

**GREAT SMOKY
MOUNTAINS
INSTITUTE AT
TREMONT**

2024 PROGRAMS

ADULT & FAMILY • SUMMER YOUTH • SCHOOL PROGRAMS • TEACHER DEVELOPMENT • COMMUNITY SCIENCE



LIVE AND LEARN IN THE SMOKIES

Picture yourself in a world where education doesn't just inform, but transforms – where personal growth intertwines with local ecosystems, and new understanding sparks a profound sense of connection.

Welcome to Tremont. We're a nonprofit environmental education center located inside Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Our goal is simple: to offer immersive educational experiences that create positive change for both people and our planet.

In partnership with the national park, our research and residential programs investigate diversity, develop a sense of place, and cultivate a stewardship ethic that will influence lifelong decision-making.

Whether you're a young adventurer, an inquisitive adult, or a passionate educator, our hands-on programs are designed to spark curiosity, foster self-discovery, and nurture critical thinking.

We invite you to join us.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Programs at a Glance	4-5
Adult & Family	6-11
Summer Youth	12-13
Teacher Professional Development	14-15
School Programs	16-17
Community Science	18-19
Future of Tremont	20-21
We All Belong in Nature	22-23

VISIT OUR CAMPUS

Our campus is in Walker Valley, a historically rich section of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and part of the ancestral homeland of the Cherokee. Surrounded by miles of trails, a rushing river, and a half million acres of mountains and forests, we have the perfect playground for discovery.

We can house up to 135 people on site and have a full kitchen staff serving three hot meals per day.

Our visitor's center is open to the public; stop in for directions, a friendly chat, or to pick up a field guide to fuel your curiosity. All proceeds support Tremont's mission to connect people with nature.

MEET THE PEOPLE

We take hospitality seriously. Whether you are hiking a trail, enjoying a meal, shopping in our visitor's center, or sharing stories around the campfire, you will recognize both warmth and professionalism in our team.

Our faculty have years of experience teaching at Tremont, in classrooms, and other centers around the country. Visit gsmit.org/about to meet our faculty, staff, and board of directors.

"We are honored to invite you to immerse yourself in nature and experience the joy and wonder that it can bring. When you spend time with us away from the distractions in our busy lives, you are making an investment in your own well-being and the well-being of our environment. Through your experiences at Tremont, we expect you will find that living and learning in the National Park can help you to feel better in body and spirit."

Catey McClary, President & CEO



Explore our impact at
gsmit.org/annual-report

ADULT & FAMILY

JANUARY

- 7-14 Wilderness First Responder Course
26-28 Wilderness First Responder Refresher

FEBRUARY

- 2-4 SANCP: * Naturalist Skills
3 SANCP: Winter Woody Plant ID
16-18 SANCP: Skills for Sharing Nature
16-18 SANCP: Likin' Lichens

APRIL

- 12-15 Springtime in the Smokies
Photography Workshop

MAY

- 10-12 SANCP: Plants of the Smokies
10-12 SANCP: Birds of the Smokies

SUMMER YOUTH

JUNE

- 10-15 Discovery Camp I
10-15 Wilderness Adventure Trek I
10-15 Girls in Science
17-22 Trout Adventure Camp
24-29 Discovery Camp II
24-29 Wilderness Adventure Trek II
24-29 Backcountry Ecological Expedition

JUNE

- 17-21 Naturalist Week

JULY

- 2-5 Firefly Camp
5-7 SANCP: Reptiles and Amphibians
8-13 Smoky Mountain Family Camp

AUGUST

- 2-4 SANCP: Aquatic Natural History

SEPTEMBER

- 27-29 SANCP: Naturalist Skills
27-29 SANCP: Southern Appalachian
Ecology

** SANCP: Southern Appalachian
Naturalist Certification Program*

JULY

- 2-5 Firefly Camp
8-13 Smoky Mountain Family Camp
15-25 Teen High Adventure
22-28 Great Smokies Experience

OCTOBER

- 3-6 Women's Backpack
13-18 Sierra Club: Autumn Glory
in the Smokies
23-27 Tremont Writers Conference

NOVEMBER

- 1-4 Autumn Brilliance Photography
Workshop
8-10 SANCP: Mammals
8-10 SANCP: Geology

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- APRIL 13 Schoolyard Escape

- AUGUST 17-18
SEPTEMBER 7-8 Teacher Escape Weekends
21-23

THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR

- Schoolyard Network Sessions
Schoolyard Walk Workshops

REGISTER ONLINE AT [GSMIT.ORG](https://gsmi.org)

ADULT HIKING & BACKPACKING

Women's Fall Backpack

Oct. 3-6 | \$577

Enjoy early fall with a group of adventurous women on the trail and around the campfire. Join two experienced naturalist guides on a three-day (two-night) beginner backpacking adventure. Food, permits, transportation to and from the trail, group equipment (including tents, cookware, backpacks, and sleeping bags), and extensive knowledge of the Smokies will be provided.

Sierra Club: Autumn Glory in the Smokies

Oct. 13-18

Come hike with fellow outdoor enthusiasts through the hiking club founded by John Muir in 1892. Beginner and experienced hikers are welcome. For pricing and registration, visit gsmit.org/sierra-club.

WILDERNESS EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER

Wilderness Emergency Medical Responder Course

Jan. 7-14 | \$991

Led by instructors from Roane State Community College, the program curriculum meets the Tennessee Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and national registry standards for First Responder training.

Wilderness Emergency Medical Responder Refresher

Jan. 26-28 | \$572

This program satisfies the requirements for the renewal of your First Responder certification. It is also an excellent review of wilderness medical information and skills.

Ask about our Louise Barber Scholarship for first responder courses!



PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Photo by Bob Spring, 2023 Spring Workshop Participant

Springtime in the Smokies

April 12-15 | \$912

Autumn Brilliance

Nov. 1-4 | \$912

Our photography workshops feature renowned photographers such as Tom Vadnais, Susan Milinkovich, Todd Moore, Dan Thompson and Steve Zigler guiding you through the best photo spots in the Smokies. Whether you are a beginner or a professional photographer, you will benefit from one-on-one assistance and helpful critiques during these energizing weekend workshops.

Register online at **gsmit.org**



NATURALIST CLASSES & CERTIFICATION

The **Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program (SANCP)** is a field-based program that offers basic training in southern Appalachian ecology and interpretive techniques. Sign up for the classes that interest you, or choose a class to begin working toward your certification.

Our SANCP exemplifies rigorous learning that is *fun*. All courses are taught by Tremont faculty complemented by other experts, researchers, and park professionals. Complete all eight core classes to receive a certificate from the University of Tennessee.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE



SANCP Core Courses | \$494 per course

Naturalist Skills - Feb. 2-4 & Sep. 27-29

Skills for Sharing Nature - Feb. 16-18

Birds of the Smokies - May 10-12

Plants of the Smokies - May 10-12

Reptiles & Amphibians - July 5-7

Aquatic Natural History - Aug. 2-4

Southern Appalachian Ecology - Sep. 27-29

Mammals - Nov. 8-10

Want a sample of all our SANCP classes? Check out
Naturalist Week: Summer Camp for Adults on page 10.

Elective Courses

Not required for certification -
enjoy these SANCP bonuses!

Winter Woody Plant ID - Feb. 3 | \$88

Likin' Lichens - Feb. 16-18 | \$494

Geology - Nov. 8-10 | \$494

All overnight programs include meals, lodging, and instruction.

NATURALIST WEEK

Naturalist Week: Summer Camp for Adults

June 17-21 | \$989

Whether you're a beginner or advanced naturalist, you'll learn from nature, deepen your connection to the natural world, and develop your outdoor skills at a one-of-a-kind summer camp for curious adults.

Virtual Naturalist Week

June 17-21 | Free

Celebrate nature from wherever you are! While the Naturalist Week adult summer camp is at Tremont, people of all ages are invited to join in on the exploration from their own backyards.



Tremont Writers Conference

Oct. 23-27 | \$1,450

Join renowned authors and professional park educators for a writers conference like no other. Apply to participate in this five-day intensive retreat, where you'll focus on your area of interest: fiction, nonfiction or poetry. Applications will be accepted in early 2024.





FAMILY CAMPS

Firefly Camp

July 2-5 (Choose one, two, or three nights) | \$94+

Children and their grown-ups will bond during a one-, two-, or three-night stay in the park! Play games that build confidence and awaken the senses. Learn about the forest and wade in a mountain stream. Sing songs around the campfire and watch the fireflies as dusk falls. This popular camp fills quickly so sign up early! Children ages 4-9.

Smoky Mountain Family Camp

July 8-13 | \$615+

Let us host your family vacation in the Smokies! With so many options like hikes, swim time, nature activities, crafts, music, and more, the hardest part will be deciding how you want to spend your week together.

Erin Rosolima



Rich Bryant



Erin Rosolina



Erin Rosolina

NATURE EXPLORATION

Discovery Camp

June 10-15 & June 24-29 | \$794

This is a classic summer camp in the Smokies experience: splashing in the swimming hole, playing in the forest, making new friends around the campfire, and more. Ages 9-12.

Backcountry Ecological Expedition

June 24-29 | \$930

Explore relatively undisturbed areas of the park, conducting field experiments and recording observations. You'll explore creeks and hollows in search of the next organism new to the park or even to science! Ages 13-17.

Girls in Science

June 10-15 | Price varies based on need

Join other intrepid girls for the adventure of your life, getting up close and personal with critters, plants, and the forces that shape our natural world. Ages 12-15.

John Thurman Trout Adventure Camp

June 17-22 | \$550

Gain an appreciation of cold-water conservation through the sport of fly fishing. Campers will learn fly casting, tying flies, and secrets of fishing in mountain streams from the experienced mentors. Financial aid is available through Trout Unlimited. Ages 12-16.

WILDERNESS BACKPACKING

Wilderness Adventure Trek - June 10-15 & June 24-29 | \$883

You'll start by learning the skills necessary for planning and enjoying a safe, successful backpacking trip. And before you know it, you'll be climbing a mountain, carrying everything you need to survive for four days and three nights. Ages 13-17.

Teen High Adventure - July 15-25 | \$1,707

Spend six nights and seven days backpacking in the national park. You will be amazed at the skills and confidence you gain from this 10-day adventure. Ages 13-17.

EARN COLLEGE CREDIT

Maryville College Great Smokies Experience - July 22-28

Hike, paddle, and explore in the mountains while learning about biodiversity, sustainability, and sense of place. Students spend half of their time at Tremont, and the other half living on campus at Maryville College. For rising high school juniors and seniors, this once-in-a-lifetime experience offers the most fun you can have while earning three credit hours in environmental studies. For pricing and registration, visit gsmit.org/gse.

Need financial assistance? We can help!
Learn more at gsmit.org/financial-aid



BRINGING TREMONT TO THE CLASSROOM

From our 50+ years of experience, we know that immersive, inquiry-based learning fosters greater engagement, connections between concepts, and lesson retention. That's why we offer professional development opportunities for educators to feel more confident using experiential teaching methods in their own classrooms and outdoor spaces.

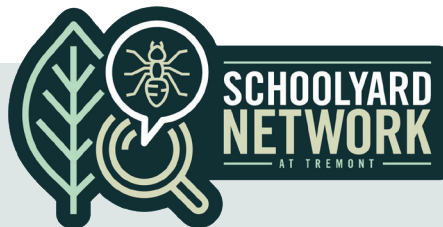
We envision communities where:

- ✓ Outdoor experiential education is integral and frequent
- ✓ Teachers and students share curiosity around their subject matter and their world.
- ✓ Deep student-teacher relationships are foundational.

FIND SUCCESS IN THE SCHOOLYARD NETWORK

Join our virtual network of peer educators contributing resources, sharing field-tested success stories, and offering support for schoolyard learning.

The Schoolyard Network is free for educators across the country. Learn more at gsmit.org/schoolyard-network.



We strive to offer these opportunities at a low cost to teachers. Thank you to Arconic Foundation for supporting this work.



John DiDiego



Erin Rosolina



Erin Rosolina

EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS

Teacher Escape Weekends

Aug. 17-18, Sep. 7-8 & Sep. 21-22 | \$88

This fun retreat highlights the power of experiential learning and our cooperative teaching method. First-timers and 20-year veterans will meet, share best practices, and engage in experiential learning as a community of practice. There is no better way for a teacher to prepare to bring their students to Tremont- or for engaging them in their schoolyard.

Schoolyard Escape

April 13 | \$35

Join Tremont's education team for a single-day workshop at a local school to explore teaching standards applied in an outdoor setting, introduce new activities to take back to the schoolyard, and connect and share with other like-minded educators. Open to K-12 teachers across all subjects and experience levels.

Register online at gsmi.org

NEW Schoolyard Walks:

Professional Development in Your Schoolyard

Flexible dates | \$150 per school

In this personalized workshop, we will travel to your school to support educators in seeing the schoolyard through a new lens. Teachers will leave with a minute-by-minute lesson plan that takes learning from four walls to no walls while also aligning to curriculum goals. Contact annie@gsmi.org to learn more and sign up.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF FIELD TRIP

At Tremont, education takes on an immersive form. It's about stepping beyond conventional boundaries, venturing into the outdoors, and igniting a cascade of inquiries. This isn't just learning – it's a dynamic process of engaging with the world.

Our distinctive approach involves residential trips spanning 3 to 5 days, during which students become inhabitants and explorers of the national park. They aren't mere spectators, but instead are active participants. Guided by an accomplished faculty of dedicated educators, our curriculum aligns with academic standards, imparting not just skills and knowledge, but also nurturing inquisitiveness and critical thinking.

What we do:

- ✓ Engage teachers and students through hands-on experiences.
- ✓ Help students build critical thinking skills and scientific literacy.
- ✓ Challenge teachers and students to develop personal and meaningful connections to the land and to each other.
- ✓ Model best teaching practices through cooperative teaching.
- ✓ Immerse participants in the biodiversity and beauty of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

COOPERATIVE TEACHING

Cooperative teaching is a team-teaching approach that provides opportunities to connect subjects and standards from the classroom to hands-on lessons at Tremont. When teachers team up with Tremont faculty to practice experiential education techniques, they gain confidence and are more likely to transfer those skills back to the classroom.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Increased student learning

Student-teacher bonding

Teacher support for experiential education

Schedule your school's trip to Tremont.
Learn more at gsmit.org/schools



FINANCIAL AID

We strive for our experiences to be accessible to all—regardless of financial means. Tremont provides limited financial aid and can share successful fundraising strategies from other schools just like yours! Call us at (865) 448-6709. Visit gsmitt.org/financial-aid.

Rich Bryant

OUR CORE EDUCATIONAL PILLARS



Curiosity
sparks excitement
for learning



Rich Experiences
capture the full
cycle of learning



Connection
to self, others, and
the natural world



Rich Bryant



Rich Bryant

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Public participation in scientific research connects people to nature through careful, intentional observations of our ecosystems. What could be more fun than getting to know our fellow species up close and personally while documenting important data that can be used to protect the places we love?

Community science brings participants and volunteers together with research partners including:

- Caterpillars Count!
- Discover Life in America
- Institute for Bird Populations
- Monarch Watch
- National Park Service
- National Phenology Network

PROJECTS INCLUDE:



PHENOLOGY
MONITORING



OTTER
SPOTTER



MONARCH
TAGGING



AMPHIBIAN
MONITORING



BIRD
BANDING

Explore our findings in our interactive community science report at gsmit.org/community-science



CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY SCIENCE RESEARCH

- ✓ Develop a deeper sense of place in the park and your own backyard
- ✓ Contribute to research that informs REAL management decisions.
- ✓ Be part of global efforts to understand how our world works.

Most community science projects require training and a long-term commitment, though many only require a few hours each month, seasonally. If you're interested in joining our team of dedicated volunteers, email science@gsmit.org!

OTHER WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

Throughout the year, our dedicated volunteers assist with a variety of activities such as event planning, friend-raising, fundraising, and maintenance projects. If you want to get involved, explore our volunteer opportunities at gsmit.org/volunteer.

Rich Bryant

SUPPORT LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES IN THE SMOKIES

A Tremont experience is life-changing. Whether they come as part of a school group, summer camp, adult program, or community science project, participants form a deeper connection to nature and each other while gaining a fuller understanding of their place in our world.

Our community of supporters value our mission and understand the importance of place-based learning in the Smokies. Your contributions directly impact our ability to provide scholarships and financial assistance to those in need and sustain our day-to-day operations—bringing to life Tremont’s goal of making our programs accessible to all and shaping the next generation of nature’s stewards and champions.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scholarships create opportunities for youth to experience the wonders of the Smokies when they otherwise couldn’t afford it. This could support an individual camper or a school group.

GO FUND

The GO Fund makes our work possible by supporting behind-the-scenes operations – tools to keep our buildings safe and clean, nutritious meals for guests, staff training and much more.

Donate online at gsmitt.org/donate or send a check by mail to 9275 Tremont Road, Townsend, TN, 37882.



To learn more about supporting Tremont through our endowment fund, planned giving, stock donations, corporate sponsorships, or shopping give-back programs, contact our Development Director, Megan Womack at megan@gsmitt.org or 865.448-6709 x24.

Kelli Bryant



EXPANDING OUR IMPACT

We have a vision where people of all ages come to imagine new possibilities for themselves and for the planet. To achieve this, we are embarking on an ambitious journey to build a second campus that will serve as a world-class education center, providing unparalleled learning opportunities for all.

Our second campus will be regenerative, expanding our program capacity and the types of audiences we serve, while using forward-thinking technologies and innovative land management to inspire and empower people to build healthy connections to nature.

We plan to show what is possible when we build with intention – when we build places that inspire connection.



for a second campus that connects

Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont

Learn more at tremontfuture.org



WE ALL BELONG IN NATURE

At Tremont, we deeply believe that connection to place and to each other makes us more whole and our communities more resilient. We succeed in our mission when we facilitate inclusive outdoor experiences that contribute to each participant's sense of belonging in nature and the Great Smoky Mountains.

We embrace the idea of nature as not that which is untouched by humanity but where life thrives. As such, we have the opportunity to address inequities that prevent individuals from thriving at Tremont. This includes addressing the systemic racism that has resulted in the intentional exclusion of Black, Indigenous, and other marginalized community members from being welcomed or safe in the outdoors, precluding their feelings of belonging in these spaces.

This work takes planning and intentionality. We accept our responsibility to adjust our policies, teaching practices, and workplace culture to provide equality of access to, and connection with, a healthy natural environment. Our ongoing efforts center on racial equity, yet we understand the intersection of this work with other discrimination based on physical ability, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or ethnic background.

When we uplift the most marginalized communities, we all become stronger.



As Superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, it is my honor to welcome you to some of the most rewarding experiences we offer for students of all ages at Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. I've had the privilege of experiencing firsthand several of the unique educational programs provided by Tremont. These immersive programs are an integral part of the park's overall Resource Education mission to help connect people to this special place and also to the overall lifelong benefits of having a relationship with the natural world. The memories created at Tremont now span several generations. What a legacy!

Park rangers and volunteers with the National Park Service provide a variety of educational experiences for school children and park visitors throughout the year. Tremont's multi-day residential environmental education programs expand upon these opportunities and serve to deepen the connections between the history, diversity, beauty, and wonder of the Smokies. Through these overnight experiences, participants have the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in this incredible natural laboratory, one of the most diverse ecosystems in the temperate world. And, as we discover more about the world around us, we end up discovering much about ourselves.

The Smokies has long been a place of discovery and we invite you to explore the forests and waters of these ancient mountains with us. Thank you for supporting Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont and their efforts in changing the lives of thousands by introducing scores of teachers and young people to these precious cultural and natural resources, here at the Smokies, who otherwise wouldn't have had the opportunity.

We hope you enjoy your stay in the heart of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and that you will be inspired to return again soon.

Cassius M. Cash, Superintendent

**GREAT SMOKY
MOUNTAINS
INSTITUTE AT
TREMONT**

9275 Tremont Rd.
Townsend, TN 37882
(865) 448-6709

**CONNECT
OUTSIDE**



4 SEASONS

500,000 ACRES TO EXPLORE

30+

programs in addition
to our school group experiences



**CONNECT
ONLINE**



Sign up for our email newsletter!

gsmit.org