



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
107 Park Headquarters Road
Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738



Dear Interested Party:

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a special place for many people. Individuals, families, and friends may wish to scatter ashes of a deceased loved one inside the park. There are no fees connected with scattering cremains in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, but it is necessary to obtain this permission granted as a 'Letter of Permission' pursuant to 36 CFR 2.62(b).

You must adhere with all guidelines in this letter to be in compliance. This Letter of Permission must be in possession of the person on site scattering ashes. For those pre-planning a service, please place a copy of the Letter of Permission with planning documents. Spreading ashes should be exercised with discretion by following the guidelines below as it is generally a very private moment and care should be given not to disturb other park users.

This Letter of Permission authorizes the scattering of ashes in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, subject to the following conditions:

- There are no designated sites for scattering of ashes, but the location you choose must be at least 150 feet (50 yards) away from developed areas such as parking lots, trailheads, campgrounds, picnic areas; at least 150 feet (50 yards) from any water source such as a river or lake; and 300 feet (100 yards) from any buildings, towers, or historic sites, including historic structures and cemeteries.
- The ashes must be scattered and not deposited in any type of container or left in a pile. Ashes may not be buried even without a container. The identifying tags and the containers in which the ashes are packaged by the crematory must be disposed of outside the park.
- No marker or memorial of any sort may be placed or left at the site. The placement or planting of real or artificial flowers, memorial trees, rock cairns, plaques, brass/cement markers, or wooden crosses is prohibited.
- No flower petals, birds, butterflies, or objects such as balloons and lanterns may be released in conjunction with the scattering of cremains within the national park.

- A copy of this Letter of Permission must accompany the person performing the scattering.
- Cremation must be accomplished in accordance with state law.

For any other questions or concerns please contact the Special Use Permit office by phone, (865)436-1207, or email, grsm_special_use__permits@nps.gov.

We are glad to have the opportunity to grant the wishes of those who have cared so much about Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S Kloster".

Steven Kloster
Chief Ranger