

Your Visit to Tremont

ABOUT TREMONT & THE NATIONAL PARK

Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont is a residential environmental education center located within Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Tremont provides experiential learning for youth, educators, and adults through programs that promote self-discovery, critical thinking, and effective teaching and leadership.

Each year, we host thousands of individuals, young and not-so-young, for multi-day immersive experiences on our campus; about 70% of our program participants receive some type of financial aid. As a nonprofit park partner, we are funded through the generosity of individuals, program fees, and grant support; learn more at gsmiit.org/donate.

HOW TO GET HERE

Tremont's campus is located at 9275 Tremont Road, about three miles from the park entrance in Townsend, Tennessee. Please refer to the attached map to guide you to our location. For folks who are traveling south to reach us, we recommend coming through Maryville to avoid congestion in Sevierville, Pigeon Forge, and Gatlinburg.

Note that cell service is very limited in the park and GPS directions may be unreliable; we recommend bringing hard copy directions.

HOUSING

Caylor Lodge is our comfortable, rustic dormitory, where you'll share space and develop community with fellow participants. The lodge is centrally heated and cooled, an important consideration in our humid climate. Wings are bunk-room style with an open floor plan, are separated by gender, and have showers and restrooms. Unless otherwise noted, participants in most programs must provide their own towels, linens, pillows, and blankets.

A limited number of canvas cabin-style tents are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Each tent is equipped with bunk beds and has easy access to the dorm and shower facilities.

Food is not allowed in the dorm or tents; a refrigerator and dry food storage will be available to you inside the Activity Center.

OUR VISITOR CENTER & STORE

Our bookstore offers a variety of shirts, sweatshirts, books, stickers, postcards, gifts, and more! It is usually open during a portion of your stay. Proceeds support our ongoing work to connect people with nature.

TREMONT PHONE & INTERNET ACCESS

There is no cell reception in Walker Valley, though a landline is available at all hours in the Mountain Room in the Activity Center. Adult program participants will have access to fast wireless internet in the Activity Center, though we encourage participants to embrace the opportunity to disconnect from their devices during Tremont programs.

If someone needs to reach you, they may leave a message at our office number, (865) 448-6709, or email us at mail@gsmiit.org. For after-hours emergencies, they can call the National Park Service at (865) 436-1294.

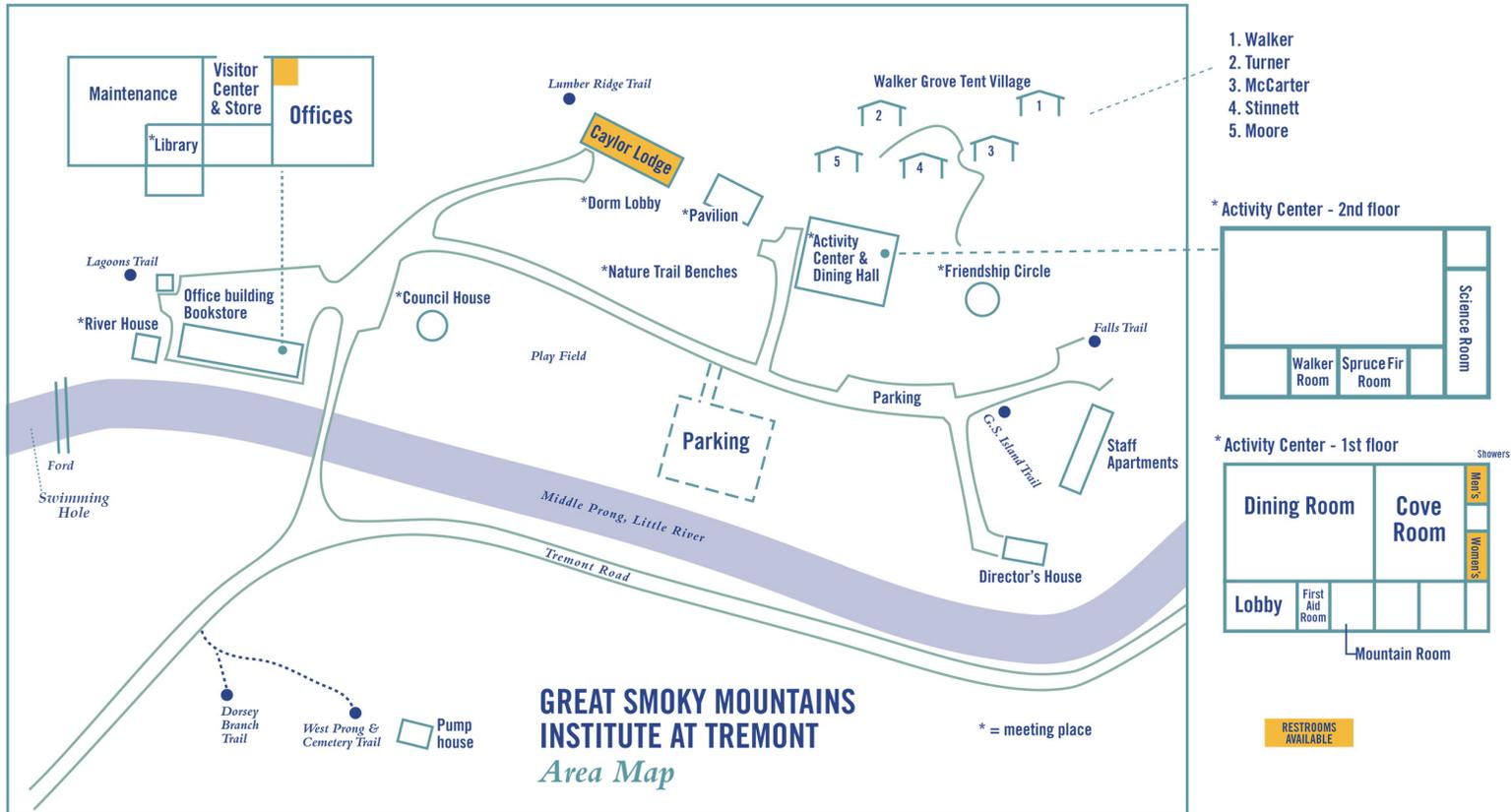
WHAT TO EXPECT

We will spend most of our time outdoors. Activities may include hiking on and off-trail, potentially including some steep terrain and rocky surfaces. Please bring comfortable clothes and hiking boots or good walking shoes, and communicate any physical concerns in advance. Be sure to bring rain gear as rain can be expected at any time of year, regardless of the weather forecast.

School students are frequently on campus having their own "Tremont experience." They will be housed in separate lodging from adults, but expect to hear them laughing and enjoying nature, and to share the dining hall during mealtimes.



SITE AND FACILITIES



Tremont is located in the watershed of the Middle Prong of the Little River, which encompasses 20,000 acres. Within this area, 20+ miles of established trails traverse various forest types, streams, and geologic formations. Tremont program participants have access to all the tremendous historic and natural resources that Great Smoky Mountains National Park offers.

CAYLOR LODGE is our comfortable, heated and air-conditioned dormitory. It is divided into four wings, each with bathroom and shower facilities. Accessible restrooms are located on the first floor. The second story is accessible by two outside stairways.

ELSIE BURRELL ACTIVITY CENTER is the central hub for most Tremont programs. The lower level contains a full-service kitchen and dining hall where meals are served. Downstairs, it has also has a large meeting room for up to 150 people, restrooms, and first aid room. The upper level includes a meeting room for up to 40 people and a science lab. A telephone is located in the Mountain Room and wireless internet access is available for adult program participants. The Activity Center will remain unlocked throughout your stay.

OFFICE BUILDING is where most program participants check in upon arrival. It houses the Visitor's Center and store, administrative offices, our library and maintenance area.

RIVER HOUSE is beside the office building. This small, outdoor meeting place overlooks the river.

RIVERSIDE ROOM is our library, located inside the office building. This indoor meeting space opens onto a patio next to the Middle Prong. There are tables, chairs and sofas for comfortable seating.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE AND COUNCIL HOUSE are two open-air group meeting sites and campfire shelters. Many programs begin and end in these spaces.

WALKER GROVE TENT VILLAGE is a group of canvas cabin-style tents that contain bunk beds. These are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

SMOKY PAVILION is a covered, open-air shelter with a cement floor, picnic tables and rocking chairs. It has electricity and lighting, making it a great spot for outdoor meals and activities.

GOLIATH TABLE is a large covered picnic table between the parking area and the Activity Center.

STAFF HOUSING Many of our staff live on site. They are accessible to you for emergency purposes.

WHAT TO BRING TO TREMONT

In addition to the usual personal items, the following checklist includes items that may be useful, helpful, or just fun to bring along if you have the space or inclination.

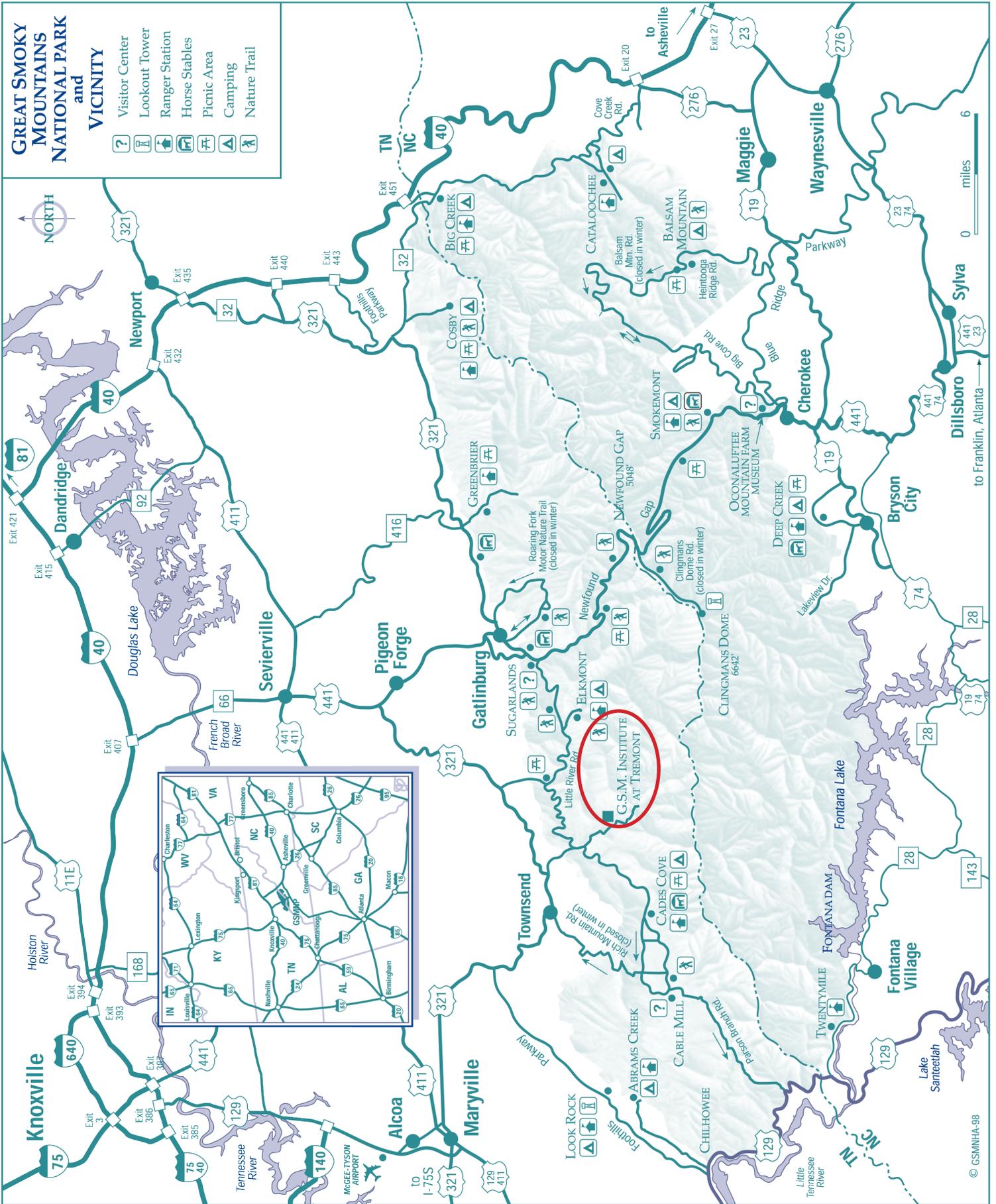
- Linens/sleeping bag:** Sheets and blankets or sleeping bag, pillowcase, pillow, towels and washcloth. These items are provided for Sierra Club and Writers Workshop groups only.
- Flashlight or headlamp:** A real help to find your bed when lights are off. It gets mighty dark in these mountains after sunset and there are no street lights.
- Slip-on shoes:** Floors are not carpeted in the dorm.
- Toiletries:** Soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc. These items are not provided by Tremont and are not sold in our store.
- Alarm clock**
- Binoculars:** Recommended for birding, spotting wildlife, stars, etc. (We have a few extra pairs.)
- Day pack:** Most programs take place outside and you will need something to carry your lunch, rain gear, water, journal, field guides, etc.
- Rain gear**
- Field guides:** We have books available but your favorite wildflower or bird guide may be helpful.
- Two water bottles**
- Small bedside light:** For reading after overhead lights are turned off.
- Waterproof boots or shoes:** For wading or swimming in streams, or for walking through wet grass.
- Mattress pad:** Our beds are very firm. You may want to bring a sleeping pad or eggcrate-style mattress if you like a softer sleeping experience.

NOTE: Food is not allowed in the dorm.

Please inquire where you may store it in the dining hall (refrigerator or dry storage) or leave it in your car.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK and VICINITY

- Visitor Center
- Lookout Tower
- Ranger Station
- Horse Stables
- Picnic Area
- Camping
- Nature Trail



G.S.M. INSTITUTE AT TREMONT