

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park**  
**2015 Spring Ranger-led Program Schedule**  
**March 15 - May 9**

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**Daily:**

**Cataract Falls Walk**

*Sugarlands Visitor Center*

**11:00 a.m.**

Do you have a few minutes to learn some fascinating facts about the Smokies? If so, let's get away from the hustle and bustle and take an easy stroll to beautiful Cataract Falls.

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Mountain Farm Museum**

*Adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center*

**Dawn to Dusk**

Walk down to the farm for a glimpse into the past. Self-guiding brochures are always available and some days you may find demonstrations such as blacksmithing, hearth cooking, or gardening, taking place. Accessible to persons using wheelchairs

**Mingus Mill Demonstration**

*Located a half-mile north of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center on US 441 (Newfound Gap Road)*

**9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Starting April 12**

Chat with a miller and feel the rumble of this historic gristmill in action.

Accessibility: Two steps into mill

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**Sunday:**

**WILD Program**

*Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center area halfway around the Loop Road*

**2:30 pm**

A short talk and demonstration about the wild things in the Smokies. Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

**Duration:** 30 minutes

**So You Wanna Take a Hike?**

*Sugarlands Visitor Center Patio*

**1:00 pm**

How should you prepare for day hike or overnight trip in the Smokies? Learn the do's and don'ts in this fact-filled program for all ages and experience levels.

**Duration:** 45 min

**Difficulty:** Easy

## **Mammal Mania!**

*Oconaluftee Visitor Center, South Porch*

**2:00 p.m.**

Opossums and elk and bears, Oh my! Join a Ranger for a hands-on discovery of mammals in the park. Accessible to persons using wheelchairs

**Duration:** 45 minutes

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## **Monday:**

### **Five Sisters Cove: The Walker Sisters of Little Greenbrier (begins April 13<sup>th</sup>)**

*Meet at Little Greenbrier School, near Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area*

**11:00 a.m.**

Join a ranger for a 2.2 mile roundtrip hike to learn about the famous Walker Sisters of Little Greenbrier. We'll talk about adaptation and the flexibility required of these strong-willed sisters to live in the old-fashioned way.

**Duration:** 2 ½ hours

**Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate

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## **Tuesday:**

### **Precious Memories**

*Meet at the Primitive Baptist Church in Cades Cove*

**11:00am & 1:00pm**

Discover the importance of this church in Cades Cove's everyday life.

**Duration:** 30 minutes

### **In the Heart of Greenbrier**

*Meet at the Porters Creek Trailhead in Greenbrier*

**1:00 pm**

Enjoy a beautiful walk through an emerald green forest to one of the Smokies' hidden gems. See a wonderful waterfall, a babbling brook and learn to identify some lovely wildflowers along the way.

**Duration:** 3 hours

**Difficulty:** Moderate

### **Little Greenbrier School (begins April 14th)**

*Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse near Metcalf Bottoms Picnic area*

**11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.**

Go back a hundred years to discover what education was like in a one-room mountain schoolhouse. This program is fun for all ages. Please arrive 15 minutes before program starts; space is limited.

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Difficulty:** Easy

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## Wednesday:

### Old Elkmont

*Meet at the Elkmont Campground Entrance Station*

**1:00 p.m.**

Take an afternoon stroll with a ranger to find out what life was like in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century logging and resort town of Elkmont.

**Duration:** 1 ½ hours.

**Difficulty:** Easy

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## Thursday:

### Precious Memories

*Meet at the Primitive Baptist Church in Cades Cove*

**11:00am & 1:00pm**

Discover the importance of this church in Cades Cove's everyday life.

**Duration:** 30 minutes

### The Stories that Flowers Tell

*Meet at Sugarlands Visitor Center for a Walk along Ash Hopper Branch*

**1:00 pm**

If flowers could talk what stories would they tell? Take a walk to hear some interesting folklore about the flowers of the Smokies, and get to know your favorites a bit better.

**Duration:** 1 ½ hours

**Difficulty:** Easy

### Hike to Andrews Bald (begins April 2<sup>nd</sup>)

*Meet at Forney Ridge Trailhead near the Clingmans Dome Parking Area*

**11:00 am**

Join a ranger on a 3.6 mile round trip walk through the spruce-fir forest. This moderate hike will take you out to Andrews Bald, a beautiful meadow on a mountaintop. You can hike leisurely back to the parking lot on your own after reaching the bald or return with the ranger. Sturdy footwear, a lunch, and water recommended.

**Duration:** 3 hours

**Difficulty:** Moderate

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## Friday:

### Forks of the River

*Meet on the Sugarlands Visitor Center Patio*

**1:00 pm**

The site of the present Sugarlands Visitor Center and Park Headquarters was once known as "Forks of the River." Take a walk with a ranger to learn about the once vibrant communities of Sugarlands, Fighting Creek, and Forks of the River.

**Duration:** 1½ hours

**Difficulty:** Easy

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## Saturday:

### **Junior Ranger: Flowers, Flowers Everywhere**

*Meet on the Sugarlands Visitor Center Patio*

**1:00 pm**

Join a ranger to try out your wildflower identification skills, or maybe discover some skills you didn't even know you had. A great program for families and beginning wildflower enthusiasts.

**Duration:** 1½ hours

**Difficulty:** Easy

### **WILD program in Cades Cove**

*Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center area half way around the Loop Road*

**2:30 pm**

A short talk and demonstration about the wild things in the Smokies. Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

**Duration:** 30 minutes

### **Junior Ranger Program in Cades Cove**

*Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center area halfway around the Loop Road*

**1:00 pm**

Bring the kids for a hands-on exploration of the Smokies. Earn a badge and certificate. Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

**Duration:** 45 minutes – 1 hour

### **Longing for the “Good Ol’ Days”**

*Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center*

**10:30 a.m.**

You've heard it before, but was it really the “good ol’ days?” Join a ranger on this walk at the Mountain Farm Museum to learn what life was like on an Appalachian mountain farm. Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

**Duration:** 45 minutes

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## Special Programs:

### **Back Porch Old-Time Music Jam**

*Porch of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center*

**1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturdays, April 4 & 18, May 2 & 16**

Bring an acoustic instrument and join in on this old-time jam. Or just sit back and enjoy the sights and sounds as others play traditional Appalachian music. Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

**Full Moon Walk in Cades Cove**

*Meet at the Orientation Shelter at the entrance to Cades Cove Loop Road.*

**Saturday, April 4; Saturday, May 2**

**8:00pm**

See the Cove in a different light. Wear good walking shoes, bring water and a flashlight. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Subject to cancellation due to hazardous weather. Call 448-4104 for more information. Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

*Duration:* 2 hours

**Blacksmith Demonstration in Cades Cove**

*Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill, halfway around the Loop Road*

**Saturday & Sunday, March 21 & 22, April 18-19, May 23 & 24**

**10am – 4:00pm**

Learn the art of Blacksmithing and why it was important in the Cades Cove community. Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.