

The logo is a shield-shaped emblem. It features a stylized landscape with a large evergreen tree on the left, a snow-capped mountain in the background, and a bison in the foreground. The text "NATIONAL PARK SERVICE" is written in a serif font across the upper right portion of the shield.



Continued on page 8



GreatSmokyNPS

SMOKIES TRIP PLANNER



Visitor centers

Sugarlands, Oconaluftee, and Cades Cove: open 9 a.m.–5 p.m. June through September.

Clingmans Dome: open 10 a.m.–6:30 p.m. June through August; 10 a.m.–6 p.m. September.

GSM Institute at Tremont: open 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Tuesday–Saturday only.



Road closures

• **Cades Cove Loop Road** is closed to vehicles on Wednesdays from May 3 through September 27 to allow for walking and biking.

• All roads including Newfound Gap, Cataloochee, and Cades Cove Loop roads are subject to temporary closure due to dangerous driving conditions. Check twitter.com/SmokiesRoadsNPS for updates.



Shuttle services

Local shuttle services offer convenient transportation to and from the park's most iconic destinations. Routes, schedules, pricing, and pick-up/drop-off locations vary. Visit go.nps.gov/GRSMShuttles for a list of authorized concessioners.



Park weather

In summer, heat, haze, and humidity are the norm by mid-June. Most precipitation occurs as afternoon thundershowers.

By mid-September, a pattern of warm, sunny days and crisp, clear nights often begins. However, cool, rainy days also occur.



Special events and ranger programs

See page 5 for ranger programs and visit go.nps.gov/GRSMcalendar for a full calendar of events.



Camping in the national park

The National Park Service maintains developed campgrounds at ten locations in the park. There are no showers, and hookups are only available at Look Rock Campground (ten campsites include electric and water hookups). There are circuits for special medical uses at Cades Cove, Elkmont, and Smokemont.

Campsite reservations are required at all park campgrounds. Sites may be reserved up to six months in advance.

Make your reservation online at recreation.gov or call 877.444.6777.

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

Campsites for larger groups are available at Big Creek, Cades Cove, Cataloochee, Cosby, Deep Creek, Elkmont, and Smokemont. Reservations are required and may be secured up to a year in advance. For more information, visit nps.gov/grsm.

Site	No. of Sites	Elevation	Expected Open Dates 2023	Nightly Fees	Max RV Length
Abrams Creek	16	1,125'	4/28 – 10/29	\$30	12'
Balsam Mountain	42	5,310'	5/12 – 6/4 6/17 – 10/9	\$30	30'
Big Creek	12	1,700'	4/7 – 10/29	\$30	tents only
Cades Cove	159	1,807'	open year-round	\$30	35'–40'
Cataloochee	27	2,610'	4/7 – 10/29	\$30	31'
Cosby	157	2,459'	4/7 – 10/29	\$30	25'
Deep Creek	92	1,800'	4/7 – 10/29	\$30	26'
Elkmont	220	2,150'	3/10 – 11/26	\$30	32'–35'
Look Rock	68	2,600'	4/28–10/29	\$30–36	no limit
Smokemont	142	2,198'	open year-round	\$30	35'–40'



Firewood

To prevent the spread of destructive pests, only USDA- or state-certified heat-treated firewood may be brought into the park. Campers may gather dead and down wood in the park for campfires.



Picnic areas

Picnic areas at Cades Cove, Deep Creek, Greenbrier, and Metcalf Bottoms are open year-round. Heintoooga closes Oct. 9. Big Creek, Cosby, and Look Rock close Oct. 30. Collins Creek and the pavillion at Twin Creeks close Oct. 31. Chimneys closes Nov. 27. Picnic pavilions may be reserved for a fee at recreation.gov. Some restroom facilities at picnic areas may be closed.



Accommodations

LeConte Lodge (accessible by trail only, closes Nov. 22) provides the only lodging in the park. Advanced reservations required. 865.429.5704 or lecontelodge.com



Services

There are no gas stations, charging stations, showers, or restaurants in the national park.



For rent

The Appalachian Clubhouse and Spence Cabin at Elkmont can be reserved for daytime events at recreation.gov through October 31.



Pets in the park

Pets are allowed in frontcountry campgrounds and along roads as long as they are restrained at all times. Pets are not allowed on park trails, except for Gatlinburg and Oconaluftee River trails. Pets must be kept in control on a leash no longer than six feet.

SMOKIES GUIDE

Smokies Guide is produced four times per year by Great Smoky Mountains Association and Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

nps.gov/grsm
SmokiesInformation.org

Publication dates
Spring: mid-March
Summer: early June
Autumn: mid-Sept.
Winter: mid-Dec.

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Download the free NPS App for interactive maps, tours, and more.



Bicycling

Most park roads are too narrow and heavily traveled for safe or enjoyable bicycling. Bicycles are permitted on park roads but prohibited on trails except Gatlinburg, Oconaluftee River, and lower Deep Creek and Indian Creek trails. Helmets are required by law for persons age 16 and under and strongly recommended for all.

Cades Cove Loop Road is open exclusively to cyclists and pedestrians on Wednesdays from May 3 through September 27. Bikes may be rented at the Cades Cove Campground Store 9 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Bike rental opens early at 7 a.m. on vehicle-free Wednesdays. 865.448.9034.



Horseback riding

Some 550 miles of park trails are open to horses. See park trail map for trails and rules. Horse camps are available at Anthony Creek, Big Creek, Cataloochee, Round Bottom, and Tow String. Make reservations at recreation.gov. Three concession horseback riding stables offer rides from March through November.

- **Cades Cove** 865.448.9009 cadescovestables.com
- **Smokemont** 828.497.2373 smokemontridingstable.com
- **Sugarlands** 865.436.5470 sugarlandsstables.com



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. Fishing with bait is prohibited. Special permits are required for the Qualla Boundary and Gatlinburg, and licenses are available in nearby towns. A free fishing map with a complete list of all park fishing regulations is available at visitor centers.



Backcountry camping

Camping can be an exciting adventure for those who are properly equipped and informed. To facilitate this activity, the NPS maintains more than 800 miles of trails and more than 100 backcountry campsites and shelters throughout the park. One of the greatest challenges is deciding where to go. Here are some tools to help.

1. Get the map. Go online to view the park's official trail map (go.nps.gov/GRSMmaps), which shows all park trails, campsites, and shelters. Park rules and regulations are also listed here. You can purchase the printed version of the trail map for \$1 at any park visitor center or online at SmokiesInformation.org.

2. Plan your trip. Call or stop by the park's Backcountry Office

from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for trip planning help. The office is located in Sugarlands Visitor Center, two miles south of Gatlinburg on US 441. 865.436.1297.

3. Get a permit. Make your reservation and get your permit through the Backcountry Office at Sugarlands Visitor Center (*by phone or in person*) or online at smokiespermits.nps.gov.

Reservations and permits are required for all overnight stays in the backcountry. The cost is \$8 per person per night. Reservations may be made up to 30 days in advance. Backcountry camping permit holders are not exempt from parking tag requirements.

Summer hikers should be especially aware of the dangers of dehydration, heat exhaustion, and hyponatremia—the combination of increased water intake and inadequate sodium and electrolyte levels. Drink when thirsty; rest and eat often. Always carry an ample supply of water, snacks, and sun protection. Know your limits. Reduce the risk of hypothermia, a danger even in summer, with layered clothing and rain gear.

See page 4 for more hiking tips and trip essentials.



Learn the BARK principles so you and your pet can have a safe and fun visit any time you go to a national park.

Take the BARK pledge:



Bag and bin your pet's waste



Always leash your pet



Respect wildlife



Know where you can go



**MOVING
ROCKS HARMS
AQUATIC LIFE.**

**GSMNP
BY THE NUMBERS**



31 species of salamanders



69 species of mammals



9,900+ species of insects



16 mtns. higher than 6,000'



12 million+ visitors per year



1,000+ species new to science found in the park

The **only** two pet-friendly trails in the Smokies are Gatlinburg Trail in TN and Oconaluftee River Trail in NC.

Check out the BARK ranger products at SmokiesInformation.org



Keep it **SMOKIES SMART**:

- S** Stay hydrated
- M** Map your hike
- A** Always wear proper clothing/footwear
- R** Remember your flashlight
- T** Turn back when conditions change

Tell someone where you're going, stay on established trails, pack the essentials, and know what to do in case of an emergency.

Let the NPS Backcountry Office help you plan and prepare for your hike. Call 865.436.1297, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

PACK ESSENTIALS

- **Navigation**—map, compass, and knowledge of how to use them
- **Water and food**
- **Extra layers**
- **Rain gear** and pack cover or waterproof bags
- **Headlamp** or flashlight
- **Traction support** like hiking poles or microspikes
- **Emergency whistle**
- **First aid kit**
- **Sun protection** with sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat

FOR A LONGER HIKE

- **Repair kit** with multi-tool or knife
- **Fire starter**
- **Shelter**—emergency tent or tarp



IN AN EMERGENCY

- Call 911 if you can acquire a signal.
- Remain with any injured parties until help arrives. Use what basic first-aid techniques you know, but do not attempt invasive intervention unless you are medically trained.
- Use an emergency whistle to issue a series of three spaced blasts every few minutes to alert rescue crews. If you are in an open area, display brightly colored clothing or gear.

YOUR CELL PHONE IS **NOT**

- a light
- a map
- a survival kit
- always going to have service



RANGER PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

NORTH DISTRICT (near Gatlinburg, TN)

WHEN?

MEETING LOCATION

DURATION/ ACCESSIBILITY

A Walk in the Woods: Discover history and get immersed in nature on an easy stroll with a ranger.

Daily
11 a.m. / 2 p.m.

Sugarlands Visitor Center patio

1.5 hours

Creatures of the Smokies: Learn interesting facts about all kinds of Smokies wildlife large and small.

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
11 a.m.

Newfound Gap



30 minutes

A Blast into the Past—Daisy Town: Explore the cabins of early Smokies tourists who transformed a logging camp into a summer retreat.

Friday, Saturday
12 p.m.

Elkmont (Jakes Creek Trailhead parking lot)

1.5 hours

Celebrating Cosby: Celebrate the rich cultural and natural history of Cosby with programs exploring mountain music, moonshiners, mountain medicine, storytelling, and more.

Fridays June 23–July 14
7 p.m.

Cosby Amphitheater

1 hour

JUNE 1 – SEPTEMBER 14, 2023



SOUTH DISTRICT (near Cherokee, NC)

WHEN?

MEETING LOCATION

DURATION/ ACCESSIBILITY

Wild about the Smokies Porch Talk: Get the inside scoop on where to spot wildlife, how to do it safely, and why scientists study animals in the Smokies.

Daily
3 p.m.

Oconaluftee Visitor Center



30 minutes

Forney Ridge Ramble Guided Hike: Hike with a ranger through coniferous rainforest to breathtaking views at Andrews Bald. This moderate trail climbs 875 feet over 3.5 miles round trip. See opposite page to prepare for your hike.

Daily
11 a.m.

Forney Ridge trailhead at Clingmans Dome

2 hours

Mingus Mill Pop-Up: Explore what life was like in the Smokies a century ago. Learn about the innovative grist mill and the families who lived and worked nearby.

Daily
2:30–4:30 p.m.

Mingus Mill

Drop-in,
15 minutes

Old-Time Music Jam: Join in with local musicians playing old-time songs on traditional Appalachian instruments, like the mountain dulcimer. All experience levels and instruments welcome.

Third Saturday of the month
1 p.m.

Oconaluftee Visitor Center



2 hours



For a full list of programs for the public, please visit:

go.nps.gov/GRSMcalendar

CADES COVE (near Townsend, TN)

WHEN?

MEETING LOCATION

DURATION/ ACCESSIBILITY

Blacksmith Demonstrations: Learn about the art of blacksmithing and how it supported the Cades Cove community.

Friday, Saturday
10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Blacksmith shop near Cable Mill

Drop-in,
15 minutes

Stream Splashers: Wade through a mountain stream in search of aquatic creatures. Be prepared to get wet. Closed-toed shoes are recommended.

Sunday
1–3 p.m.

Cades Cove Visitor Center

Drop-in,
15 minutes

Cove Life: Visit a historic cabin to learn about daily life in Cades Cove. A ranger will remain on site after the program until noon.

Monday
10 a.m.

John Oliver Cabin



30 minutes

Driving distances and estimated times

All driving times may vary due to traffic conditions.

Cherokee, NC to:

- Gatlinburg: 34 miles (1 hour)
- Cades Cove: 58 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)

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 (3 hours)

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 (2½ hours)
- Greenbrier Cove: 6 miles (¼ hour)
- Deep Creek: 48 miles (1½ hours)

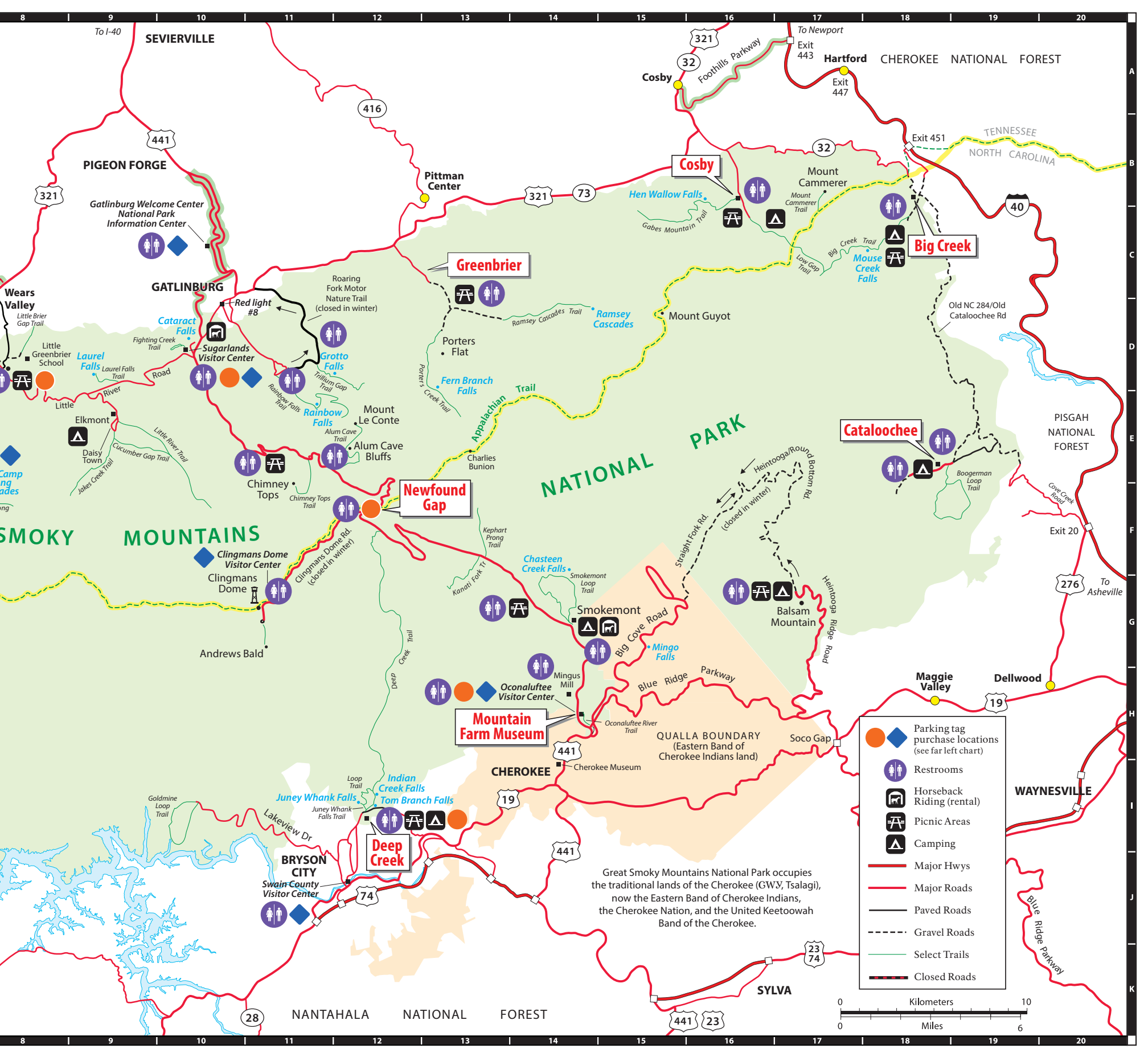
Parking tag purchase locations within the park

	<div>Automated Fee Machines</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 24 hours per day• Credit/debit only• Daily and weekly tags only</div>	<div>Visitor Centers</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business hours (page 2)• Cash or credit/debit• Daily, weekly, and annual tags available</div>
Sugarlands Visitor Center	✓	✓
Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area	✓	
GSM Institute at Tremont		✓
Cades Cove Loop Entrance	✓	
Cades Cove Visitor Center		✓
Newfound Gap Parking Area	✓	
Clingmans Dome Visitor Center (closed in winter)		✓
Oconaluftee Visitor Center	✓	✓
Deep Creek Picnic Area	✓	

Parking tags are available outside the park at Townsend Visitor Center, Gatlinburg Welcome Center, Swain County Visitor Center, and select area businesses.

For all purchase locations, see [go.nps.gov/GRSMfees](https://www.nps.gov/GRSMfees).





SEVIerville

PIGEON FORGE

Gatlinburg Welcome Center
National Park
Information Center

GATLINBURG

Wears Valley

Little Greenbrier School

Little River

Elkmont

Daisy Town

Cucumber Gap Trail

Jakes Creek Trail

Laurel Falls

Fighting Creek Trail

Laurel Falls Trail

Little River Trail

Chimney Tops

Chimney Tops Trail

Chimney Tops Rd. (closed in winter)

Andrews Bald

Clingmans Dome

Clingmans Dome Visitor Center

Clingmans Dome

Clingmans Dome Rd. (closed in winter)

Loop Trail

Indian Creek Falls

Tom Branch Falls

Juney Whank Falls

Juney Whank Falls Trail

Goldmine Loop Trail

Lakeview Dr

BRYSON CITY

Swain County Visitor Center

Swain County

Swain County

Swain County

Swain County

Swain County

Swain County

Swain County

Swain County

Pittman Center

Greenbrier

Porters Flat

Fern Branch Falls

Appalachian Trail

Charles Bunion

Kephart Prong Trail

Kanawha Fork Trail

Smokemont

Smokemont Loop Trail

Mingus Mill

Oconaluftee Visitor Center

Oconaluftee River Trail

Cherokee Museum

Cherokee

Cherokee

Cherokee

Cherokee

Cherokee

Cherokee

Cherokee

Cherokee

Cosby

Hen Wallow Falls

Gabes Mountain Trail

Mount Cammerer

Mount Cammerer Trail

Big Creek Trail

Low Gap Trail

Mouse Creek Falls

Mount Guyot

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Big Creek

Cataloochee

Boogerman Loop Trail

Cove Creek Road

Exit 20

To Asheville

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Exit 20

Exit 20

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Exit 20

Exit 20

Maggie Valley

Dellwood

Exit 19

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- Parking tag purchase locations (see far left chart)
- Restrooms
- Horseback Riding (rental)
- Picnic Areas
- Camping
- Major Hwys
- Major Roads
- Paved Roads
- Gravel Roads
- Select Trails
- Closed Roads

Great Smoky Mountains National Park occupies the traditional lands of the Cherokee (GWS, Tsalagi), now the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the Cherokee Nation, and the United Keetoowah Band of the Cherokee.



Words with a Ranger
Continued from page 1

The data was fascinating to me and helped me understand why they managed the populations and set the fishing regulations like they did. We hire a number of interns and seasonal fishery technicians annually who share a similar passion and are starting their careers as I did years ago.

This year, we are working to restore native brook trout to six streams in North Carolina and Tennessee totaling about 6.3 miles, and in 2024, we'll be restoring 2.4 miles of Moore Spring Branch in North Carolina. These efforts are providing visitors with an additional 20 streams and 38.7 miles of fishing for native brook trout, which is an important part of the natural heritage of the Smoky Mountains.

We are also working to provide water quality data to our state and federal partners to determine if air quality policies are helping to improve both air and water quality across the park. These data, collected by Trout Unlimited and other park volunteers since 1993, are being used to adjust air quality policies so that acidified streams will be allowed to recover and once again support fish and aquatic insects.

These air and water quality improvements will not only benefit the Great Smoky Mountains but the entire Southern Appalachian region, and we are very proud of that.



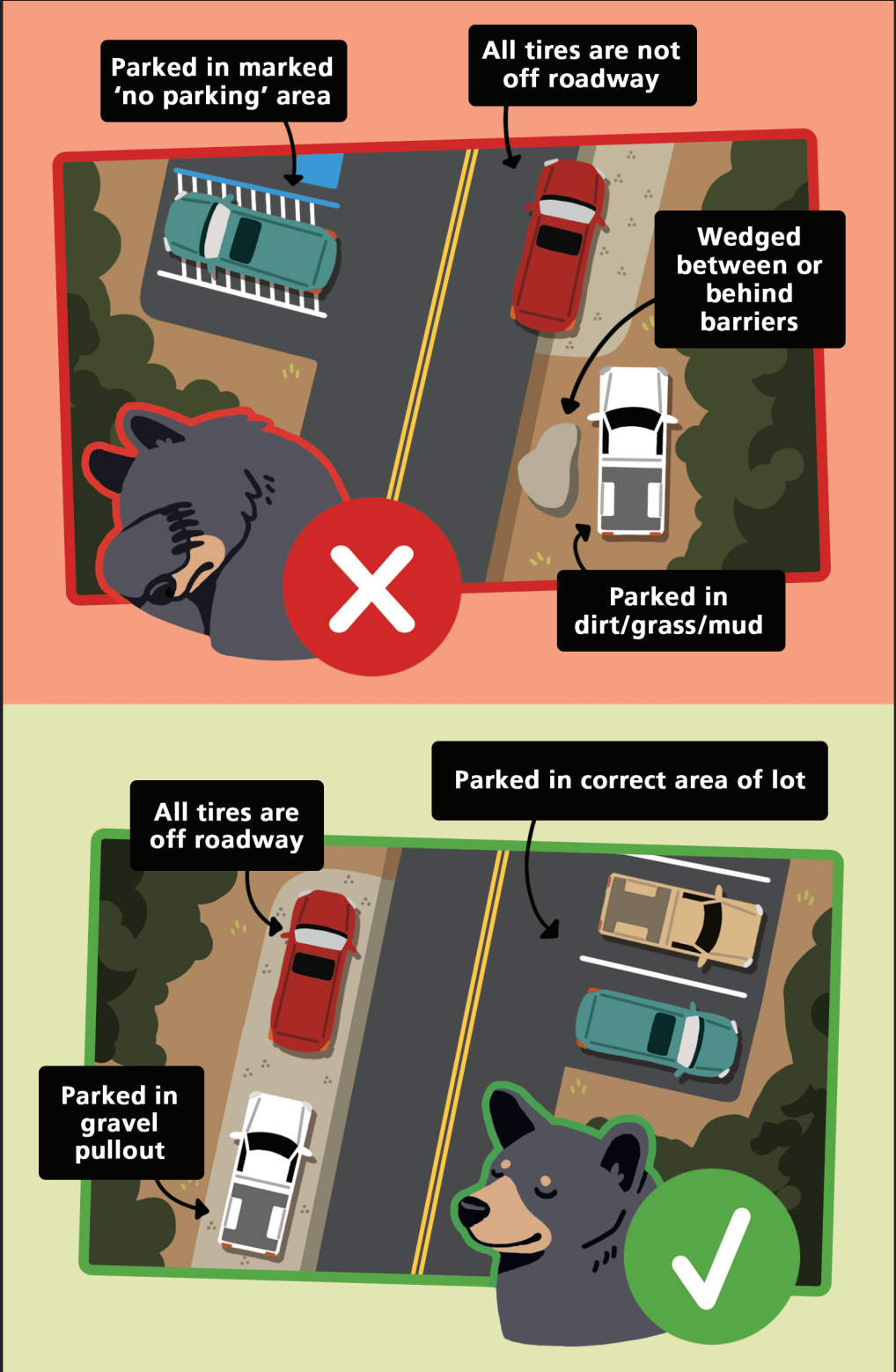
Raccoon and firewood pest illustrations on page 9 by Lisa Horstman. All others by Emma Oxford.

LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS

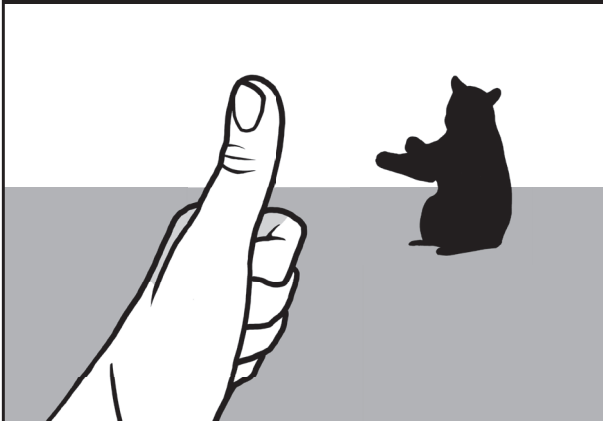
Writing on or carving into trees, stones, or structures can cause permanent damage—it's also a crime! Taking a photo is always a better way to remember your time in the Smokies and helps preserve the park for others too.



PARK SAFELY IN THE SMOKIES



ALWAYS USE THE RULE OF THUMB



When viewing wildlife, hold your arm out straight. If you can't cover the animal in your line of sight with your thumb, you're too close!



PLEASE LEAVE YOUR FIREWOOD AT HOME

Use only heat-treated or dead and down wood within the park. Harmful pests can hitchhike into the park on your firewood, which could kill millions of trees.

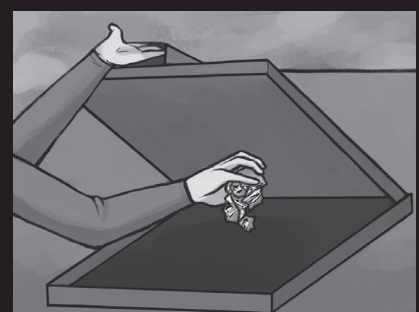
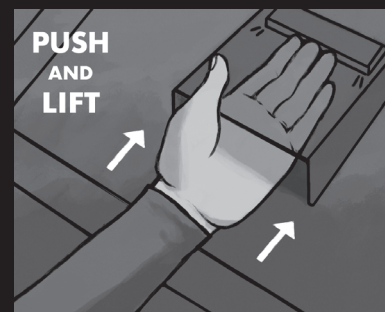


KEEP PETS ON DESIGNATED TRAILS

Remember that the Gatlinburg Trail and Oconaluftee River Trail are the *only* pet-friendly trails in the park. All pets must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet at all times.

BIN IT FOR THE BEARS

Help protect bears by packing out all trash and food waste and using bear-proof dumpsters in the park.



IF YOU LOVE THE SMOKIES

Join the park's partners in helping to protect this special place for future generations

Great Smoky Mountains Association

Great Smoky Mountains Association (GSMA) brings people of all backgrounds together as advocates and stewards to honor, sustain, and protect Great Smoky Mountains National Park.



GSMA operates the park's official bookstores, publishes books and other high-quality media about the Smokies, and supports the park's educational, scientific, and historical preservation efforts. Since 1953, GSMA has contributed more than \$47 million to the national park.

Become a GSMA member today by visiting SmokiesInformation.org or call us at 888.898.9102, ext. 257.

Interested in working in the park? GSMA is currently hiring for retail, information desk, and warehouse positions! Rates begin at \$15/hr. plus opportunities for monthly bonuses. Apply online at SmokiesInformation.org/employment.

GSMA members enjoy...



- Bi-annual *Smokies Life* journal
- *Smokies LIVE* e-newsletter



- Discounts at park bookstores and local businesses
- Exclusive group hikes and events



Friends of the Smokies

Since 1993, Friends of the Smokies has raised over \$85 million to assist GSMNP in providing visitors a safe, memorable experience while protecting the park's historic and natural resources. Every year, the park requests funding for projects and programs that would be unfulfilled without support from Friends.



- Examples include:
- Trail rehabilitation
 - Preservation of historic structures
 - Facility repairs, upgrades, and renovations
 - Accessibility improvements
 - First responder equipment and training
 - Educational programs for 10,000+ students
 - Conservation and wildlife management



Learn more and become a 'Friend' at FriendsOfTheSmokies.org.

Discover Life in America

Discover Life in America (DLiA) is devoted to cataloging every living species in the Smokies through the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory. This ongoing project helps the National Park Service better understand and protect the 21,000 kinds of organisms documented in the Smokies, with more discovered every day.



DLiA also offers internship, volunteer, community science, and education opportunities that provide firsthand experiences in the Smokies, promote the importance of biodiversity, and foster stewardship of the natural world. Learn how you can support DLiA at dlia.org or call 865.430.4757.

Join the discovery!

Record life in the park with the iNaturalist app! dlia.org





Tremont








Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont offers kids and adults an opportunity to connect with nature through immersive, multi-day experiences in the national park. Through residential workshops, summer camps, and school programs, Tremont promotes curiosity and inspires learning for thousands of individuals each year.



Adult workshops include the Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification program, photography courses, backpacking adventures, community science, and professional development for teachers.

Visit gsmit.org for program information or to learn how you can support life-changing learning experiences in the Smokies.

GSMNP BY THE NUMBERS

 135 species of trees	 250+ species of birds	 2,900 miles of streams
 90+ historic structures	 3,400+ species of fungi	 500,000+ acres of land
		 848 miles of trails

Illustrations
by Jesse White

LISTEN



FIND A PLACE TO SIT QUIETLY AND LISTEN.

Map the soundscape by drawing symbols to represent each sound on the circle. For example, drawing a cricket on the edge of the circle could represent the sound of insects chirping in the distance.

HOW MANY WERE
NATURAL SOUNDS?

HOW MANY WERE
HUMAN SOUNDS?

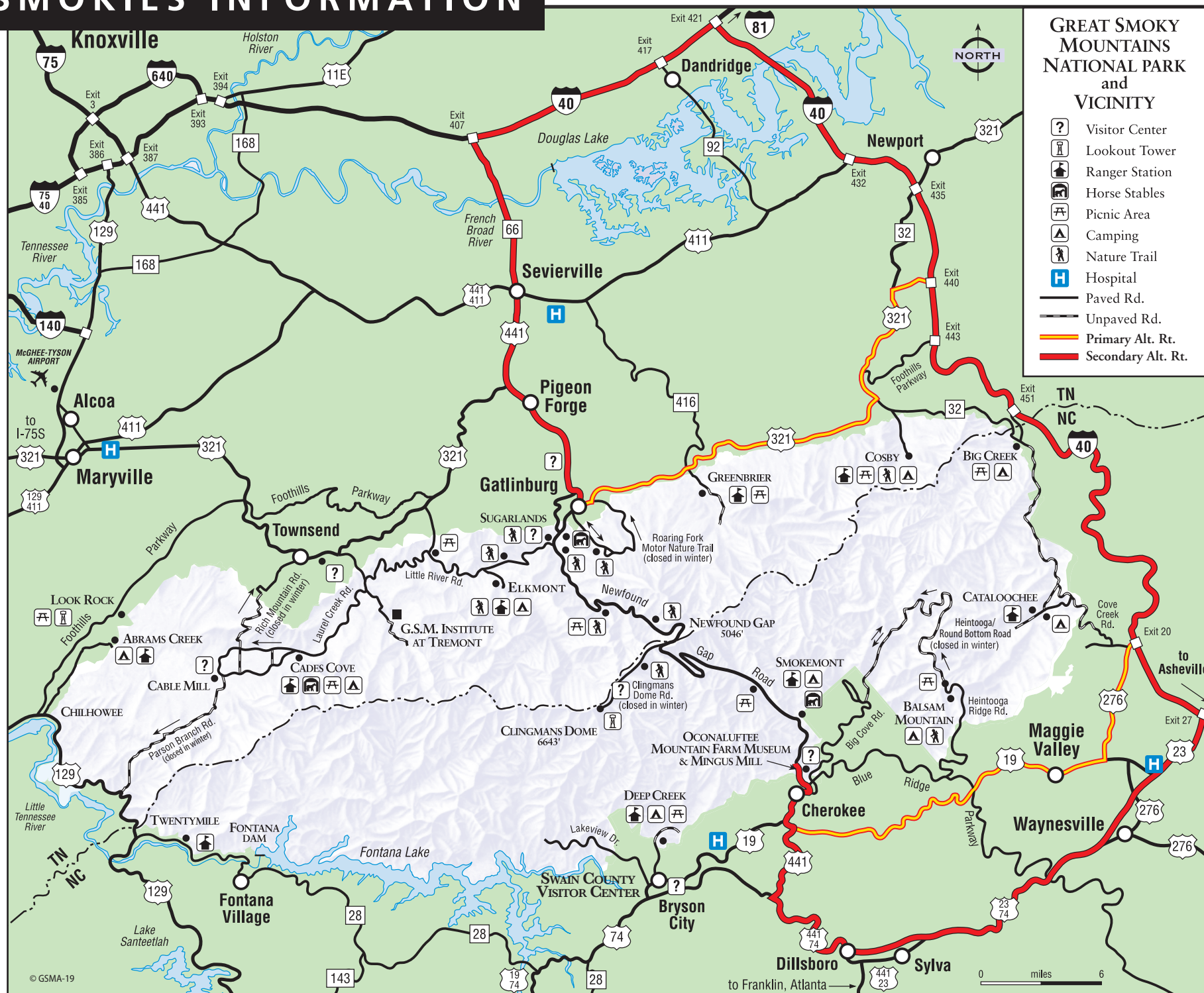
HOW DO YOU THINK HUMAN SOUNDS AFFECT WILDLIFE?

THIS ACTIVITY IS ADAPTED FROM GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK'S **NEW JR. RANGER** ACTIVITY GUIDE! WORK AS A TEAM TO FILL OUT THE GUIDE AND EARN A JR. RANGER CERTIFICATION. AVAILABLE AT ANY PARK VISITOR CENTER!



SMOKIES INFORMATION

For more information, go to nps.gov/grsm



Information

General park info:
865.436.1200
nps.gov/grsm

Backcountry info:

865.436.1297
smokiespermits.nps.gov

Road status updates:

twitter.com/smokiesroadsnps

Emergencies

911
Cherokee Police
828.497.4131

Gatlinburg Police
865.436.5181

Accessibility

Restrooms at Cades Cove, Oconaluftee, and Sugarlands visitor centers are fully

accessible. For more information about accessibility, go to nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm.

Avoid the fine

A valid parking tag

must be displayed when parked for more than 15 minutes anywhere in the park. Pets are only permitted on the Gatlinburg and Oconaluftee River trails, which allow dogs on a

leash. Persons feeding wildlife are subject to a \$5,000 fine. Picking or digging plants is prohibited in the park.