

Hit the Trail

with the
**Smoky Mountains
Hiking Club**



Established 1924

To The Hike Visitor

This brochure outlines the activities of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, and tells you how to join the Club. We are pleased to enclose a copy of our Club *Newsletter* which lists hikes and other events for the month. The A.T. Maintainers Committee invites your help in trail maintenance. As a first-time hiker you will receive a second month's gratis copy of the Newsletter.

For accessing future Club Newsletters,

(1) Consult the SMHC Website at

www.smhclub.org

(2) Become a Member of SMHC - by completing and mailing the Application Form from this brochure with your check.

There is an even better Application Form on the website. It handles Family Memberships in complete detail.

Club Program

Our diverse outing program includes :

- (1) **regular hikes** which are day-trips on trail, or cross-country, and usually held on Saturday or Sunday.
- (2) **easy hikes** which are also conducted on weekends.
- (3) **mid-week hikes** which are held on two Wednesdays each month,
- (4) **backpack trips**, in which participants carry own food and shelter for one or two nights. These may be on-trail, or off-trail.
- (5) **camp-by-the-car excursions**- planned for tenting in areas located rather remotely from Knoxville (e.g., a State Park), with two or more hikes scheduled for the weekend.
- (6) **off-trail hikes**- monthly hikes primarily geared for experienced hikers.

The entire schedule of events for the calendar year is given in our Annual Handbook, available for \$ 5.00 a copy. Also included are a complete list of members and many facts about Club operations.

Membership

Anyone at least 16 years of age and agreeing to the Club's Code of Ethics may join. To be eligible to lead Club hikes or be officers of the Club, members must have done three Club hikes (or two A.T. work trips, or one of each).

Annual dues for regular membership are currently, as of 2017, \$20 per year (reduced to \$12 for new joiners after August 1st; or after November 1, \$20 includes next year). Regular members receive the monthly Newsletter plus the annual SMHC Handbook. Yearly dues for family members are only \$2.00. Their names are printed in the Handbook along with the names of regular members.

Two additional classes of membership are recognized: Supporting Membership at \$ 30 or more covers an entire family, as does Life Membership at \$ 750. Please note that Supporting Membership contributions over the basic \$ 20 are tax deductible, in view of SMHC's 501(c)(3) status.

Members who prefer to receive the Monthly Newsletter in hard copy form may request that service.

Conservation

The Smoky Mountains Hiking Club works to protect wildlife and promote good state and national park and forest management. We recognize that whatever we do today will affect the future of our wilderness areas and their enjoyment by future generations. Your participation will help us achieve our goals.

We promote conservation when the National Park Service and the US Forest Service prepare their management plans. Hiking Club representatives work with regional conservation groups such as the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, and with national conservation organizations such as the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society. We keep our state and national representatives informed about conservation issues and we work with them to preserve our wild areas.

Social

Club members also get together off the trail several times a year. Join us at an annual photography program. Share in our informal potluck supper as we elect new officers in late summer. Join us for our annual banquet in December. These activities provide an additional opportunity to meet other Club members.

Appalachian Trail

The Appalachian Trail (A.T.) is a 2189-mile trail which follows the crest of the Appalachian Mountains from Maine to Georgia. The Trail is maintained by 31 clubs along the route. These clubs work with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the National Park Service, and the US Forest Service to maintain and improve the Trail, and to make it ready for the thousands of people who enjoy it every year.

The Smoky Mountains Hiking Club is responsible for maintaining 102 miles of the A.T., running from the Nantahala River in North Carolina, to the northern end of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee.

From March through November, the SMHC organizes monthly work trips for group work on the Trail. Consult the latest Appalachian Trail Maintainers News or the SMHC Newsletter for dates. Join us, and you will have the opportunity to work with experienced trail maintainers, repairing damaged sections of Trail, and occasionally renovating trailside shelters and privies.

*Smoky Mountains Hiking Club
P. O. Box 51592
Knoxville, TN 37950-1592*

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN SMHC

Name _____ E-Mail address _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Telephone No. _____ Enclosed is check to SMHC for \$ _____ (for details see p. 2, Membership)

I am at least 16 years old and I agree to the Code of Ethics. Signed _____ Date _____

SMHC CODE of ETHICS: My recreational standards shall inspire me so to conduct myself while hiking – either with the Club or independently – that the pleasure to be had by others shall be a little greater for my acts. Thus it is my duty as a Hiker to: **Guard** the reputation of the Club to the end that no censure will prevent any from enjoying its benefits. **Adopt** as my own the regulations of the National Park Service as applied to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. **Carry** no firearms in the Park or elsewhere on any scheduled hike. **Protect** Nature's beauty and wild life from damage or destruction. **Build** fires only when necessary, and then with none but dead or down timber. **Leave** a clean trail, unlit littered camp, and a dead fire. **Be ready** with hiking information and a welcome to visitors. **Lighten** the burden of the leaders by my hearty cooperation. **Contribute**, when a leader, to the enjoyment of others by the faithful performance of my duties. **Cooperate** with the officers of the Club for the betterment of hiking.

Please select: I prefer the newsletter by **Email** [] (default) or **Printed and Mailed** []

Send to: **Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, P.O. Box 51592, Knoxville, TN 37950-1592**