

HOW TO GET TO CAMP QUEST SMOKY MOUNTAINS

Registration/check-in is Sunday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM, (Eastern Daylight Time. This is important. If you get fixated on some other time some there can be confusion and problems!). The following reasonable steps and suggestions are offered:

- 1) The first step is to find East Tennessee and the northwestern edge of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (SSE of Knoxville and east of Townsend) on a map. On Google Earth, the coordinates are 35.642 north latitude, 83.690 west longitude (35° 38' 30.3", -83° 41' 23")
Next, decide if camper will be transported to camp by airplane or driven in a land vehicle.
- 2) If by airplane, get correct number of tickets to the Knoxville airport (TYS), which is about 45 minutes from the camp. If camper will be arriving by air and needs to be met by someone, please let us know ASAP who, when, airline, flight number, etc. (This is REALLY most important!) If using this method, Step # 1 above, while interesting and educational, is unnecessary as airplanes work kind of like horizontal elevators.
- 3) If by land travel, after you locate Tennessee, find and get on I-75 if possible, or on I-40 if you must. Once in Tennessee, those not on I-75 or I-40 will not be able to get to Camp Quest using these directions. There are indeed certain alternate routes to get there – ways not herein discussed – ways probably best not attempted by first time travelers trying to get a kid to camp!
- 4) We should also here note, for those with other children not going to camp, for those staying around for a few days before, during, or after camp with time on their hands, for those who want to do something special with camper, sibling, spouse or self, that the world famous Smoky Mountain National Park is adjacent to camp. Another wonderful and highly educational diversion is the American Museum of Science and Energy at Oak Ridge. Also there are many tourist-oriented attractions in Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg.
- 5) Getting to **Camp Quest Smoky Mountains**, held at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, is really quite easy.

Please choose **Way A** (from the south, Chattanooga, or the west, Nashville) or **Way B** (from the north, Lexington, or East Asheville, NC). You cannot do both, so don't try.

WAY A (from Chattanooga or Nashville)

After I-75 and I-40 merge continue to **EXIT 376**. After taking that exit, exit again onto I-140 (Pellissippi Parkway) to the right and toward Maryville. Go about 11 miles on I-140 and take **EXIT 11A** toward Maryville again. This will put you on route 129 going south. Go to Step # 6.

Alternately, from Chattanooga, exit from I-75 at exit 81 onto US321 going east, through Lenoir City to Maryville. Go to Step # 7. (US321 is two-lane, so it may be as fast to go through Knoxville as above.)

WAY B (from Lexington or Asheville)

Do NOT take any beltways around Knoxville. Go toward downtown Knoxville. After I-40 and I-275 merge, take **EXIT 386** to Alcoa Highway and the Airport (Route 129, south). Continue to the left toward the airport. Go to Step # 6.

- 6) If you did Step # 5 correctly, you should be on Highway 129 traveling south toward the Knoxville airport. Continue past the airport and get into the left lane. Shortly thereafter, take the left split toward Townsend to US321.
- 7) Keep traveling on this road (US321) for about 18 miles without making any turns other than those necessary to navigate around large mountainous obstructions. After passing through Townsend, you will enter the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Be forewarned: commercial vehicles are not allowed, so come in some normal passenger vehicle. You are almost there!
- 8) Once inside the park, turn right toward Cades Cove. Almost immediately cross a stone bridge over a scenic stream. Then turn left at the sign directing you to Tremont (or Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont). Go down this beautiful road for about 2 miles.
- 9) Turn left into the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont and park near the office. Registration will be at the Council House across the **road** from the office. For one glorious week, this will be the home to:

The Secular Humanist Summer Camp

Camp Quest of the Smoky Mountains

It's Beyond Belief!

If all these directions fail, and you are hopelessly lost, feel free to ask directions of someone. If the person you ask doesn't know the way, be gentle – at least they aren't lost!

The address of the camp for alternate (less reliable) Google or MapQuest directions is:

9275 Tremont Road, Townsend, TN 37882. In case of emergency the phone number for GSMIT is 865-448-6709. This is the office phone and is available during office hours. Be advised that cell phones do not work within the park.

To send mail to campers use this address (not the CQ mailing address):

Name of camper
Camp Quest
c/o GSMIT
9275 Tremont Road
Townsend, TN 37882

Remember that registration is Sunday, July 26, 1:00 – 4:00 PM at the Council House.

Pick-up time is following Sunday, 9:30 – 10:30 AM at the Council House.

Do not lose this important paper. Keep it with you while your camper is at Camp Quest. You may need it to find your camper after the end of camp.