

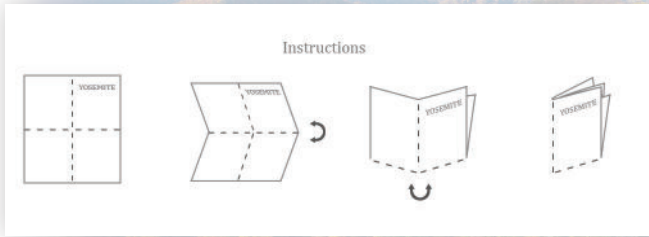


SCA's mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of the environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land.

It's Our Job, Every Day

Every day SCA unites young people with hands-on environmental challenges. Every day we create future stewards of our land, healthier environments and—ultimately—a better world.

Visit us online at thesca.org



GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Nestled along the North Carolina-Tennessee border, Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the largest national park east of the Rockies. Its peaks are thought to be some of the oldest in the world, and their famous haze—the Cherokees once referred to the region as The Land of Blue Mist—is the result of water vapor and hydrocarbons released by the park's myriad trees, though the affect is now accentuated by air pollution.

Designated by the United Nations as an International Biosphere Reserve, Great Smoky Mountains NP is known as the Salamander Capital of the World. Sharp-eyed visitors can see dozens of species in a single day. With its rich ecosystem and deep cultural roots, the park is an ideal choice for connecting with nature and history.

To date, more than 1,600 SCA members have helped to protect and restore Great Smoky Mountains NP, and in recent years the park has hosted scores of under-represented students in SCA's National Park Service Academy, a workforce development and diversity initiative.



- Photography
 - Horseback Riding
 - Appalachian Trail (71 miles of the)
 - Hiking
 - Cultural resources
 - Fall colors/leaf viewing
 - Cycling
 - Camping
- Park Highlights:**

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Winter conditions may cause closings of roads, campgrounds and other facilities, so check with the park before planning your travel.

Hours & Seasons:

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Cultural resources: Park history includes prehistoric Paleo Indians, the tragic Trail of Tears, and numerous preserved historic structures. The Oconaluftee Visitors Center has a replica farm and village, including a kid-friendly blacksmith's shop. You may bump into SCA interpretative interns working at the museum or visitor centers.

Biking: Rent at Cades Cove. Loop Road has turn-offs to reduce the roundtrip and is closed to motor vehicles until 10am every Saturday and Wednesday during the summer.

Hiking: *Chimney Top Trail* is a popular, two-mile uphill jaunt with a non-technical rock scramble at the end. A swimming hole with waterfall is only 100 meters past trailhead. Heavy usage brings SCA crews back year after year. *Clingman's Dome*, at 6,644 ft., is the highest peak in the park and connects to the Appalachian Trail. Or climb to LeConte Lodge atop *Mount LeConte* (make your reservation ahead of time, and obtain a permit for overnights in the backcountry.) *Laurel Falls* is a short and less strenuous hike along a paved path. *Grotto Falls Trail* escorts you behind the waterfall.

Horseback Riding: Over 550 miles of trail are available. The park offers guided horseback tours, carriage and wagon rides. Bring your own horses to the park but always stay on designated trails.

THINGS TO DO