



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the **Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program: Naturalist Skills!**

Whether this is your first course or eighth course, we hope this is one of many weekends we'll learn and practice naturalist skills together as we gain knowledge about the Great Smoky Mountains.

This weekend will focus on learning and practicing skills that will connect you to nature in significant ways. We will take inspiration and tips from the rich history of naturalist-explorers, learn to use a journal as a place to capture observations and grow, and share our wonder and curiosity with each other as we probe the secrets of the world around us.

Instructor:

I am pleased to be your instructor for this workshop. Visit our website to learn more about me and the rest of our [faculty](#).

Arrival and Departure:

Plan to arrive at Tremont on Friday between 3:00 and 5:00 pm in order to have enough time to move into the dorm and meet other participants before our 6:00 pm evening meal. Check-In will take place in the Gift Shop located in our office building, which is the first structure to appear on your left after crossing the bridge onto Tremont's campus. The program will end Sunday afternoon.

Weather – Being Prepared:

January sees an average daily high of 50° F, and a low of 30° F. We will be outdoors, so bring appropriate layers. We also ask that you bring a small backpack to be hands-free and a water bottle to stay hydrated while out on the trail. Bring a rain coat! The Smokies are a very wet and humid climate and you can *expect precipitation in one form or another* at some point during your stay here.

Logistics:

Please read the "Your Visit to Tremont" link for important packing information. Along with your linens and toiletries, you may want to bring a mattress pad to ease the firm mattress, plus a bedside light or headlamp if you are a late-night reader. You may want to consider bringing some additional items with you for this weekend such as binoculars, hand lens, notepad and pencil, field guides, and camera. *Note: though wifi is available in the Activity Center, we invite and encourage you to unplug for the weekend.* Learn more about our [food](#) and [facilities](#). Please note that food is not allowed in the dorm.

Preparation:

Please read the attachments that were emailed to you in advance of the course. While most of the courses in this certification series focus on specific taxonomic groups, e.g. Birds, Mammals, *this* is the course where you will learn and hone the skills we use to study those groups—the skills of being a naturalist. It begins with noticing details in the natural world. Spend some time sitting, drawing, writing, and just being still in nature, and come ready to share your experience and take your skills to the next level!

Lastly, we are offering you a 15% discount in our bookstore during the workshop. Please note that due to our busy schedule, Friday afternoon is the best time to take advantage of this offer.

I 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 or email.

Sincerely,
Logan Rosenberg
Manager of Youth Programs

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