

# Great Smoky Mountains National Park

## Summer Ranger Programs

### June 19-August 13, 2016

#### **Sunday:**

Andrews Bald Hike for Families

Forney Ridge Trailhead at Clingmans Dome

9:30 am

Join a Ranger on a 3.6 mile round trip hike to the most accessible of the Smokies' grassy balds to learn more about this unique high elevation feature. Leisurely hike back to the parking lot on your own after reaching the bald. Sturdy footwear, a snack, and water recommended.

Duration: 3 hours

Down on the Farm

Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to Oconaluftee Visitor Center

2:00 pm

Walk down to the Mountain Farm Museum and see what pastime activities settlers may have been engaged in such as fence building, woodworking, or gardening. Activities vary.

Duration: Ongoing 1.5 hours

Junior Range: Stream Splashes

Oconaluftee River adjacent to Mountain Farm Museum

5:00 pm

Roll up your pants and wade through a mountain stream to look for mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies, and other aquatic critters. Be prepared to get wet. Closed-toed shoes recommended.

Duration: 1.5 hours

Junior Ranger: Smoky Mountain Elk

Palmer House, Cataloochee Valley

5:30 pm

It's all about connection and balance in nature to insure 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!

Duration: 45 minutes

Accessible

#### **Monday:**

Junior Ranger: Porch Program

Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch

2:00 pm

Join a Ranger on the porch of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center to discover what makes Great Smoky Mountains National Park so special. Topics vary so feel free to come more than once!

Duration: 45 minutes

Accessible

## Mammal Mania!

Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch

4:00 pm

Otters and rabbits and bears, Oh my! Join a Ranger for a hands-on discovery of mammals in the park.

Duration: 30 minutes

## Junior Ranger: Smokemont Night Hike

Bradley Fork Trailhead, D-Loop Smokemont Campground

8:45 pm

Ever wonder what goes “grrr” in the night? What creatures are out there moving under the cover of darkness? Take a walk on the dark side with a Ranger and learn about some of the mysteries and wonders found only after the sun goes down. Limited to 25 participants. Call 828/497-1904 up to four days in advance to make reservations.

Duration: 1 hour

## **Tuesday:**

### Junior Range: Blacksmithing

Mountain Farm Museum

10:00 am, 10:30 am, 11:00 am, 11:30 am

Learn a new skill. Be a blacksmith and create your own item to take home. Limited to ages 10-12.

Other Junior Ranger programs will be going on simultaneously for younger kids.

Duration: 30 minutes

### Junior Ranger: Batteries Not Included

Mountain Farm Museum

10:00 am, 10:30 am, 11:00 am, 11:30 am

What kind of toys did kids play with in the “old days?” Join a ranger to discover (or remember!) how kids were entertained before video games and iPods. You’ll be able to take home a “buzz button” of your very own. All ages welcome.

Duration: 30 minutes

Accessible

### Longing for the “Good Ol’ Days”

Mountain Farm Museum

2:00 pm

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.

Duration: 45 minutes

Accessible

## **Wednesday:**

### Junior Ranger: Mammal Mania!

Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch

10:00 am

Otters and rabbits and bears, Oh my! Join a Ranger for a hands-on discovery of mammals in the park.

Duration: 30 minutes

Accessible

### Longing for the “Good Ol’ Days”

Mountain Farm Museum

12:00 pm

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.

Duration: 45 minutes

Accessible

### Junior Range: Stream Splashes

Oconaluftee River adjacent to Mountain Farm Museum

1:00 pm

Roll up your pants and wade through a mountain stream to look for mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies, and other aquatic critters. Be prepared to get wet. Closed-toed shoes recommended.

Duration: 1.5 hours

## Thursday:

### Junior Ranger: Creey Critters

Mingus Creek Trail

10:00 am

Join a ranger on this adventure into the dark and mysterious world of bugs and macro-invertebrates. Get up close and personal with the use of equipment such as “sucky-uppy-things,” leaf litter boxes, and magnifying glasses.

Duration: 1 hour

### Junior Ranger: Slimy Salamanders

Mingus Creek Trail

12:00 pm

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.

Duration: 1 hour

### Kephart Prong Hike

Kephart Prong Trailhead

1:30 pm

Explore the remains of an old logging camp which later became a Civilian Conservation Corp camp with a ranger. Discover what signs are still visible and what life was like.

Duration: 2 hours

## Friday:

### Junior Ranger: Porch Program

Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch

10:00 am

Join a Ranger on the porch of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center to discover what makes Great Smoky Mountains National Park so special. Topics vary so feel free to come more than once!

Duration: 45 minutes

Accessible

Junior Ranger: River Ramble

Oconaluftee River Trail

2:00 pm

Relax and cool off along a mountain stream. This easy walk with a Ranger offers you an amazing opportunity to explore the Smokies only minutes from your car.

Duration: 1 hour

Smokemont Evening Campfire Program

Charismatic Megafauna!

Smokemont Campground between C-Loop & D-Loop

7:00 pm

What is it? Where can I find it? Join a Ranger by the campfire to discover what you might see in the park!

Duration: 1 hour

Accessible

## **Saturday:**

Family Hike: Where the Waters Sing!

Bradley Fork Trailhead, Smokemont Campground

1:30 pm

Pack a snack and water and join a Ranger on a moderate 3-mile round-trip hike along side Bradley Fork Trail to Chasteen Creek Falls.

Duration: 3 hours

Junior Ranger: Welcome Home!

Oconaluftee Tree Cookie Area near Mountain Farm Museum

7:00 pm

After more than a century of absence, the elk have returned. Join a Ranger to hear the story of the return on the largest mammal in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Duration: 30 minutes

Accessible

Junior Ranger: Smokemont Night Hike

Bradley Fork Trailhead, D-Loop Smokemont Campground

8:45 pm

Ever wonder what goes "grrr" in the night? What creatures are out there moving under the cover of darkness? Take a walk on the dark side with a Ranger and learn about some of the mysteries and wonders found only after the sun goes down. Limited to 25 participants. Call 828/497-1904 up to four days in advance to make reservations.

Duration: 1 hour

## **Special Programs:**

Back Porch Old-Time Music Jam

Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch

1 pm – 3 pm June 4 & 18, July 2 & 16, August 6 & 20

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.

Duration: Ongoing 2 hours

Accessible

Women's Work Festival

Mountain Life Museum

10 am-4 pm June 18

Join Park Staff and Volunteers for a glimpse into the past roles that rural women held in the family and community. Come experience the similarities as well as the differences life presented more than a century ago. A variety of demonstrations will be ongoing throughout the day.

Duration: Ongoing 6 hours

Accessible