Welcome to the Smoky Mountain Field School. In order to ensure the safety and enjoyment of your chosen experience, please carefully review the information below well in advance of the meeting date. If you have any concerns or questions about the class contact the instructor(s). For issues related to registration contact Personal and Professional Development at 865-974-0150.

MEETING PLACE/TIME: Meet at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park at the Oconaluftee Visitor Center porch in Cherokee, N.C. Allow ample travel time in consideration of restroom stops, weather conditions, and traffic – Be on time!

GENERAL INFORMATION: Participation in all classes is voluntary and each participant will be required to sign a Release of Liability as part of the class roster. Participants should advise their instructor(s) of any medical issues that could become a concern or place themselves or others at risk. Everyone is asked to refrain from the use of cell phones or tobacco products during the experience. Classes are held rain or shine and refunds are not issued for ‘no-shows’.

WHAT TO EXPECT AND WEAR: Much of the Smokies consists of rugged, remote terrain and participants must make themselves aware of the potential risks involved. The weather in the Park is often unpredictable and can change rapidly producing strong winds, a sudden drop in temperature and even winter-like conditions, especially at the higher elevations. Do not underestimate the year-round need for adequate rain protection and warm layers including a hat and gloves and secure them in waterproof bags. For most day sessions expensive, high-tech clothing and hiking boots are not necessary but comfortable field clothes and sturdy footwear are essential.

RECOMMENDED ITEMS: Make adjustments according to your needs and those of the class.

_____ Daypack/Hiking stick or trekking poles
_____ One to two quarts (liters) of fluid/snacks/lunch and/or dinner
_____ First aid items and personal medications
_____ Emergency items: Compass, light source, small knife, waterproof matches and whistle
_____ Sunscreen (year round) and insect repellent (seasonal)
_____ Field guides/notepad and pen or pencil/small hand lens/binoculars/camera and accessories
Oconaluftee Visitor Center

Located at the entrance to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on US Highway 441 near Cherokee.