

National Park Service Department of the Interior

Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area
Obed Wild & Scenic River



December 2020

Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area

Stop By and “Ask A Ranger” on the Porch at Bandy Creek Visitor Center seven days a week and on the weekends at the Crossville-Cumberland County.

Join Us on Facebook on Saturday, December 12 at 10 am ET for the GO BIG Celebration. Enjoy special photos submitted by participants along with music by Scott County High School Bluegrass Band. Superintendent Niki Nicholas will announce the winners of this year’s GO BIG 2020 Challenge and reveal the theme and patch for the GO BIG 2021 Challenge. Awards can be picked up at Bandy Creek Visitor Center's porch booth after the celebration.

Big South Fork Recently Added 171 Species of Moths and Butterflies to Our Species List thanks to an www.inaturalist.org project led by one of our Law Enforcement Rangers. iNaturalist is a social networking service of naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity across the globe.

Road Work on Highway 297 Through the Park is Wrapping Up for the Winter but more road improvement activities will start up in the spring.

Overnight Visitation to Our Parks is Very Popular This Year.

This winter consider a stay at Bandy Creek or Station Camp Campgrounds at Big South Fork or Rock Creek Campground at Obed. Reservations may be made by calling 1-877-444-6777 or going online at www.recreation.gov. No reservations are needed to stay at Alum Fork Campground at Big South Fork, which is first come, first serve.

Backcountry camping permits are available on-line at www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/online-backcountry-permits.htm.

Bandy Creek Visitor Center
(423) 286-7275 or visit us at:

www.nps.gov/biso
[www.twitter.com/BigSouthForkNPS](https://twitter.com/BigSouthForkNPS)
www.facebook.com/BigSouthForkNPS
www.instagram.com/BigSouthForkNPS

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“Ask A Ranger” in front of the Obed Visitor Center is open on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays.



The recently rehabbed Bear Creek Overlook at Big South Fork is a great destination for a short winter walk.

Winter months bring earlier sunsets. **Enjoy Watching the Geminid Meteor Shower from Lilly Bluff Overlook.** Peak Viewing is Expected on the Moonless Evening of Sunday, December 13 (look to the northeastern sky), however viewing can also be enjoyed on clear nights from December 4 - 17.

The Next Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn will be Monday, December 21 which is coincidentally, the date of the Winter Solstice. This is the first Jupiter-Saturn conjunction since 2000, and the closest Jupiter-Saturn conjunction since 1623. At their closest in December, Jupiter and Saturn will be only 0.1 degree apart. That’s just 1/5 of a full moon diameter. Look low in the southwestern sky just after sunset; ~ 5:30 pm ET.

Obed Homework Hotspot for Local Students. Free WiFi is available between 7 am and 8 pm in the front parking lot of the Visitor Center located at 208 N. Maiden Street in Wartburg.

Obed Visitor Center
(423) 346-6294 or visit us at:

www.nps.gov/obed
[www.twitter.com/ObedNPS](https://twitter.com/ObedNPS)
www.facebook.com/ObedNPS
www.instagram.com/ObedNPS