

## Smoky Mountains Family Camp

Dear Family Campers,

**Welcome to Smoky Mountains Family Camp!** Summer in Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a magical time. Deep green forests, sparkling rivers, and the songs of birds are your daily companions. It is a wonderful time of year to come to the Smokies! We are planning many exciting activities for this wonderful week. All will be designed to give your family the opportunity to spend some easy-going time together. **Please read this letter in full, as it contains essential information for your stay at Tremont.**

### Arrival

Plan to arrive at Tremont on Monday between 3:00 and 5:00 pm. This will allow you to get moved into the dorm and to meet other families. The program will begin at the 5:45 pm evening meal.

### Parking Passes

Valid parking tags are required on any vehicles parking for longer than 15 minutes inside Great Smoky Mountains National Park as part of the Park it Forward program; this includes when parked at Tremont. **Please purchase your parking tag in advance, not when you arrive.** Click here to [purchase your daily or weekly pass online](#). All revenue will stay in the park to provide sustainable, year-round support focusing on improving the visitor experience, protecting resources, and maintaining trails, roads, historic structures, and facilities. [Learn more about Park it Forward](#).

### Departure

The program will end after morning activities on Saturday. Most of these activities will conclude around lunchtime. A sack lunch will be provided.

### Camper T-Shirts

We are happy to provide camper t-shirts at no cost to participants this year. Summer camp shirts will be available at check-in! The store will be open on the first and last day of camp.

### Activities

If you came in years past, expect some **new** activities as well as old favorites. We're putting together these programs right now, and a final schedule will be available upon arrival. Whether you like to hike, search for critters, or simply sit around the campfire, there is plenty to do. To get a sense of the activities offered at Smoky Mountain Family Camp, [take a look at the sample schedule](#).

On Wednesday, there will be an opportunity for an early morning bicycle ride in Cades Cove. We highly recommend that you **bring bicycles (and helmets!)** if you want to participate. A limited number of bicycles will be available at a park concession for rent for a small fee. However, these are first-come first-serve, so there's no guarantee.

Like last year, there will also be an opportunity to go on a one-night backpack trip. If you own your own equipment (backpack, sleeping bag, tent, etc.) please bring it. No worries if you don't – we have plenty for you to use! *Please understand that we are limited by federal regulations regarding how many people can participate. Sign-ups will occur via the lottery system following our first meal together on Monday. Names will be announced the following morning.*

You may want to bring a USB flash drive to download photos from fellow participants.

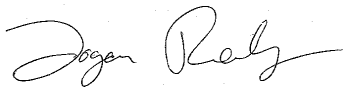
**Themed Meals:** One of our traditions is having several meals with a particular theme. Stay tuned for more information on that when we get closer to the start of camp.

**Weather:** The average daily high this time of year at Tremont is around 87° F, and the average daily low is approximately 64° F. Come prepared for cool early mornings and cooler temps during our high-country explorations. Rain gear is always necessary here in the Smoky Mountains! Please bring it. We have some wonderful swimming holes in the river, so **bring your swimsuit and water shoes** if you'd like to take advantage of them.

**Logistics:** Please read "[Your Visit to Tremont](#)." This includes important packing information. Along with linens and toiletries you may want to bring a mattress pad to ease the firm mattress. You also may want to consider bringing an alarm clock, binoculars, notepad and pencil, field guides, camera, and a garbage bag for storing wet clothes. Rain gear and a hat are also important for your comfort. We have several platform tents available on a first-come first-serve basis. Should you choose to stay in a tent rather than the dorm, please inform us of your preference in advance if you have not already done so. We recommend that you bring a battery-powered lantern and alarm clock. Please note that food is not allowed in the dormitory or in our tents.

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.

Sincerely,



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