Many areas of the park, including roads, frontcountry campgrounds, and picnic sites, are closed during severe cold or winter weather. Please see the park's website at www.nps.gov for the latest closure information.

The following trails that cross streams with no bridges during flooding. The following trails that cross streams with no bridges during flooding may be impassable due to high water:

- Abrams Creek Trail
- Branch Road
- Eagle Crown Trail
- Finley Cane Trail
- Gregory Ridge Trail
- Indian Grave Gap Trail
- Roundtop Trail
- Vena Creek Trail

Nearly all park trails cross small streams—making very wet crossings during flooding. (Asterisks ** indicate the presence of Stream Crossings.)
Great Smoky Mountains

For Your Safety

Do not leave valuables in sight inside your car. Do not leave a note or say anything aloud about how long you will be hiking. People might be trying to find you or talking to you while you are hiking or holding your car.

Leave No Trace

Your personal commitment to ethical backcountry use is the most important factor in maintaining the park’s wilderness character. Take into account your leave no trace of your presence here.

Always follow backcountry use regulations. They are designed for resource protection.

Use a stove and candle lantern to minimize the trimming and destruction of vegetation that result from burning fires.

Never cook or burn food in a campfire. Food residues and odors remain and attract wildlife that will become a problem for future campers.

Keep your camp small to preserve a sense of solitude.

Camp where your campers already exist. Don’t make new sites.

Pack out all leftover food and trash.

Avoid cutting across switchbacks, to prevent destructive trail erosion.

If you Get Lost

Stay calm, do not use the trail running closest to you, and do not stay at a point of interconnection.

Let someone know your schedule and travel plans, so they can call the park rangers if you are overdue.

Toilet Use

Improper human waste disposal is one of the most disgusting conditions in the park. Backcountry use regulations require that human feces be disposed of in a six-inch deep hole and covered with at least six inches of soil. Toilet use may occur within 100 feet of water sources or within sight of a trail or shelter. Toilets are not available at shelter or near a spring. The park is in excellent sanitary conditions and is clearly marked by the US Park Police. All toilet paper, sanitary napkins, and tampons must be packed out. Please, take a little extra care!

Great Smoky Mountains

Using the Chart at Right

The following equipment is considered traditional and essential: matches, extra flashlight(s), water, rafting life-raft, cooking equipment, extra high-energy food, and extra clothing. This list may be varied to carry a map and how to use it.

Rules and Regulations

1. All camping is permitted while in the backcountry.

2. Camping is permitted only at designated sites and shelter. All sites require advance reservations. You may not stay two nights in a row in the same shelter. Campsite 10 has more than three consecutive camping days.

3. Maximum group size is eight persons, or eight persons at the sites noted in the “Camping Permits” section.

4. Fires are prohibited except at designated sites. Use only odorless and dead-on-the-ground. Never cut live standing trees. Use only established fire rings.

5. Poop holes and hammocks are not allowed. They may not be used unless within designated campsites. Hammocks may be used at campsites as long as it is a wood or tree sawn strap or they are set up in areas where vegetation will not be damaged.

6. Horses must not be tied closer than 100 feet of the trail shelters or in cooking or sleeping areas. Horses must be kept tied to a tree and must not be released.

Horse use

Horses and other pack animals (5, 10, 15, and 20 animals) are permitted in the backcountry, but are restricted to trails marked for horse use (see map on other side). Many horse trails are very steep and narrow—a challenge for even the most experienced horse and rider. Remoteness and difficulty of access often make continual trail maintenance and care impractical. Expect to encounter rugged conditions. Please call the Backcountry Information Office for more information.

1. For reservations call 865-436-7318 x226 (if camping) or x229 (if hiking). Group size, site names, and special conditions are noted on the park trail guidebook. To order a map or guide, call (865) 436-7318 x220 or visit www.fsbo.combackcountry.com.

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