

FGC GATHERING FIELD TRIPS 2015

Monday, July 6

Oconaluftee Village and Mountain Farm Museum

Oconaluftee Indian Village is living history. You'll be led by a Cherokee cultural expert on an interactive journey through Cherokee lifestyle and history, along a path flanked with traditional Cherokee dwellings, work areas and sacred ritual sites. Witness cultural dances, interact with villagers as they hull canoes, sculpt pottery and masks, weave baskets, and fashion beadwork. Watch an authentic stickball game and a blowgun demonstration.

The Mountain Farm Museum is a collection of historic log buildings gathered from throughout the Smoky Mountains and preserved on a single site. Buildings include a house, barn, applehouse, springhouse, and smokehouse. The site also demonstrates historic gardening and agricultural practices, including livestock.

**Car pool sign-up (35 minute drive), gas donation – Departs 1:15. Partially accessible.
Adults \$20, children \$11**

Hike to High Falls

A vigorous one mile hike, with 650 feet of descent to the falls, therefore 650 feet of climb back to the trailhead. Led by an inveterate hiker from Asheville Meeting. It's a very short drive from the campus, and the new parking area has ample space for more than a dozen cars. Beautiful falls, should be a real treat for the hardy.

Car-pool sign-up, gas donation. 15-20 minutes from campus. Departs 1:15. Not accessible.

Tuesday, July 7

Cherokee Museum and Gallery

The Cherokee (Qualla Boundary) Field Trip will allow time for an overview of the fascinating town of Cherokee, at the southern end of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the eastern entrance to the Smoky Mountains National Park, with special time allowed for visits to the world-class **Museum of the Cherokee Indian**, and the adjacent **Qualla Arts and Crafts Gallery/Store**, which features unique, hand-made and authentic native American pottery, basketry, bead-work and jewelry.

**Car pool sign-up (30 minute drive), gas donation – Departs 1:15. Accessible.
Adults \$9; Children \$6 (price assumes group of 15 or more)**

Waynesville – Handicrafts Museum and Performing Arts Center

The Museum of North Carolina Handicrafts at The Shelton House contains both traditional and contemporary crafts: fiber art; period clothing and equipment; wood-carving and dolls, as toys and as sophisticated portrait art. Fine Navajo art and artifacts collected, and surely influenced, by William Taylor Shelton and his wife, Hattie Pitts Sledge when he served as superintendent of the San Juan Indian Agency on the Navajo reservation at Shiprock, NM in the early 1900s. Participants will have additional materials about the Navajo collection and an opportunity to “debrief” after the field trip. Examples of both traditional and contemporary Cherokee art are also included. Throughout the house, photographs and other objects evoke the period of the late 1800s and the values of the Museum's founders “to collect, preserve, and teach the heritage crafts of North Carolina.” (Not accessible)

The Performing Arts Theatre at The Shelton House is adjacent to the Museum of NC Handicrafts and houses the **Haywood Arts Regional Theatre**, one of the most active community theatres in the Southeast. The facility itself is stunning, constructed from native materials in the style of Summer Stock playhouses of the 1920's. (Accessible)
After visiting these destinations, you may want to explore the picturesque town of Waynesville.

**Car pool sign-up (30 minute drive), gas donation – Departs 1:15. Main attraction is not accessible.
\$5 per person. The Performing Arts Center is accessible**

Group Hike, Black Balsam Bald

The Black Balsam area includes some fine Southern Appalachian mountain balds. This will be an easy-to-moderate hike (a little bit of uphill), about 4 miles round trip. There will be a chance to dip feet in the creek.

Car pool sign-up (one hour drive), gas donation – Departs 1:15. Not accessible.

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Thursday, July 9

Bus Trip to Asheville

This small vibrant mountain city is a hub for “locavore” food, artisans, galleries, art deco architecture, and more. Participants have **three options**:

1. A two-hour **architecture-focused walking tour** of the downtown area with an architecture buff from Asheville Meeting, plus an extra hour to explore on your own.
2. Approximately 3 hours to **explore** galleries, bookstores, the Asheville Urban trail, and other downtown sites on your own.
3. A **Gray Line Trolley** narrated overview tour for 1.5 - 1.75 hours. Tour is \$21 - \$23 per adult, \$10 per child, payable to Gray Line in Asheville. (NOTE: this is a public tour departing every half hour and subject to availability. An option for those with limited mobility who can climb in and out of the trolley.)

**Bus and boxed lunch sign-up - Departs 12:15 (One hour ride). Not accessible.
\$25 per person for the bus to Asheville; Gray Line Trolley participants purchase tickets in Asheville**

Group Hike, Whiteside Mountain

Whiteside Mountain's cliffs look like sheets of ice draped across the mountain. A “moderate” two-mile loop trail takes you on top of sheer 750-foot high cliffs with plenty of railings for safety and outstanding views.

**Car pool sign-up (45 minute drive, curvy road!), gas and parking fee donation – Departs 1:15. Not accessible.
\$2 per vehicle parking fee – exact change required**

Friday, July 10

The Cradle of Forestry in America

The site nestles just four miles below the Blue Ridge Parkway beneath the magnificent forest that has regrown from the conservation efforts that began at the **Biltmore Forest School**, the first forestry school in America. Started by Dr. Carl Alwin Schenck on George Vanderbilt's 125,000 acre estate in 1898, the **Biltmore Forest School** introduced America to the concepts of sustainable forestry and land management. Those participating in this fieldtrip will begin with a guided tour (with a local Quaker Cradle of Forestry volunteer) of the 1 mile **Biltmore Campus trail**. This trail leads visitors back in time to life at the Biltmore Forest School and in the Blue Ridge Mountains at the turn of the 20th century. Afterwards, participants will have time to choose among:

1. Experiencing hands-on activities at **The Adventure Zone trail**,
2. Exploring the **Forest Discovery Center** with its family-friendly exhibits as well as one dedicated to climate change, and/or
3. Checking out a children's naturalist backpack (as available) to explore the forest itself.

All the forest trails are paved and accessible to motorized wheelchair/scooter, and all ages are welcome.

**Car pool and boxed lunch sign-up (1 hr. 15 minute drive), gas donation – departs 12:15.
\$5 per person plus significant gas contribution**

Jackson County Green Energy Park and Dillsboro

Tour the **Jackson County Green Energy Park**, one mile from downtown Dillsboro. The old Jackson County landfill provides methane that powers glass studios, pottery kilns, and blacksmithing. The smith features the only methane-fired metalsmithing boiler in the world, designed by park director. (Partially accessible.)

Afterwards, explore picturesque Dillsboro, a well-preserved frontier town a few miles from the Western Carolina campus, situated by the beautiful Tuckasegee River. Visit craft shops, the historic stagecoach route inn, the Jarrett House, and a general store which features an old-timey soda fountain and apothecary, where you will be greeted by a wisecracking bear. Dillsboro is also a stop on the **Great Smoky Mountain Railway**, where early afternoon visitors can view an antique train. (Partially accessible)

Car pool (15 minute drive), gas donation and voluntary contribution. Departs 1:15. Partially accessible.