



Dear Friends,

Welcome to **Springtime in the Smokies Photography Workshop** at Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. What better place to celebrate fresh signs of the spring and improve your nature photography skills than in Great Smoky Mountains National Park! We look forward to spending this time with you! **Please read this letter in full, as it contains essential information for your visit to Tremont.**

Arrival and Departure:

Plan to arrive between 1:00 and 5:00 pm to allow enough time to move into the dorm and meet other participants. Note that there are optional afternoon presentations beginning at 3:00, and the evening meal begins at 6:00. When you arrive, head to the Visitor's Center 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. Then look for someone with your nametag and check-in materials in the dining hall area.

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](#).

Logistics:

Please read our [latest COVID-19 guidelines](#) prior to your trip and let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Please read the "[Your Visit to Tremont](#)" document for basic information for your experience and check out the [Springtime in the Smokies Workshop Schedule, Gear Checklist and Suggested Readings](#) document for a tentative schedule, information about your instructors, and other important details related to the workshop. We recommend bringing a laptop for photo processing during the workshop. We do not have laptops available to loan.

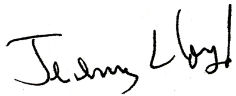
Along with your linens and toiletries, you may want to bring a mattress pad to ease the firm mattress, plus a bedside light or headlamp if you are a late-night reader. Learn more about our [food](#) and [facilities](#). Please note that food is not allowed in the dorm. *Wifi is available in the Activity Center, but we invite and encourage you to unplug for the weekend.*

Schedule Overview:

Field photo shoots occur on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Please see your tentative schedule (linked above) for additional details. One of the highlights of every workshop is the group photo review on Sunday afternoon. The program ends on Monday following an optional late-morning presentation.

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 or email.

Sincerely,



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