



Dear Naturalists,

Welcome to the **Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program: Skills for Sharing Nature!** Whether this is your first or eighth course, we hope it is one of many weekends that we'll learn and practice naturalist skills together in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Please read this letter in full, as it contains vital information about our new procedures related to **COVID-19**.

We will focus on two areas of study this weekend. The majority of our time will be spent developing skills, resources, and strategies for connecting people and nature. Our ability to interpret and inspire are key skills necessary for sharing the world with others and passing on essential information in a compelling manner. Our second area of study will help us further develop our naturalist skills. This includes field journaling, record keeping, question forming, and nurturing an awareness of the naturalist tradition.

Arrival and Departure:

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.

[Find the tentative course schedule here.](#)

Weather:

In an average year, February has average daily highs in the 50°'s F, and lows in the 30°'s 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 raincoat! 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.

Additional Logistics:

Please read our latest [COVIDSafe guidelines](#) 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. You are welcome to bring a camp chair for the outdoor classroom since you may find it more comfortable than the provided benches.

Bring a notepad as well as sturdy footwear, outdoor clothing, and a hat for personal comfort. Raingear is a must! 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 watch these videos in advance of the course:

- [Please watch at least one "Nature is Speaking" video](#)
- [Ralph Waldo Emerson and the Beauty of the Everyday](#)
- [Mindfulness and Happiness](#)
- [Amanda Gorman's reading of her poem, "Earthrise"](#)

And please read this document:

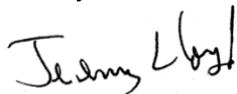
- [The National Park Service's Foundations of Interpretation](#)

A special offer just for YOU...

We are offering you a **15% discount** in our bookstore during the workshop. **Please note that the bookstore will only be open Friday 4:00 pm–5:30 pm.**

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,



Jeremy Lloyd

Manager of Field Programs and Collegiate Studies