



The **Cornell** Lab  of Ornithology
BirdSleuth K-12

January 2018

Greetings from the Great Smokies!

Welcome as an enrollee to “Gardening with *Habitat Connections*,” a bird-focused educator workshop co-facilitated by Tremont Institute and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. We are excited to debut our partnership with this exciting workshop.

As you can see from the schedule, this will be a busy weekend designed to immerse you in various STEM topics related to birds’ habitat and gardening, migration, nesting, identification, citizen science, inquiry, observation skills, question asking, arguing from evidence, journaling, and reflection. Participants will learn about related online and curriculum resources and how these topics and activities can help meet the educational standards.

This workshop is made possible through a sponsorship with Alaska Fertilizer and generous donations from the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

The weekend is right around the corner—this letter will help you prepare for the trip.

Arrival and Departure:

Plan to arrive at Tremont on Friday, February 2nd between 3:00 and 5:00pm. Please register and check-in at our Front Office during that time. If you arrive after 5:00pm, please register with a Tremont faculty in the Activity Center after you have moved into the dorm. The program will begin with supper at 6:00pm in our Dining Hall. However, arriving before 5:00pm will give you the opportunity to check in, move into the dormitory, and take a short stroll or sit by the river before supper. The program will end around 2:00 pm on Sunday, February 4th.

Logistics:

Please download the pre-visit information. *Your Visit to Tremont* contains driving directions, facility information, ‘what to pack’ and other important information. Note that you should **bring your own bedding and towels**, a daypack for gear, well-worn hiking boots or sneakers, and old sneakers in case we get in the stream. Please note that **cell phones DO NOT work in the park**, but we have free wireless in the Activity Center, so you can use email to stay connected. (Keep in mind our WiFi is not the fastest).

Suggestions: There are no specific pre-readings, but if you have a few minutes, check out the Tremont Institute website (gsmmit.org) and the Cornell Lab BirdSleuth K-12 website (birdsleuth.org).

Weather:

It may help you to know that over the past 14 years, the temperatures during February have been characterized by average highs in the low-50's° F, and average lows in the low 30's° F, here in Walker Valley. Although this weekend could be unusually warm, PLEASE come prepared for being outside in the cold! Rain gear is always necessary here in the Smoky Mountains. Please bring it along.

Please note that food is not allowed in the dorm, but we have places to store food in the Activity Center.

We hope that this information is helpful to you in planning for your upcoming visit to Tremont. If you have further questions, please feel free to call.

Thank you for planning to spend a weekend at Tremont. We are looking forward to meeting many new friends and spending time with returning ones as we explore, enjoy, and learn in Great Smoky Mountains National Park together.

Sincerely,



Tiffany Beachy - Manager of Science Literacy and Research
Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont

Lindsay Glasner

Lindsay Glasner - BirdSleuth K-12 Outreach Coordinator
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