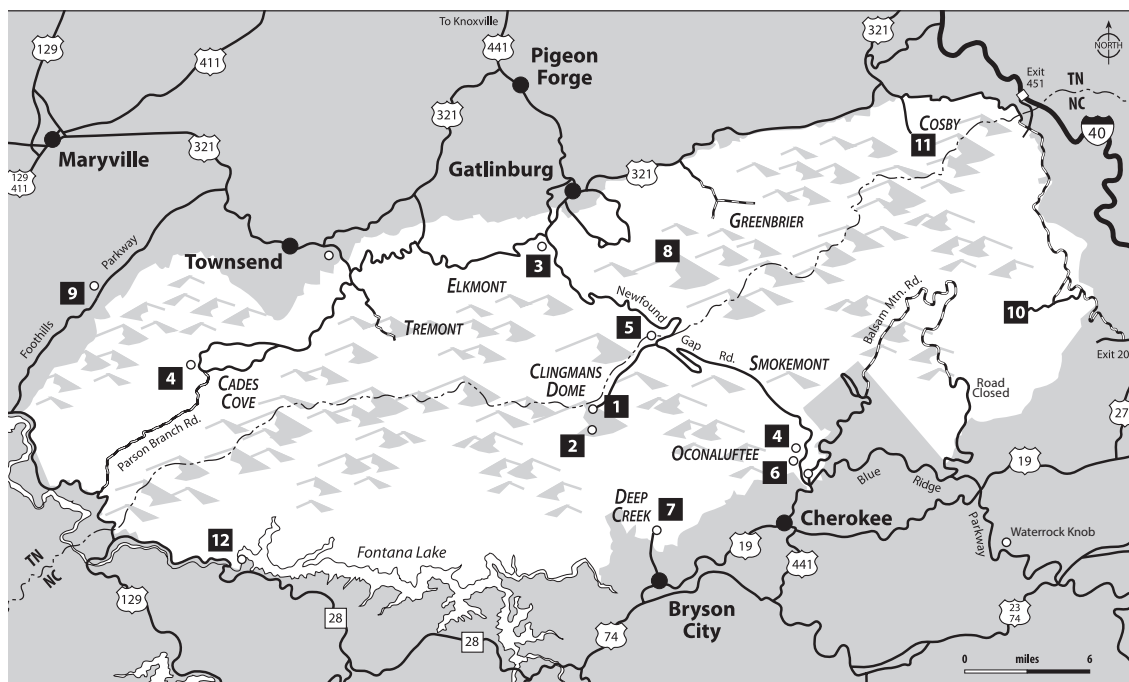
The road to Clingmans Dome is closed from December 1 through March 31 due to weather.

2. andrews bald

"Balds" are mountaintop meadows of mysterious origin. Andrews offers panoramic mountain views in favorable weather. The 3.6 mile roundtrip hike to Andrews Bald is along Forney Ridge Trail and starts from the end of Clingmans Dome parking area. The trail leads through high elevation spruce-fir forest with evergreen trees and unusual flora and fauna.

3. sugarlands visitor center

It's fun, it's free, and it's easy to find. Sugarlands Visitor Center is located 2 miles south



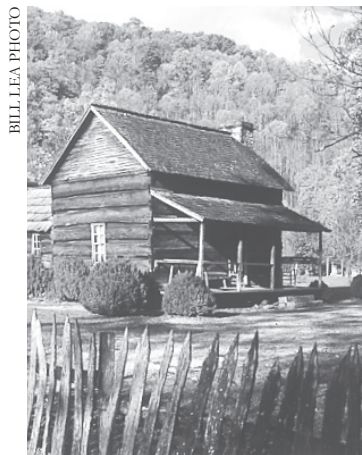
of Gatlinburg, TN on U.S. 441. Highlights include flora and fauna exhibits, a 20-minute film in the surround-sound theater, an information desk, and bookstore. Several short nature trails also begin at the center, as do ranger-led walks and talks. Open every day except Christmas.

4. water-powered grist mills

Two historic, water-powered grist mills operate from 9-5 daily, grinding corn into corn meal. Cable Mill sits in Cades Cove (halfway around the one-way loop road). Mingo Mill is 2 miles north of Cherokee, NC on U.S. 441 (Newfound Gap Road). Corn meal is available for purchase.

5. newfound gap

This gap is a low point in the mountain range and straddles the boundary of North Carolina and Tennessee. From here one can enjoy spectacular views into both states and take a short stroll along the famous Appalachian Trail. There are also restrooms and the historic Rockefeller Memorial.



BILL LEA PHOTO

The Davis-Queen house at the Mountain Farm Museum.

6. oconaluftee history museums

This history buff's paradise now offers free indoor and outdoor museums. It also features old-time breeds of livestock (seasonally) an heirloom garden and row crops and occasional historic demonstrations. The new visitor center and mountain farm museum are located on U.S. 441 (Newfound Gap Road), 2 miles north of Cherokee, NC. A new audio tour of the farm can be rented at the visitor center for a small fee. Open every day except Christmas.

7. deep creek waterfalls

Around 2 miles of walking will acquaint you with beautiful Deep Creek and three pretty waterfalls (Juney Whank, Tom Branch, and Indian Creek). The trails to the waterfalls start from the large parking area at the end of Deep Creek Road (across the creek from Deep Creek Campground). Deep Creek also features a picnic area.

8. Mt. Le Conte

The Alum Cave Trail to Mt. Le Conte and LeConte Lodge will be closed Mondays-Thursdays for trail repairs much of this summer and fall. However, there are plenty of alternatives for hikers to this popular peak. The Boulevard Trail starts from Newfound Gap and runs 8.1 miles to LeConte Lodge. Bull Head and Rainbow Falls trails begin from Cherokee Orchard (near downtown Gatlinburg) and are 6.9 and 6.7 miles respectively. From the Greenbrier area, Brushy Mountain and Trillium Gap trails lead 9.1 miles to the summit.

WHERE TO BEAT THE CROWDS

If you want to beat the summer crowds, try some of these off-the-beaten-path destinations.

9. Look Rock walking trail and tower. Great views, just off the Foothills Parkway West, 18 miles from Townsend, TN.

10. Cataloochee Valley. This remote area is accessible only by narrow, winding secondary roads. But when you arrive, there are elk to watch, historic buildings to explore, and plenty of trails to walk. 39 miles from Cherokee; 65 miles from Gatlinburg.

11. Cosby Campground, Picnic Area, and hiking trails. The campground rarely fills, and there are short and long trails to waterfalls, views, and Mt. Cammerer fire tower. The campground is 20 miles from Gatlinburg, TN.

12. Fontana Dam and Lake. A TVA visitor center and tours highlight the highest dam in the East. Fontana Marina offers boat rentals and shuttles for access to remote, historic areas of the park like Hazel Creek and Eagle Creek.

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.*

CADES COVE AT NIGHT

Join a ranger and enjoy Cades Cove
in the moonlight. Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. (see
pages 12-13 for details)
Meet at the shelter at the start of the loop road.
An easy, 2-mile, 1 1/2-hour walk.
Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Under the HARVEST MOON

*The full moon nearest
the autumnal equinox is
called the harvest moon
(September 16, 2016)*



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.

free, fun things to do

SUGARLANDS/ELKMONT AREA	MEETING LOCATION	DURATION	DIFFICULTY
A Walk in the Woods: Do you have a few minutes? Get away from the hustle and bustle by taking an easy stroll and discover stories of history and nature along this scenic, wooded trail.	Sugarlands Visitor Center	1.5 hours	Easy
Junior Ranger: Creature Feature: Did you know that thousands and thousands of different kinds of plants and animals live in the Smokies? Join a ranger to learn about some of the creatures that live here during this “Ranger’s Choice” style program.	Sugarlands Visitor Center	30 minutes	Easy
Junior Ranger: Geology Rocks!: Amaze your friends with newfound knowledge about how these mountains were born and how they have changed over time.	Clingmans Dome Visitor Center	1 hour	Easy
Slimy Salamanders: 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 recommended.	Chimneys Picnic Area near Cove Hardwood Nature Trail	1 hour	Easy
Old Town of Elkmont: Take an afternoon stroll with a ranger and learn about Elkmont when it was a turn-of-the-century logging boomtown.	Elkmont Ranger Station	2 hours	Easy
Evening Campfire: 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.	1 hour	30 minutes	Easy
METCALF BOTTOMS AREA			
Junior Ranger: School Days at Little Greenbrier: 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, and great for Junior Rangers. Please arrive 15 minutes before program start; space is limited.	Little Greenbrier School	1.5 hours	Easy
CADES COVE AREA Note: Because of slow moving traffic it may take over an hour to drive the six miles from Please plan accordingly.			
Junior Ranger Program: Join a park ranger for a hands-on exploration of the Smokies. Participation counts towards earning a Junior Ranger badge and certificate.	Cades Cove Visitor Center	1 hour	Easy
WILD by Design: A talk and hands-on demonstration about the wild things in the park.	Cades Cove Visitor Center	30 minutes	Easy
Cades Cove Evening Hayride: Join a ranger for an open-air evening hayride viewing wild-life and discovering the diversity of life in the Cove. Hayrides can fill up quickly, first-come, first-serve for this program.	Cades Cove Riding Stables	2 hours	Easy
Cades Cove Night Hike: Join a park ranger for an evening walk discovering the night creatures of the Cove.	Cades Cove Orientation Shelter at the Entrance to the Loop Road	1.5 hours	Easy, 2 miles
OCONALUFTEE AREA			
Down on the Farm: Walk down to the Mountain Farm Museum and see what historic activities settlers may have been engaged in such as fence building, woodworking, or gardening. Activities vary.	Mountain Farm Museum	Ongoing 1.5 hours	Easy
Junior Ranger: Smoky Mountain Elk: 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 in the fields!	Palmer House, Cataloochee Valley	45 minutes	Easy
Logging in the Smokies: Join a ranger to enjoy a ½ mile, short nature walk and uncover Smokemont’s logging history.	Smokemont Nature Trail in the Smokemont Campground	1 hour	Easy to Moderate
Mammal Mania!: Otters and rabbits and bears, Oh my! Join a ranger for a hands-on discovery of mammals in the park.	Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch	30 minutes	Easy



**PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES IN GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL PARK—AUGUST 14 – SEPTEMBER 17, 2016 ONLY**

ACCESSIBLE	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS
No	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.*	11:00 A.M.	*No Program on Saturday, September 10
Yes	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.*	2:00 P.M.	*No Program on Saturday, September 10
Yes			1:00 P.M.				1:00 P.M.	
No	2:00 P.M.		2:00 P.M.					Limited to 25 participants. Call (865) 436-1291 up to 4 days in advance to make reservations.
No							3:00 P.M.	
Yes					Check at Sugarlands VC or Campground Office	Check at Sugarlands VC or Campground Office*		*No Program on Saturday, September 10
No		11:00 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.						
the start of Cades Cove Loop Road to programs at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill Historic Area.								
Yes						1:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	
Yes						2:30 P.M.		
Yes			5:00 P.M.		5:00 P.M.			Hayride Fee: \$14.00/person
Yes				8:00 P.M.				Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a flashlight.
Yes							1:00 P.M. ends Sept. 4	
Yes							5:30 P.M.	
No	1:30 P.M. ends Sept. 5							
Yes			1:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.				




OCONALUFTEE AREA (CONT.)	MEETING LOCATION	DURATION	DIFFICULTY
Junior Ranger: River Ramble: Stroll along a mountain stream. This easy walk with a Ranger offers you an amazing opportunity to explore the Smokies only minutes from your car.	Oconaluftee River Trailhead	1 hour	Easy
Junior Ranger: Neighbors or Nuisances?: Join park staff on the porch to learn about some small animals found right here around the Mountain Farm Museum. As cute as they may be, you decide whether they are friend or foe!	Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch	45 minutes	Easy
Longing for the “Good Ol’ Days”: You’ve heard it before but was it really the “good ol’ days?” Join a ranger for a walk on the Mountain Farm Museum and learn about the “new comers” who settled here and farmed this land.	Mountain Farm Museum	45 minutes	Easy

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Science Friday: Join a scientist on the 3rd Friday of the month to learn about and engage in on-going scientific research happening inside Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Topics vary each month.	Sugarlands Visitor Center	2 hours	Easy
Back Porch Old-Time Music Jam: Bring an acoustic instrument and join in on this old-time jam. Or just sit back and enjoy the sights and sounds as others play traditional Appalachian music.	Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch	2 hours	Easy
Blacksmith Demonstration: Learn the art of blacksmithing and why it was important in the Cades Cove community.	Cades Cove Visitor Center / Cable Mill	Ongoing 6 hours	Easy
Rug Hooking Demonstration: Learn the art of rug hooking through a costumed interpreter.	Becky Cable House porch near the Cades Cove Visitor Center / Cable Mill area	Ongoing 4.5 hours	Easy
Sorghum Making Demonstration: See how sorghum molasses is made from stalk to syrup.	Cades Cove Visitor Center / Cable Mill	Ongoing 6 hours	Easy
Mountain Life Festival: 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.	Mountain Farm Museum	Ongoing 6 hours	Easy

Anyone between the ages 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.



ACCESSIBLE	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS
Yes		1:00 P.M. ends Sept. 6						
Yes			11:00 A.M.					
Yes					1:30 P.M. ends Sept. 9	11:00 A.M. ends Sept. 10		
Yes					1:00 PM Aug. 19 Sept. 16 October 21			
Yes						1:00 P.M. Aug. 6 & 20 Sept. 3 & 17		
Yes						10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. August 6 September 3	10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. August 7 September 4	
No						10:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. August 20 Sept. 10		
Yes	10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. September 5				10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. September 16, 23	10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. September 3, 17	10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. September 4, 18, 25	
Yes						10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. Sept. 17		

**PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES
IN GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL PARK—
AUGUST 14 – SEPTEMBER 17,
2016 ONLY**




Kids 5 - 12:

Become a Junior Ranger!

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



visitor information

for more information, www.nps.gov/grsm

information

General park information:

(865) 436-1200

www.nps.gov/grsm

Backcountry information

(865) 436-1297

www.smokiespermits.nps.gov

To order maps & guides

(865) 436-7318 x226

www.smokiesinformation.org

emergencies

Listed below are some numbers to call **for emergencies** that arise after hours.

Park Headquarters

(865) 436-9171

Cherokee Police

(828) 497-4131

Gatlinburg Police

(865) 436-5181

hospitals

Le Conte/Sevier County
(865) 446-7000, Middle Creek Rd., Sevierville, TN.

Blount Memorial (865) 983-7211, U.S. 321, Maryville, TN.

Haywood County (828) 456-7311, Waynesville, NC.

Swain County (828) 488-2155, Bryson City, NC.

regulations

Picking or digging plants is prohibited in the park.

Persons feeding wildlife are subject to a \$5,000 fine.

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, Clingmans Dome, Oconaluftee, and Sugarlands) are fully accessible. The Sugarlands Valley all-access nature trail is located on Newfound Gap Road just south of Sugarlands Visitor Center.

