

ranger-led walks, talks

Programs and activities in Great Smoky Mountains National Park



**September 19 –
October 31, 2010**

Park visitor centers are located at Cades Cove, Clingmans Dome, Oconaluftee, and Sugarlands. All offer information, exhibits, and publications related to the park and its resources.

area halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road
2:30 p.m.

A talk and hands-on demonstration about wild things in the park.
Duration: 30 minutes. **Difficulty:** Easy. ♻️

OCONALUFTEE VISITOR CENTER/ MOUNTAIN FARM MUSEUM

Daily
Mingus Mill Demonstration

Located a half-mile north of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center on US 441 (Newfound Gap Road)
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Chat with a miller and feel the rumble of this historic grist-mill in action.
Accessibility: Two steps into mill.

Mountain Farm Museum
Adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center
Dawn to Dusk
Walk down to the farm for a glimpse into the past. ♻️

Sunday
Junior Ranger: Smoky Mountain Elk
Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center
11:00 a.m.

Fall is a great time for viewing elk in rut and listen as they bugle. Discover how elk stay warm in the winter. Feel the weight of the antlers they carry on their head. A Ranger will be available to answer your questions about elk and let you know the best places in the park to see and hear elk.
Duration: 30 minutes. ♻️

Monday
Everything But the Squeal: Hogs on the Mountain Farm Museum
Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center
5:00 p.m.

If corn was the heart of the mountain farm diet, pork was the soul. Learn about raising hogs and preserving meat, 1900-style and come face to face with our own mountain hogs.

Duration: 45 minutes.

Saturday
Junior Ranger: Tell Us a Story
Mountain Farm Museum, adjacent to Oconaluftee Visitor Center
5:00 p.m.

Home entertainment on a turn of the 20th century mountain farm did not involve television. Music, games, and homemade toys were standards but storytelling was the main attraction combining history, morality, and good old fashioned “white lies.” Join us on the Mountain Farm to help a Ranger tell a traditional Jack Tale.
Duration: 1 hour.

SMOKEMONT CAMPGROUND

Sunday
Ranger Guided Hike: Where the Waters Sing
Smokemont Campground near the registration office
12:00 noon

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

Duration: 3 hours. **Difficulty:** Moderate.

Tuesday
House of Salvation, Education, and Damnation
Smokemont Baptist Church (near Smokemont Campground entrance)
2:30 p.m.

Join a Ranger and discover how old-time mountain religion met spiritual, social, and community needs.
Duration: 45 minutes.

Saturday
Ranger Guided Wagon Ride
Smokemont Riding Stables
1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.

Climb aboard the wagon ride at Smokemont Riding Stables for a Ranger-guided tour of the old Oconaluftee Turnpike. Limit 6 people.

Duration: 30 minutes. **Fee:** \$10.00 per person paid at the stables.

KEPHART PRONG TRAIL

Friday
Ranger Guided Hike: Kephart Trail
Kephart Prong Trail, 5 miles north of Smokemont Campground on Newfound Gap Road (U.S. 441)
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Enjoy the beauty of nature as you hike and explore the deep woods alongside the singing waters of the creek.

Duration: 2 hours. 4 miles round-trip.
Difficulty: Moderate

SUGARLANDS VISITOR CENTER AREA

Daily
Cataract Falls
Sugarlands Visitor Center
11:00 a.m.

Do you have a few minutes? Get away from the hustle and bustle by taking an easy stroll to a beautiful waterfall and learn more about the Great Smokies.

Duration: 1 hour. **Difficulty:** Easy.

Sunday
Sunday Morning in the Sugarlands
Sugarlands Visitor Center
10:00 a.m.

Reflect on how old-time religion satisfied both spiritual and social needs of the mountain people on this easy, 1 mile walk.

Duration: 1 hour. **Difficulty:** Easy.

Autumn Arrives in the Smokies
Sugarlands Visitor Center
12:30 p.m.

Join a ranger to discover the “wondrous” world of the Smokies in fall.

Duration: 45 minutes. ♻️

Junior Ranger: Ranger’s Choice
Sugarlands Visitor Center
2:00 p.m.
Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of the Smokies.
Duration: 45 minutes. ♻️

Monday
Autumn Arrives in the Smokies
Sugarlands Visitor Center
12:30 p.m.

Join a ranger to discover the “wondrous” world of the Smokies in fall.

Duration: 45 minutes. ♻️

All About Mt. LeConte
Sugarlands Visitor Center
2:00 p.m.
Everything you always wanted to know about the TALLEST (not the *biggest*) mountain in the eastern U.S.
Duration: 45 minutes. ♻️

Special Programs: Cades Cove area*

Cades Cove Full Moon hike
• Sunday, September 26
• Saturday, October 23
7:00 p.m.

Meet at the Orientation Shelter at the entrance to the Cades Cove Loop Road
Wear comfortable walking shoes.
Duration: 2 hours. **Difficulty:** Easy.

Blacksmith Demonstrations
• Saturday & Sunday: September 4, 5, October 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Presented at the Blacksmith building near the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill Historic Area, halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road
Learn the art of blacksmithing and why it was important in the Cades Cove community. ♻️

Sorghum Making Demonstration
• Friday, Saturday, & Sunday:
September 17, 18, 19, November 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14
Presented at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill Historic Area halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road
Watch sorghum cane transformed into delicious molasses. ♻️

Traditional Old Tyme Music
• Friday–Tuesday: September 3–7
• Thursday–Monday: September 9–13, 16–20
• Wednesday–Friday: September 22–24
• Sunday–Tuesday: September 26–28
10:30 a.m.

Presented at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill Historic Area halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road
The group “Tymes Past” performs music carried from the immigrant homeland and altered to a new life in the Appalachians.

Quilting
• Sunday–Wednesday: September 26, 27, 28, 29
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Presented at the Becky Cable House in the Cable Mill Historic Area halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road ♻️

Rug Hooking
• Saturday, September 11
10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Presented at the Becky Cable House in the Cable

Mill Historic Area halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road ♻️

Basketmaking
• Saturday & Sunday, October 16 & 17
10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Meet at the Cable Mill Historic Area halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road
Many people once used native plants to weave baskets for collecting and storing everything from food to flowers. ♻️

Stargazing
• Saturday, October 2
7:30 p.m.
Meet at the Orientation Shelter at the entrance to the Cades Cove Loop Road
Join a park ranger and the Smoky Mountain Astronomical Society as we learn about the stars and galaxies. Numerous telescopes will be available for viewing the night skies. Bring warm clothes, a blanket to sit on and a flashlight. The program will be postponed in the event of rain and/or cloudy weather where the night sky is not clear for viewing. Call (865) 448-4104.
Duration: 2 hours. **Difficulty:** Easy. ¼ mile walk to program site in field.

***Note:** Because of slow moving traffic it may take over an hour to drive the six miles from the start of Cades Cove Loop Road to programs at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill Historic Area

Special Program: Sugarlands Area

RAPTORS AT SUGARLANDS
Sugarlands Visitor Center Theater
Saturday, October 16
10:30 a.m.

Join “Eagle Lady” Doris Mager for a hands-on look at birds of prey and their importance to the natural world.
Duration: 1 hour. ♻️

Special Programs: Oconaluftee Visitor Center/ Mountain Farm Museum Area

Mountain Life Festival
Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to Oconaluftee Visitor Center
Saturday, September 18
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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.

**KIDS AGES 5-12, you can
become a Junior Ranger this fall!**

Just purchase a Junior Ranger booklet (\$2.50) at any park visitor center, and you are on your way to earning a free badge!



SUGARLANDS AREA CONT.


Tuesday

Autumn Arrives in the Smokies

Sugarlands Visitor Center

12:30 p.m.

Join a ranger to discover the “wondrous” world of the Smokies in fall.


Duration: 45 minutes. 

Cherokee Legends

Sugarlands Visitor Center

2:00 p.m.

Join a ranger for an introduction into Cherokee history, lore, and rituals.

Duration: 45 minutes. 

Wednesday

The CCC of the Smokies

Sugarlands Visitor Center

10:00 a.m.

Take a walk along the Old Sugarlands Trail to the early park years and visit the remains of the largest Civilian Conservation Corp camps in the Smokies. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes.

Duration: 2 ½ hours. *Difficulty:* Easy to Moderate.

Autumn Arrives in the Smokies

Sugarlands Visitor Center

12:30 p.m.

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Duration: 45 minutes. 


Thursday

Autumn Arrives in the Smokies

Sugarlands Visitor Center

12:30 p.m.

Join a ranger to discover the “wondrous” world of the Smokies in fall.

Duration: 45 minutes. 

Friday

Little Cabin in the Woods

Sugarlands Visitor Center

2:00 p.m.

What was it like living in these mountains in the 1800s? Come by and walk with a ranger to the Ownby to learn more about mountain history and culture.

Duration: 1 hour. *Difficulty:* Easy to Moderate.

Saturday

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Sugarlands Visitor Center

12:30 p.m.

Join a ranger to discover the “wondrous” world of the Smokies in fall.

Duration: 45 minutes. 

Junior Ranger: Ranger’s Choice

Sugarlands Visitor Center

2:00 p.m.

Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of the Smokies.

Duration: 45 minutes. 

ELKMONT CAMPGROUND

Thursday

Elkmont History and Nature

Elkmont Nature Trail

1:00 p.m.

Learn about what this area was like before human settlement, and how humans have used the environment for survival through the years, on this guided walk along the Elkmont Nature Trail.

Duration: 1 hour. *Difficulty:* Easy.

Friday

Logs, Rails, and Culture

Meet at Jakes Creek Trailhead near Elkmont

Campground

1:00 p.m.

Step back in time and experience “Old Elkmont” on this easy one mile hike featuring the Avent Cabin.


Duration: 2 hours. *Difficulty:* Easy to Moderate.

The First Mountain People

Elkmont Amphitheater

8:00 p.m.

Join a ranger for an introduction to Cherokee history, lore, and rituals.

Duration: 45 minutes. 


Saturday

Spin a Yarn: Mountain Tales Around the Campfire

Elkmont Amphitheater

8:00 p.m.

Join us and discover some tales that make the Smokies so mysterious.

Duration: 45 minutes. 

NEWFOUND GAP

Sunday

Morning Bird Walk

Newfound Gap Parking Area

8:00 a.m.

Bring your binoculars and meet a ranger to learn about some of our flying friends that inhabit the park.

Duration: 1 hour. *Difficulty:* Easy.

COSBY CAMPGROUND

Saturday

Fall Foliage Destinations: Where to Hike!

Cosby Amphitheater

8:00 p.m.

Sure those fall colors are beautiful from your car, but much of the foliage is better seen on trails than through your windshield. Come learn about some park trails to get you

up close and personal with the Smokies’ fall foliage.

Duration: 45 minutes. 

CHEROKEE ORCHARD ROAD

Thursday

Highland Homeland

Noab Bud Ogle Cabin

12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sit a spell on the front porch of the Ogle cabin and learn about the families who once lived here. Demonstrations and activities will vary throughout the season.

Duration: 2 hours. *Difficulty:* Easy.

METCALF BOTTOMS PICNIC AREA/LITTLE GREENBRIER SCHOOL

Tuesday

Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse

Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse near Metcalf Bottoms

Picnic area

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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. This program is fun for all ages. Please arrive 15 minutes before program start; space is limited.

Duration: 1 hour. *Difficulty:* Easy.

GREENBRIER AREA

Tuesday

The Heart of Greenbrier: Porters Flat

Meet at Porters Creek Trailhead, located in Big

Greenbrier area of the park, 6 miles east of

Gatlinburg on U.S. 321

11:00 a.m.

Discover the natural and cultural wonders of the Greenbrier area of the Smokies. Wear sturdy walking shoes and bring water.

Duration: 2 hours. *Difficulty:* Easy to moderate.

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.