



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program elective course: Geology Weekend. We hope this is one of many weekends you'll spend with us as we seek to increase our naturalist skills and knowledge. The Great Smoky Mountains are ready and waiting for your arrival. Please read this letter in full, as it contains information about our procedures related to COVID-19.

During this weekend we will use field techniques to investigate sedimentary and metamorphic outcrops and faults within the park. We will focus on interpreting the geologic history of the region through our field observations, and draw connections between bedrock and biodiversity through soil analysis. The workshop will conclude by compiling our collective observations to illustrate the geologic history of the Smokies. It's going to be a fun-filled learning experience.

Get ready! You have registered for an intense weekend during which we will cover material and skills that many people receive in a semester-long class. If you think this sounds ambitious you are right! In order to accomplish our goals, it is necessary for you to do some pre-readings (listed below) to give you the background information needed to take part in discussions and build your toolkit of skills. We have structured this weekend to be a practicum of knowledge you learn via the written word. This means that we keep lecture time to a minimum and actually work on learning skills and practicing them.

Your 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:

Plan to arrive at Tremont on Friday between 4:00 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. When you arrive, head to the Gift Store at the Main Office for name tags and check-in. You can then pull up to the pavilion to unload your belongings if you are staying on campus. Please move all vehicles to the blacktop at the bottom of the hill before dinner.

Late arrivals: If you arrive after 5:00 pm, please park on the blacktop across from the activity center next to the field. We will give you your nametag and check in materials in the pavilion.

[Explore the full class schedule here.](#)

Weather:

The weather here can be cool in November. The average daily high for November is usually 61° F and the average daily low 37° F. Keep in mind that some activities may take you through higher elevations which can sometimes be 15° F or cooler. 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. Also bring warm clothing since we want to maximize outdoors time.

Logistics:

Please [read our COVIDSafe guidelines](#) found on our website and let us know if you have any questions or concerns. In order to slow the spread of COVID-19, please bring a mask and wear it when social distancing is impractical.

Also please read the "[Your Visit to Tremont](#)" document 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. If you'd like to bring a camp chair for the outdoor classroom you may find that more comfortable than the provided benches.

Bring a notepad and any field guides you like including *Plants, Ferns, Birds of the Smokies* and others you've acquired through the Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program. They will come in handy this weekend! Sturdy walking shoes/boots, outdoor clothing, and a hat are a must for personal comfort. *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.

Homework:

Please read the following materials ahead of time — doing so will enrich your learning and understanding of the course.

- "[The Supple Rock](#)" from *Mountains of the Heart*, by Scott Weidensaul
- **Optional** additional reading: "[Sediments, soils, and sedimentary rocks](#)", from [Essentials of Geology](#), by Stephen Marshak

A special offer just for YOU...

During the weekend, you will receive a 15% discount on any merchandise you purchase from our gift shop—this is a great deal! *Please note our gift shop will be open on arrival day only.*

I hope this information is helpful to you in planning for your upcoming visit to Tremont. Please tell a friend about us so that they too can learn about the wonders of the Smokies. If you have further questions, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Davis
Field Program Specialist

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