

Wilderness Adventure Trek (WAT) I, June 12-17th, 2017

PARENTS - Do the following:

- Turn in these completed forms **by May 22, 2016:**
 - Medical Form
 - Contract
 - Camper T-shirt (optional)
- **ARRIVE** at Tremont **between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM on Monday, June 12.**
- **PICK UP** your child promptly at **10:00 AM on Saturday, June 17.**

NEED TO KNOW:

The MEDICAL FORM

- We cannot admit any camper who does not have a complete medical form.
 - This form must be signed by the parent or guardian.
 - You may mail, scan/email, OR fax it. (Please do not mail a hard copy if you submit your forms via fax or scan/email. We'll contact you if we can't read it.)
- In case of an accident or illness, parents will be notified if children require medical attention beyond what Tremont is able to provide. If we are unable to reach you in an emergency situation, the director will make a decision regarding appropriate action and continue to attempt to contact you or another responsible person as indicated on the medical form.
 - Your child's camping experience depends in part on his or her wellbeing. Please send only a healthy, illness-free child to camp.

CAMPER CONTRACT

Campers participating in our camps need to read and think about each of these guidelines. Read this over together, check and discuss each point, and then agree to these guidelines by signing the contract. Campers must understand, agree to, and abide by these guidelines. These expectations are important in order to create a positive and enjoyable experience for everyone involved with the program. Each teen will have responsibilities toward the group. They will be expected to carry their share of the group food and equipment, to be physically and mentally ready for the challenges of backpacking, to help with the cooking and cleaning duties, and to participate in all group activities.

ARRIVAL

We will do our best to be efficient as we meet each one of you, review your health form, collect any medications needed at camp and answer any questions you may have regarding your child's stay. Please have these medications ready for check-in. You will then have the opportunity to help your child move into the dormitory, tour the site and say your good-byes. Our sales area will be open on the first and last day of camp if you wish to purchase T-shirts, books, or other items.

MEDICATIONS

*We request that you please do **not** take your child off any regularly prescribed medications during their week at summer camp.* The resulting behavior following a sudden change in medicine regime can be difficult for both your child and our staff. We realize that opinions may differ on this. However, camp can be a challenge as it is without further burdening a child with disrupting a routine.

PHONE CALLS

Because telephone calls intrude and interrupt the magic of the camp experience, we are not able to field telephone calls between campers and parents. Rest assured, not hearing from your child is a sign that they are having fun and are fully involved in the life of camp. The best way to stay in touch with your child is by writing letters and postcards. **If there is an emergency**, you can contact us by calling our office Monday through Saturday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM and on Sunday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. When our office is closed, you can leave a message on our answering machine and we will get it first thing in the morning. If it is urgent to contact us immediately when our office is closed, call the National Park Service Dispatch at 865-436-1294.

MAIL

Every camper loves mail. Start writing those letters now! Rather than writing how much you miss your son or daughter (which is of course true but could make them homesick), consider instead telling him or her how proud you are of them for spending a week away from home! Send mail to:

(Camper's name)
WAT I
Tremont
9275 Tremont Rd
Townsend, TN 37882

SAFETY

We are proud to report that we have an outstanding safety record when it comes to kids and the outdoors. However, we do take the concerns of parents very seriously and have provided some insight into risk factors during summer camp. Please call or visit our web site if you're interested in learning more about precautions we take to ensure your child has a safe experience.

LOST AND FOUND

When picking up your child on the last day of camp, please make sure they return home with every item they brought with them. Following the end of camp we are able to keep items for only a brief period due to the large amount of lost and found items left behind. If you wish any items to be returned to you, you must notify us

immediately following the end of camp and we'll send you instructions to arrange for a UPS pick up.

WHAT ELSE TO EXPECT

Campers likely get to sleep on platform tents on the Tremont campus rather than in the dorm before the start of the backpack trip. Also, they may get the opportunity to participate in a small conservation project in the backcountry relating to our Citizen Science program. This might be collecting snail shells, inventorying ferns, or searching for beetles. This is an awesome way of learning more about the park and helping scientists in the process!

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE AT TREMONT
9275 Tremont Road
Townsend, TN 37882
Phone: 865-448-6709
Fax: 865-448-9250
www.gsmit.org ~ mail@gsmit.org