

MOUNTAIN ECHOES

Connecting with the spirit and history of Townsend, Cades Cove, and the Great Smoky Mountains.



Celebrate with us this December at the GSMHC

“The Heritage Center’s Christmas in the Village celebration is a wonderful way to welcome in the holiday season, experience the region’s unique culture and discover Appalachian holiday traditions,” says Executive Director Brent Lambert.



Heritage Center CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

December 5th, 12th, & 19th

APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

LIVING HISTORY INTERPRETERS

HAND-CRAFTING DEMONSTRATIONS

CRAFT STATIONS FOR FAMILIES AND KIDS

HOT CIDER AND KETTLE CORN

MORE INSIDE

Christmas in the Village at the Heritage Center will welcome visitors on select

Saturdays in December to

experience Smoky Mountain traditions and demonstrations, create their own make-and-take crafts and enjoy warm refreshments.

Guests can celebrate the holiday season with family at the Heritage Center’s “Christmas in the Village” on Saturdays, December 5, 12, 19, by stepping

back in time to a pioneer celebration. Living history interpreters will act as guides through the holiday-adorned historic Appalachian village full of handcrafting demonstrations



and craft stations, allowing visitors to connect with the spirit and history of Townsend, Cades Cove and the Great Smoky Mountains. Kettle corn and hot cider will also be available for guests to enjoy.

Tickets for Christmas in the Village are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$7 for children

Continued on Page 4

■ MUSEUM STAFF

Brent Lambert, Executive Director
Jill Cable, Administrative Assistant
Lorna Keathley, Associate Curator
Trevor Lanier, Curator
Logan Hull, Director of Operations
Beth Sutton, Curator of Education
Sherry Harris, Business Development
Sarah Share, Educational Assistant
Zee Johnston, Sales Associate

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■ FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Organizing for the Future of the GSMHC

Rarely does change come easily, but many of the changes we’ve witnessed in 2020 have been particularly difficult to process. Education, the tourism and hospitality industries, and the non-profit sector are just a few of the arenas in which the landscape has shifted dramatically more than we could have imagined only a few months ago.

The Heritage Center certainly has not been immune to the changes spurred by the COVID-19 outbreak, although I’m pleased to say that we’ve held up well in the midst of the storm. However, the storm isn’t over yet. Thus we, along with thousands of other organizations, must continue analyzing and adjusting operations in order to accomplish the fundamentals of our mission.

The GSMHC’s membership structure is one of those areas. The current structure provides a \$295.00 value for a mere \$20 per individual per year. Similarly, the family rate of \$35 provides a \$590.00 value for a couple or \$844.00 value for two adults and two children. Of course, benefits have included free concerts, free lectures and seminars, many free events, and unlimited museum admission. This structure has not been increased since August of 2012.

Understanding that membership fees cover no more than 7% of the benefit value, the Board and Staff of GSMHC have concluded that the current membership structure is not a sustainable model for the future. As a result, we are adjusting our pricing levels and the corresponding benefits.

Beginning on January 1, 2021, there will be a new rate structure in place with differing benefits from what we’ve offered previously. The new structure will be:

- **Individual Level** (One person): \$45 per year
- **Dual Level** (Two people): \$80 per year
- **Family Level** (Up to two adults and all household children under 18 years): \$90 per year
- **Heirloom Level** (Same eligibility as Family Level): \$250 per year
- **Little River Level** (Same eligibility as Family Level): \$500 per year
- **Tuckaleechee Level** (Same eligibility as Family Level): \$1,000 per year

A revised list of corresponding benefits is on the adjacent page.

We understand that many members have already renewed for 2021 at the current rate and anticipate the current benefits. We certainly will honor those commitments. In fact, we will allow members and immediate past members to renew for 2021 at the current rate and benefit levels. However, all renewals must be submitted by the close of business on December 31, 2020.

Our mission focuses on the preservation, interpretation, and sharing of the history and culture of the peoples who have inhabited the Great Smoky Mountains region. Although circumstances change, that core mission will not. We believe the best days of the Heritage Center are still ahead of us, and we encourage you to continue with us on that journey.



Basic Membership Levels *(As of January 1, 2021)*

Individual Level (One person): \$45 per year

Dual Level (Two people): \$80 per year

Family Level (Two adults and all household children under 18 years): \$90 per year

Heirloom Level (Same eligibility as Family Level): \$250 per year

- Immediate benefits include unlimited museum admission throughout the year
- Free admission to Tuesdays at Two lecture series
- Free admission to all GSMHC-managed festivals
- 10% Discount in the Museum Store
- Quarterly newsletter
- Two (2) Friends and Family Tickets
- Invitations to special events

Little River Level (Same eligibility as Family Level): \$500 per year

- Immediate benefits include unlimited museum admission throughout the year
- Free admission to Tuesdays at Two lecture series
- Free admission to all GSMHC-managed festivals
- 10% Discount in the Museum Store
- Quarterly newsletter
- Five (5) Friends and Family Tickets
- Invitations to special events
- Reserved event parking
- Pre-event hospitality

Tuckaleechee Level (Same eligibility as Family Level): \$1,000 per year

- Immediate benefits include unlimited museum admission throughout the year
- Free admission to Tuesdays at Two lecture series
- Free admission to all GSMHC-managed festivals
- 10% Discount in the Museum Store
- Quarterly newsletter
- Two (2) Annual Passes for Friends and Family Museum Admission
- Invitations to special events
- Reserved event parking
- Pre-event hospitality
- Business Listing on GSMHC website, if desired
- Business Listing on Informational TV in the Museum Store Lobby, if desired

**All 2021 memberships will include free admission for the Sunset Series of Concerts and will be offered a \$5 discount on Specialty Concerts. The dates of the Sunset Concerts will be May 28, June 25, July 30, August 27, September 24, and October 29. All membership levels will receive pre-sale access to event tickets and \$5 off all concerts beginning on January 1, 2022.*



■ HISTORY ON DISPLAY

Original Handmade Quilts from the Walker Sisters' Homestead

Now through March, 2021, come view handmade quilts from the Walker Sisters of Little Greenbrier in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.



The Walker Sisters became famous after the creation of the park when visitors discovered them living out their lifetime lease as though it were still the 19th century. Their home was the same log home built by their father in the late 1800s, still without electricity or plumbing, and their kitchen was the fireplace.

Much of their clothing, blankets and other textiles were made from cloth woven on their loom. Other daily activities included gardening with hand tools, churning butter, and fetching water from the nearby spring. This way of life continued until the last sister died in 1964.

Their log home and possessions are preserved by the National Park Service as part of the cultural history of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The loan of the Walker Sisters' quilts is made possible through our friends at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The staff at the Collections Preservation Center work tirelessly to preserve artifacts like these quilts for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center is proud to host artifacts from the Park collection for more visitors to enjoy. Come view this special exhibit soon!

CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

Billy Dean Christmas Concert

On Friday, December 11th, the Heritage Center will host a special live concert by GRAMMY Award-winning artist, Billy Dean, as part of its "Christmas in the Village" events.

A VIP meet and greet reception with Billy is scheduled for 6:00 pm and the performance will begin at 7:00 pm. General admission tickets are \$50 per person. Ticket holders may purchase the VIP reception for an additional \$25 per person. Ticket holders may also purchase a \$15 voucher which includes 2 hot non-alcoholic beverages, 1-Bag of Kettle Corn, 2-Hand Warmers & additional goodies.

All ticket holders will receive Free Candlelight Tours of the historic Appalachian Village prior to the show. A Food Truck will be on site with warm spirits and more.



The Amphitheater is an open-air facility, so dress warmly and bring a blanket to enjoy this intimate, holiday performance! Social distancing will be enforced and seating is limited due to COVID-19 restrictions.



CHRISTMAS IN THE APPALACHIAN VILLAGE AT THE HERITAGE CENTER



1. Moonshine Still
2. Smokehouse
3. Outhouse
4. Cantilever Barn
5. Cardwell House
6. Montvale Station
7. Wilder's Chapel
8. Granary
9. Large Barn
10. Corn Crib
11. Wheelwright Shop
12. Set-off House
13. Saw Mill
14. Print Shop
15. Fire Pit

Christmas in the Village

Continued from Page 1

and children 5 and under are free. Members enjoy free admission on Heritage Center Member Day on Saturday November 28. Full admission is required on all other dates. Tours begin at 5 p.m. with the last tour starting at 8 p.m.

"The holidays are a wonderful time to

visit the Smoky Mountains in Blount County, Tennessee," said Blount Partnership Director of Tourism Kim Mitchell. "The Heritage Center's Christmas in the Village enables visitors to experience the rich history of the area while getting into the holiday spirit with fun activities."



Tickets for all events can be purchased at gsmheritagecenter.org.

EVENTS CALENDAR

The Winter Heritage Festival

The Winter Heritage Festival will change due to the effect of Covid-19! While we will miss hearing the lectures from the Cades Cove families and experts, we will be offering a Living History day at the Heritage Center. Historians, reenactors, and period Handcrafters will be in our Historic Village on Saturday, January 23rd from 10am-5pm. Check our website for updates.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Holiday Handcrafter Festival | Nov 14 |
| Holiday Homecoming | Nov 21 |
| Christmas in the Village | Nov 28 |
| Christmas in the Village | Dec 5 |
| Billy Dean, Christmas in the Village* | Dec 11 |
| Christmas in the Village | Dec 12 |
| Christmas in the Village | Dec 19 |
| Winter Heritage Festival (tentative) | Jan 22-23 |
| Smoky Mountain Fiber Arts Festival | April 15-18 |
| Bronco Festival | April 22-25 |
| 1981- Simon & Garfunkel Tribute Concert* | May 7 |
| Tennessee Pottery Festival | May 8 |
| Heritage Happening Gala | May 15 |
| Steve Kaufman** | May 28 |
| Dom Flemons in Concert* | June 4 |
| Kelly and Ellis ** | June 25 |
| On the Border: Eagles Tribute Concert* | July 2 |
| Concert: TBA** | July 30 |
| Keith Allyn: Neil Diamond Tribute Concert* | Aug 7 |
| Concert: TBA** | Aug 27 |
| Special Concert-TBA* | Sept 4 |
| Concert: TBA** | Sept 24 |
| Blue Ribbon Country Fair | Sept 25 |
| Special Concert: TBA* | Oct 2 |
| Concert: TBA** | October 29 |

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION

* Specialty Concerts require both members and the public to purchase a ticket.

** The dates of the Sunset Concerts will be May 28, June 25, July 30, August 27, September 24, and October 29. All membership levels will receive pre-sale access to event tickets and \$5 off concerts under the new membership structure beginning Jan.1, 2021

EDUCATION SERVICES

Field Trip Suspensions

In 2020, the Education Services Department has been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 Virus. Normally, the Heritage Center hosts over 5,000 students, teachers, and chaperones each academic year for customized field trips. They enjoy the galleries and historic village and the interactive activities like shooting blow darts, throwing the atlatl, making clay pots, and role-playing pioneer chores.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 forced our field trips to be suspended. Our schedule for the spring of 2020 was going to be the most active ever with over 40 trips planned. However, we were able to host 11 field trips before schools were closed in March. Additionally, schools

did not permit field trips for the fall semester, and the spring semester of 2021 looks unsure.

On a more positive note, most of our field trips have tentatively been rescheduled for the 2021-2022 academic year. We are hopeful we can bring students back for fun-filled days of hands-on educational activities. We miss the students, teachers, chaperones, and our dedicated volunteers.

It is an honor to host local students and those from all of the surrounding counties. The Heritage Center makes history come alive during these events, and the students energize the facility with laughter and excitement. We look forward to a return to our normal schedule.

It's a Girl!

Sarah Share, GSMHC Educational Assistant, and her husband, Jeremy, are the proud parents of Savannah Kimsey Share. Savannah was born on Monday, October 26, 2020, weighing 6 pounds and 11 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. She's a beautiful baby girl, perfect in every way. This sweet family of three are all doing well.



The Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center places the highest priority on the health and well-being of their guests, employees and volunteers. For this reason, the Heritage Center will enforce the following guidelines: Social distancing of at least six feet while on the property (indoors or outdoors) is necessary. All guests and employees must wear masks in the gift shop, restrooms and tours. Masks will not be provided but will be available for purchase at the gift shop. Reduced capacities will be enforced during tours and in common areas such as the gift shop. Hand sanitizer stations will also be available.

The Heritage Center will continue to closely monitor CDC guidelines as well as any state-issued orders pertaining to COVID-19. If changes are deemed necessary, the Heritage Center will alert all ticketholders via website, social media and email/telephone.



NEW MEMBERS

These new friends of the Heritage Center became members between May, 2020 & October, 2020.

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MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

These loyal members have renewed between May, 2020 & October, 2020.

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IN MEMORY OF

Gift Honoring Memory of Judy Krueger - Marsha Poland



THE MOUNTAINS ARE CALLING AND I MUST GO.

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One of our vintage trucks glows in the Autumn sunlight.

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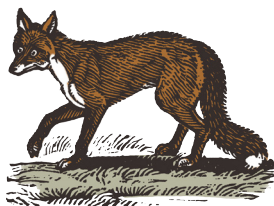
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Great Smoky Mountains
HERITAGE CENTER

GSMHERITAGECENTER.ORG

Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center
PO Box 268, Townsend, TN 37882

Connect with the spirit and history of Townsend, Cades Cove, and the Great Smoky Mountains. Our museums offer something for everyone, from hands-on activities to tours of original 19th-century buildings and our Cherokee Native American collection.



Call Today: 865-448-0044

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Buy your tickets online at gsmheritagecenter.org

TOWNSEND
TENNESSEE

Heritage Center
CHRISTMAS
IN THE VILLAGE

APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

LIVING HISTORY INTERPRETERS

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MORE INSIDE

BILLY DEAN IN CONCERT

On Friday, December 11th, the Heritage Center will host a special live concert by GRAMMY Award-winning artist, Billy Dean, as part of its "Christmas in the Village" events.

Call Today: 865-448-0044

LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE

