



Outdoor Excursions Sign-Up Procedures

The following rules have been developed to help ensure safety, enjoyment, and fairness to all those wishing to participate in outdoor excursions during Wilderness Wildlife Week:

SIGN-UP PROCEDURES

1. Lottery-based registration for the entire week of excursions will take place at 8 AM on Tuesday, January 25. After the initial sign-up period, outdoor excursions will remain open until filled.
2. Interested participants must be in the designated room by the time listed in the daily schedule. Doors will close at the assigned time.
3. Upon entry to the sign-up room, each participant will receive one ticket. Individuals must be present to receive a ticket. Tickets will be drawn and selected at random.
4. Once an individual's ticket is randomly selected, that participant will be allowed to register themselves, in addition to three (3) others, not to exceed a total of four (4) people, for the open excursion of their choice.
5. Once an excursion has filled, interested participants may sign up on an alternate list. This, however, does count as a participant's one excursion event for that day.
6. Participants may only sign up for one excursion and one night event per day.
7. There will be no pre-registration or phone registration.
8. More strenuous excursions are not recommended for small children or less-experienced participants. Certain activities are open to certain ages.
9. Parents are responsible for determining, in advance, children's ability to complete any hike/field trip, including, but not limited to, maintaining the hike/field trip pace. A parent or guardian must accompany children 13 and under at all times during hikes/field trips. Children ages 14-17 may participate in hikes, but must have a parent or guardian's signature on the release form.

EXCURSION RULES

1. All excursions originate only from the Ramsey Hotel & Convention Center. For all excursions and activities, participants may not meet at the trail head or starting point of excursion.
2. It is essential that participants be at the designated assembly point for each hike on time. The first 15 minutes will consist of a hike orientation and completion of certain administrative requirements. Absence from this orientation may result in the loss of the participant's place on the excursion to an alternate participant.
3. Participants not present for initial roll call for bus loading will be replaced by an alternate participant, after the entire list is announced.
4. The excursion leaders and event staff will have the final decision to remove any individual from an excursion prior to departure due to, but not limited to, lack of essential equipment, or for any other reason.
5. It is the participant's responsibility to be prepared for a variety of weather conditions, such as wearing appropriate shoes, or carrying the proper equipment and supplies (water, trail snacks, poncho, flashlights, etc.).
6. Please respect all participants and leave cell phones behind or "off" while hiking or on excursions.
7. You will be required to sign the Off-Site Excursion Release Form acknowledging that you have read and understand all rules pertaining to requirements for excursions during Wilderness Wildlife Week.

Note: All programs and excursions are subject to rescheduling or cancellation.

Hikers' Checklist

Winter weather in the Smokies is unpredictable, to say the least. If you are joining us for one of our day hikes into the mountains, be prepared for snow, rain and cold temperatures. When you strap on a sturdy pair of hiking boots, be sure you also include the following items in your backpack:

- Gloves
- Head Cover (hat, toboggan or hooded coat)
 - Rain Gear/Poncho
- Lunch or Trail Snacks (fruit, nuts)
 - Pocketknife
- Extra pair of socks
 - Towel
- Flashlight
- Water