



Forest Service

Cherokee National Forest

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News Release

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Ocoee Whitewater Center to Celebrate Bat Week

Cherokee National Forest - Ocoee Ranger District

COPPERHILL, TENN, October 9, 2020 - Bat Week is an international, annual celebration designed to raise awareness about the need for bat conservation. From October 24-31 the Ocoee Whitewater Center in the Cherokee National Forest will help visitors learn about bats and their importance.

Bats are amazing creatures that are vital to the health of our natural world and economy. Although we may not always see them, bats are hard at work all around the world each night – eating tons of insects, pollinating flowers, and spreading seeds that grow new plants and trees.

During Bat Week a reading trail will follow the one-mile accessible trail around the Ocoee Whitewater Center (OWC). Each bat station along the way will provide information about these important animals.

In addition to the bat station information, digital, kid-friendly, free activities will be available. QR Codes will be provided at each of the bat stations to access the app. In order to access the digital activities, visitors will need to download *Agents of Discovery* from their app store. Once the app has been downloaded, the “Bat Week” mission will also need to be downloaded. Once that has been done, visitors will be ready for their Bat Week experience!

Bat Week at the OWC provides an opportunity to learn about these unique creatures while enjoying the outdoors and practicing social distancing.

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Page 2

Although the main building and restrooms at the Ocoee Whitewater Center remain closed, the day use area and trails are open. A \$3.00 user fee is required unless an annual pass or lifetime pass is displayed in the vehicle.

For additional information about the Ocoee Whitewater Center contact: 423-496-0100.

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