

**Big South Fork  
National River & Recreation Area**

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
[www.nps.gov/biso](http://www.nps.gov/biso)



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_



# Welcome to the GO BIG 2024 CHALLENGE!

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area is turning 50 this year! To commemorate this historic anniversary, the GO BIG 2024 Challenge will feature popular challenges from previous years. Participants of this year's GO BIG Challenge will have the unique opportunity to take a trip down memory lane and re-experience some favorite activities in the parks. What started in 2016, has grown into an annual challenge booklet and expanded to include Obed Wild and Scenic River and Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

This booklet is GOING REAL BIG this year and includes nine challenge categories! Eight categories will feature favorite activities from the previous GO BIG Challenge years and the final category will commemorate the anniversary milestone by engaging participants with activities showcasing the park's rich history. Under each category is a list of questions or tasks to complete along with their point values. A total of 100 points is needed to earn your unique 50th Anniversary patch. This year, each participant who earns 200 points will receive a special award with the 50th Anniversary logo!

The challenge categories are from previous years, with a new category, "Reflections Along the River", at the end. Each category will feature popular challenge activities and questions from that year. Pick and choose from the categories and questions to find the ones that are right for you. Complete a few or conquer them all; the choice is yours to make! As you look through this booklet and work toward your 100-point goal, see if you can make a connection with all three parks while getting outdoors and being active. Our goal is for you to gain an appreciation for these special places, the resources found there, and join our efforts to preserve them for future generations.

## CONTENTS

<b>2016: Trail Challenge</b> .....	3
<b>2017: Overlook Challenge</b> .....	4
<b>2018: Waterfall Challenge</b> .....	5
<b>2019: After Dark Challenge</b> .....	6
<b>2020: Community Parks Challenge</b> .....	7-12
<b>2021: Flora, Critter, and Ranger Challenge</b> .....	13-15
<b>2022: Cozy Campfire Challenge</b> .....	16-19
<b>2023: Tree Challenge</b> .....	20-21
<b>Reflections Along The River</b> .....	22-24
<b>Social Media Challenge</b> .....	25
<b>Activity Log Sheet</b> .....	26
<b>Points Log</b> .....	27
<b>Certificate of Completion</b> .....	28

 means location is fully accessible.

## 2016: TRAIL CHALLENGE

When the first GO BIG Challenge was created to celebrate the centennial of the National Park Service in 2016, the theme was “100 miles for 100 years.” To remind us of our roots, we will start from the beginning with popular trail challenge activities. Track your progress with the activity log at the back of the booklet.

- 1. Earn 1 point for every mile:** Hike in 2024. Total miles: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. 50 points:** Hike the entire 65 miles of the Sheltopee Trace inside Big South Fork NRRRA in 2024. Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. 30 points:** Hike the entire 40 miles of the John Muir Trail inside Big South Fork NRRRA in 2024. Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. 30 points:** Hike the entire 14.2 miles of the Cumberland Trail within Obed WSR. This is a one-way trail, so be sure you account for a total out and back of 28.4 miles! Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. 30 points:** Hike or ride a bike along the entire 15-mile Kentucky Trail inside Big South Fork NRRRA in 2024. Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Earn 1 point for every mile:** Pedal in 2024. Total miles: \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. 20 points:** Pedal the entire 33-mile Epic Mountain Bike route in Big South Fork NRRRA 2024. Date biked: \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Earn 1 point for every mile:** Ride equestrian in Big South Fork NRRRA in 2024. Total miles: \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Earn 1 point for every mile:** Paddle in any of three parks in 2024. Total miles: \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. 10 Points:** Bike, walk, or run the Melton Lake Greenway! Explore Melton Lake Greenway along the Clinch River and Elza Gate Park in Oak Ridge. Look for the two interpretive panels along the way. What are the subjects of these interpretive panels? \*5 Bonus points for participating in a Ride with a Ranger Program.

Interpretive Panel #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Interpretive Panel #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Ride with a Ranger Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ : **TOTAL POINTS EARNED**

## 2017: OVERLOOK CHALLENGE

Year two of the GO BIG Challenge encouraged participants to explore places of interest around the park. Natural wonders and important cultural sites were featured, and the Overlook Challenge is a spectacular way to get a full view of many of these special places. Visit a few or visit them all to achieve your points!

**11. 4 Points:** Visit Catawba Overlook. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**12. 4 Points:** Visit Split Bow Arch Overlook. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**13. 4 Points:** Visit Station Camp Overlook. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**14. 4 Points:** Visit East Rim Overlook. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**15. 4 Points:** Visit Angel Falls Overlook. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**16. 4 Points:** Visit North White Oak Overlook. Date: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ : **TOTAL POINTS EARNED**

## 2018: WATERFALL CHALLENGE

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, one challenge in 2018 focused on the waterfalls in the park. Created by water falling abruptly from one level to another, late winter and spring are the best times to view these graceful examples of erosion and weathering.

**17. ♿ 4 Points:** Yahoo Falls. Visit the tallest waterfall in Kentucky at 113 ft. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**18. 4 Points:** Dick Gap Falls. From the Blue Heron Outdoor Museum, head south on the Kentucky Trail for 1 mile and stay left at the intersection. Go towards Catawba Overlook, and then continue another mile to the falls. This is a moderate 5 mile hike.  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**19. 4 Points:** Slave Falls. Hike an easy 2 miles round trip from the Sawmill Trailhead to visit a waterfall that was used to help the local subsistence farmers hide escaping slaves during their flight northward.  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**20. 4 Points:** Fall Branch Falls. This 10 foot waterfall with a hidden walkway underneath, is accessed from the John Litton Farm Loop across from the Bandy Creek Swimming Pool. John Litton Farm Loop is a moderate 6 mile trail.  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

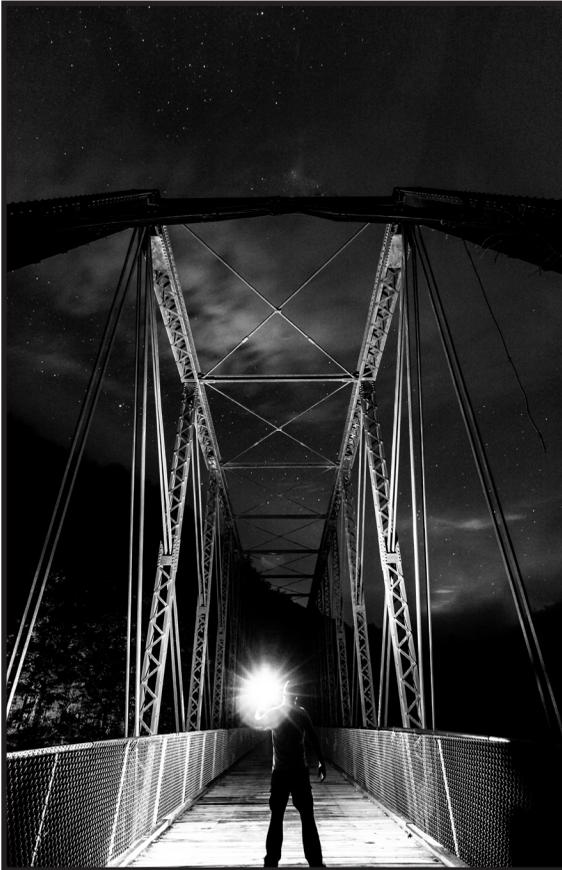
**21. 4 Points:** Angel Falls Rapid. This dangerous class IV rapid located on the Big South Fork River was once a 10 foot waterfall. Access the trailhead in the back of the Leatherwood Ford parking lot. The easy hike is 4 miles round trip.  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ : **TOTAL POINTS EARNED**

## 2019: AFTER DARK CHALLENGE

In recognition of Big South Fork NRA's application for International Dark Sky Certification, the 2019 GO BIG Challenge embraced one of Big South Fork's most valuable resources, the night sky, with "After Dark" Challenges. Head out to some of your favorite locations at night and explore the park in the dark! Remember it is important to always use extra caution when heading out at night. Stay safe by always having an adequate flashlight with extra batteries, knowing trail conditions, and not going out alone if possible.



**22. ♿ 4 Points:** Blue Heron Overlook is a great place to observe the night sky. This 0.2 mile paved trail starts off Gorge Overlook Road. Take a photo of yourself at this location after dark and email it to [biso\\_challenge@nps.gov](mailto:biso_challenge@nps.gov).

**23. ♿ 4 Points:** Oscar Blevins Farm is another great location to view the night sky. The farm is located off Bandy Creek Road 1.8 miles west of the visitor center. Take a photo of yourself at this location after dark and email it to [biso\\_challenge@nps.gov](mailto:biso_challenge@nps.gov).

**24. 6 Points:** Did you know that Big South Fork NRA has glowworms? The best time of year to find them is in June or early July inside one of the park's many rock-shelters after nightfall. So, take a night hike and see if you can find them! Trail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**25. 3 Points:** The Eastern whip-poor-will is a type of nightjar found in the park during the summer. This highly camouflaged bird is actually named after the sound of its call. So, listen for whip-poor-will. Location heard: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**26. 3 Points:** The Eastern screech owl is the smallest of the owls found in the park. The call of these robin-sized owls is actually not a screech at all. Listen for a trembling, descending wail; soft purrs and trills. Location heard: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_: **TOTAL POINTS EARNED**

## 2020: COMMUNITY PARKS CHALLENGE

In 2020, we challenged you to get “A Sense of Place” while exploring the Cumberland Plateau. We joined hands with our neighboring parks and challenged you to get out in the community. The seven unique places in this challenge have common goals like Big South Fork NRRRA. As you visit them, see if you can make a connection with the special people that once called these places home. We encourage you to count all the trail mileage you accumulate and log it for any of these seven parks, as well as Big South Fork NRRRA.

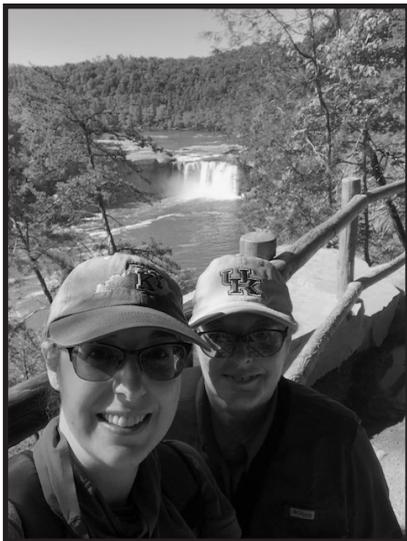
### Cumberland Falls State Park

Cumberland Falls State Park in Kentucky became a state park August 21, 1931 and this park is packed full of history! Cumberland Falls is often referred to as the “Niagara of the South” and has been compared to Victoria Falls in Africa for its rare Moonbow!

**27. 4 Points:** Walk on the main paved pathway past the visitor center to the falls viewing area and find the wayside exhibits on your right. What type of sandstone is responsible for the interesting rock formations found in the Cumberland Falls area due to it being more resistant to erosion?

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**28. 4 Points:** Get ready for an adventure! Hike the 1.5 mile moderate trail across the river to Eagle Falls and take a selfie with your GO BIG 2024 Challenge book and Cumberland Falls in the background! At 0.4 miles, there is a scenic overlook of Cumberland Falls. Send your photo to [biso\\_challenge@nps.gov](mailto:biso_challenge@nps.gov).  
Date Hiked: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ : TOTAL POINTS EARNED

## Daniel Boone National Forest

Spread across 21 counties of eastern Kentucky, more than 708,000 acres of National Forest System lands are managed within a 2.1 million-acre proclamation boundary. It was officially established in February 1937 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1966, it was renamed as the Daniel Boone National Forest in recognition of the adventurous frontiersman that explored much of that region.

**29. ♿ 4 Points:** While visiting Daniel Boone National Forest, drive up Hwy 27 North to Whitley City, Stearns District in Kentucky. Hike the Barren Fork Accessible Heritage Trail and read the wayside exhibits located along this concrete trail.

When was the school built at the Barren Fork Community? \_\_\_\_\_

**30. 4 Points:** Say “Cheese!” Hike under the arch from Natural Arch Loop Trail #510 and take a selfie with your GO BIG 2024 Challenge book and the Natural Arch in the background. Email it to [biso\\_challenge@nps.gov](mailto:biso_challenge@nps.gov). Date Hiked: \_\_\_\_\_

## Historic Rugby

Historic Rugby was founded in 1880 as a utopian colony for the “second sons” of the English gentry. The colony was the idea of Thomas Hughes who authored Tom Brown’s Schooldays, the first modern children’s book. The settlement survives today with 18 original buildings. Among these are Christ Church Episcopal and the Thomas Hughes Free Public Library, which houses the original 7,000 volume collection of books and periodicals.

**31. 4 Points:** Take a hike on the one-mile easy to moderate Massengale Loop Hiking Trail. What three animals did Uncle Dempsey Massengale kill with one shot? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, & \_\_\_\_\_.

**32. ♿ 4 Points:** Go to the Rugby Visitor Center and watch the movie on the history of Rugby and the Generations movie. Date Visited: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ : TOTAL POINTS EARNED

## Pickett CCC Memorial State Park

Pickett CCC Memorial State Park lies within the 20,887-acre Pickett State Forest. In 1933, the Stearns Coal and Lumber Company donated nearly 12,000 acres of land to the State of Tennessee to be developed as a forest recreational area. Initial development of the area by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) occurred between 1934 through 1942. The CCC constructed hiking trails, five rustic cabins, a recreation lodge, a ranger station and a 12-acre lake.

**33. 4 Points:** Hike the 1.6 mile moderate Hazard Cave Loop Trail. While under the cave (rockshelter), stop and rest on a bench made from an American chestnut tree in the 1930s by the CCC. This almost perfect tree was rot-resistant and typically grew up to 100 feet tall. Settlers used this tree for furniture, fencing and homes and the nuts were crucial to the diets of many different kinds of wildlife. Unfortunately, the American chestnut was wiped out by a blight fungus in the early 1900s. (Don't forget to log your miles on your log sheet.) Date Hiked: \_\_\_\_\_

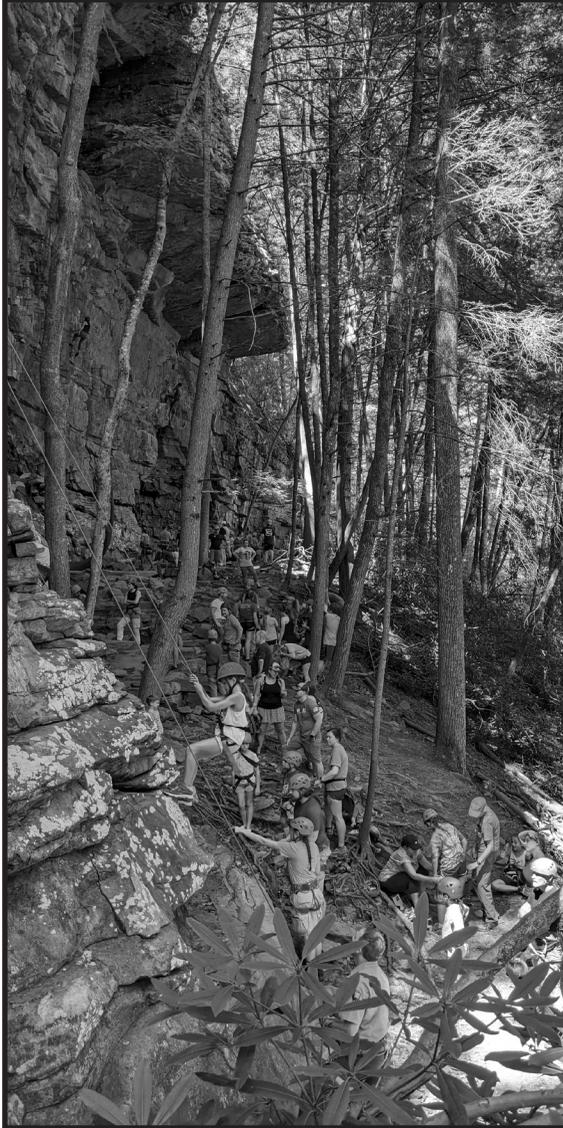
**34. 4 Points:** Feeling adventurous? Take a selfie on the swinging bridge with your GO BIG 2024 Challenge book and email it to [biso\\_challenge@nps.gov](mailto:biso_challenge@nps.gov). Date Visited: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ : TOTAL POINTS EARNED

## Obed Wild and Scenic River

Looking much the same today as it did long ago when the first white settlers arrived, the Obed is indeed both wild and scenic. The river allowed for trapping and hunting but farming was never an option due to poor soil. Today, a variety of outdoor adventures await you.



**35. 4 Points:** Visit Nemo Bridge. As you stand out on the bridge listening to the sound of the Emory River flowing below, imagine the Great Flood of 1929 when the water peaked at eight feet above the deck of the bridge! Read the Wayside Exhibit located there. Examine the photo with the two men standing on the bridge. Notice the expression on their faces. How do you think they were feeling?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date Visited: \_\_\_\_\_

**36. 4 Points:** Leave only footprints; take only memories! Snap a selfie with your GO BIG 2024 Challenge book from the Nemo Bridge and email it to [biso\\_challenge@nps.gov](mailto:biso_challenge@nps.gov).

Date Visited: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ : TOTAL POINTS EARNED

## Sgt. Alvin C. York State Historic Park

Sergeant Alvin C. York State Historic Park is located nine miles north of Jamestown on Highway 127 in Pall Mall, Tennessee and pays tribute to one of the most decorated soldiers of World War I. He received the Medal of Honor for leading an attack on a German machine gun nest; killing 25 enemy soldiers and capturing 132.

**37. ♿ 4 Points:** What year is on the Sgt. Alvin C. York General Merchandise's Ramon's Brownie Calendar in the visitor center? \_\_\_\_\_

**38. 4 Points:** Look out for that incoming shell! Dive down into the reproduction World War I trench. Modeled after Allied trenches on the Western Front, explore this 230 foot expanse of trenching and imagine you are one of the millions of men and women who served their country during World War I. Take a selfie here with your GO BIG 2024 Challenge book! Email your photo to [biso\\_challenge@nps.gov](mailto:biso_challenge@nps.gov).

## Manhattan Project National Historical Park

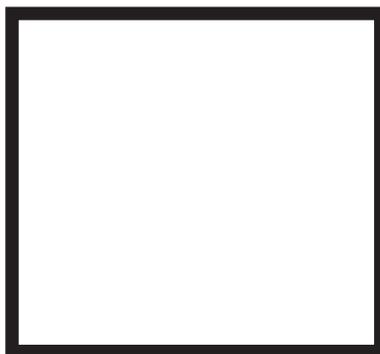
Oak Ridge is referred to as The Atomic City, The Secret City or The City Behind the Fence. These names were given because during WWII this was a top-secret city that was constructed and housed over 75,000 people. The facilities at Oak Ridge produced enriched uranium through an electromagnetic separation process.

**39. ♿ 4 Points:** Collect the Oak Ridge, Tennessee Manhattan Project cancellation stamp at the visitor center (461 West Outer Drive) and speak with a ranger or volunteer to find out where cancellation stamps two and three for the Manhattan Project are located.

Where are they? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Date Visited: \_\_\_\_\_

Stamp your book here:



\_\_\_\_\_: **TOTAL POINTS EARNED**

**40. ♿ 4 Points:** Attend one of the Tennis Court Dances held by the Manhattan Project NHP. Swing dancing was a very important part of the families lives that lived and worked in the Secret City during the 1940s era and the Jackson Square Tennis Courts was where many of these social events took place. Contact the visitor center at (865) 482-1942 or follow us on Facebook to find out when the programs are being held. Don't forget to bring your dancing shoes!

Date Attended: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ : **TOTAL POINTS EARNED**

## 2021: FLORA, CRITTER, AND RANGER CHALLENGE

Biological diversity took center stage in the GO BIG 2021 Challenge. Big South Fork NRRRA is a great place to find a wide variety of flowers, animals, and Rangers! The challenges created opportunities to get better acquainted with species that call Big South Fork home. Please remember to practice *Leave No Trace* principles when exploring the biological diversity in the park. Always observe wildlife from a distance and do not approach, never feed animals, always store food properly, and keep pets under control and on a six-foot leash. Picking and harvesting wildflowers in the park is prohibited.

### FLORA: LATE SPRING

**41. 3 Points:** Mountain Laurel—This large shrub can grow to be 10 feet tall. Found in dry, acidic woods, this plant's shiny green leaves are four inches long and oval shaped. Its flowers, which grow in clusters, are whitish-pink and cup-shaped.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

### FLORA: EARLY SUMMER

**42. 3 Points:** Cumberland Azalea—This small shrub grows up to six feet tall and is made up of irregular, open branches. Its leaves are thin, irregular, and green. The flowers grow in groups of up to seven, are funnel shaped, and are orange in color. They consist of five petals and their stamens extend out of the flower.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

### FLORA: AUTUMN

**43. 3 Points:** White Wood Aster—This perennial grows between 12–36 inches tall and is colonial. It consists of zig-zag stems with two to four-inch-long toothed leaves. Its flowers are white and form a ray around a yellow disc.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ : TOTAL POINTS EARNED

**CRITTER:**

**44. 1 Point Each:** Spring is the best time of year to hear and view our avian friends. Inventorying & Monitoring specialist have successfully identified 168 different species of birds in Big South Fork NRRRA. Go to our website and download "A Checklist of Birds in Big South Fork" at <https://www.nps.gov/biso/upload/BISO-bird-guide-taxonomic-order.pdf> and see how many you can identify while out in the park. Give yourself one point for each species you can correctly identify visually or by its song.  
Species: \_\_\_\_\_

Date in 2024: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Points Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

**45. 3 Points:** Everything that eats must discard what their body doesn't use for nutrition. Wildlife biologists have learned a great deal about animals through their scat. Embrace nature and study some scat. What kind of critter do you think it is? \_\_\_\_\_ What does it eat? \_\_\_\_\_  
Can you make that out from the scat? \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you find it? \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**46. 10 Points:** The Big South Fork River is one of just a few free-flowing rivers left in the state of Tennessee and the eastern United States. These fluctuating rivers create precious and unique habitats for thousands of species of flora and fauna. Big South Fork NRRRA has successfully identified 79 different species of fish and 44 species of mussels with new species still being identified each year. Along with its tributaries, there is over 70 miles of water to explore. Before you head out, download Game Fish of Big South Fork at <https://www.nps.gov/biso/learn/nature/upload/Game-Fish.pdf>. You will earn an additional point for each of the species listed. Don't forget to obtain a valid Tennessee or Kentucky fishing license before you go.

Species Caught: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Fished and Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Points Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ : **TOTAL POINTS EARNED**

**RANGER:**

**47. 50 Points:** Help your National Park by becoming a Big South Fork NRRRA and Obed WSR Trail Keeper. Volunteers must do a complete check of the trail once each quarter and turn in their required paperwork to the Volunteer Coordinator in 2024 to receive the points.

Sign up by email at [effie\\_houston@nps.gov](mailto:effie_houston@nps.gov)

Trail: \_\_\_\_\_

1st Quarter Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd Quarter Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Quarter Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 4th Quarter Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**48. ♿ Be a Park Volunteer!** There are many ways you can serve in your National Park! Contact the Volunteer Coordinator in 2024 to see how you can assist with special events and special projects. Sign up by email at [effie\\_houston@nps.gov](mailto:effie_houston@nps.gov). (Trail Keeper time does not count on this section.)

1 point for every hour worked: Total hours worked: \_\_\_\_\_ Total points: \_\_\_\_\_

**49. ♿ Receive 5 points for every ranger-led program you attend in 2024:** Some programs are wheelchair accessible. Contact Bandy Creek Visitor Center at (423) 286-7275 for more information.

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

**50. ♿ 10 Points for each of the major events attended at Big South Fork NRRRA plus 10 points for attending them all:**

Total points: \_\_\_\_\_

Spring Planting & Music Festival: Bandy Creek - April 27

Decoration Day - May 4 and the entire month of May

Obed WSR Photo Contest Winners Reveal: Obed Visitor Center - August 23

Big South Fork Photo Contest Winners Reveal: Bandy Creek - September 6

Haunting in the Hills Storytelling Festival: Bandy Creek - September 21

Blue Heron Ghost Mine - October 18

**51. ♿ 10 Points:** Don't forget your camera! Enter a photo in Big South Fork's 2024 annual photo contest. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**52. ♿ 5 Points:** Ask a park ranger to tell you their favorite animal and plant of Big South Fork. Add their name and answer below.

Ranger: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ : **TOTAL POINTS EARNED**

## 2022: COZY CAMPFIRE CHALLENGE

2022 was a year for outdoor recreation! The Cozy Campfire Challenge encouraged participants to stay a bit longer and set up camp. Big South Fork NRA and Obed WSR contain a total of six developed campgrounds as well as opportunities for primitive camping experiences in the backcountry. Whether visiting for the recreation or just looking for a place of peace and quiet, there are a variety of campgrounds that can accommodate any need. As you enjoy sleeping out in nature, remember that these areas are home to black bears and be bear aware. Always store food, trash, cooking utensils, and coolers inside the bear proof lockers at all times and keep your grills and campfires free from grease.

**53. 10 Points Each Park:** Obtain a permit and go backcountry camping at Big South Fork NRA or Obed WSR in the park in 2024. Permits can be obtained at Bandy Creek Visitor Center, Obed Visitor Center, or online at [www.pay.gov](http://www.pay.gov). Use caution when you build your campfire. Only use dead and down trees for firewood. Hang all food, trash, and use the standard method (10 feet up; 4 feet out) for hanging your backpacks and food sacks. Find two trees about 30 feet apart with limbs 15-20 feet high. Throw a rope across the limbs and allow enough slack to attach your packs. Once attached, pull the rope tight and the packs should stabilize high enough where a bear cannot reach. Cook your meals some distance from your sleeping area and do not sleep in clothes you have cooked in. Plan your meals carefully so that you do not have excess food left over. Bear proof canisters are also encouraged.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Where did you camp? \_\_\_\_\_

Tent or Hammock? \_\_\_\_\_

What did your evening meal consist of? \_\_\_\_\_

**54. ♿ 10 Points:** Go camping in Big South Fork's largest campground in 2024, Bandy Creek Campground. Bandy Creek is in the Tennessee portion of Big South Fork off of Highway 297, 15 miles west of Oneida and 24 miles east of Jamestown. The campground offers a total of 181 campsites: 96 trailer sites which offer water and electric hook-ups, 49 sites for tent camping, and two group camping loops with 19 sites in one loop and 16 sites in the other. All campsites include picnic tables, fire rings, and access to restrooms and showers. A dump station is located near the registration kiosk. The group campsites also have their own cook shelters and campfire circles.

Reservations may be made by calling 1-877-444-6777 or going online at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov).

Date Camped: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*5 Bonus points for preparing a Dutch oven dinner!

What did you prepare? \_\_\_\_\_ Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ : **TOTAL POINTS EARNED**

**55. ♿ 10 Points:** Go camping at Blue Heron Campground in 2024. Blue Heron Campground is located in the Kentucky portion of Big South Fork, 9 miles west of Stearns off Highway 742. The campground offers a total of 45 sites all with water and electric hook-ups, picnic tables, fire-rings, access to restrooms and showers and a dump station. While there, visit Blue Heron Outdoor Museum. Reservations may be made by calling 1-877-444-6777 or going online at recreation.gov. Date Camped: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*5 Bonus points for preparing an aluminum foil pack dinner over your cozy campfire. Make sure you use a grate over the fire, so you don't burn the food inside.

What did you prepare? \_\_\_\_\_ Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ : TOTAL POINTS EARNED

**56. ♿10 Points:** Go camping at Station Camp Campground in 2024. Station Camp Campground contains 24 individual sites for equestrian campers as well as non-equestrian campers. Each site offers water and electricity, tables, grills, tie-outs for four horses, access to modern restrooms with hot showers, a dump station and access to miles of horse trails. The campground is located on Station Camp Road off Hwy 297, west of Oneida, Tennessee. Station Camp Campground is open year-round. Reservations may be made by calling 1-877-444-6777 or going online at recreation.gov.

Date Camped: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Number: \_\_\_\_\_

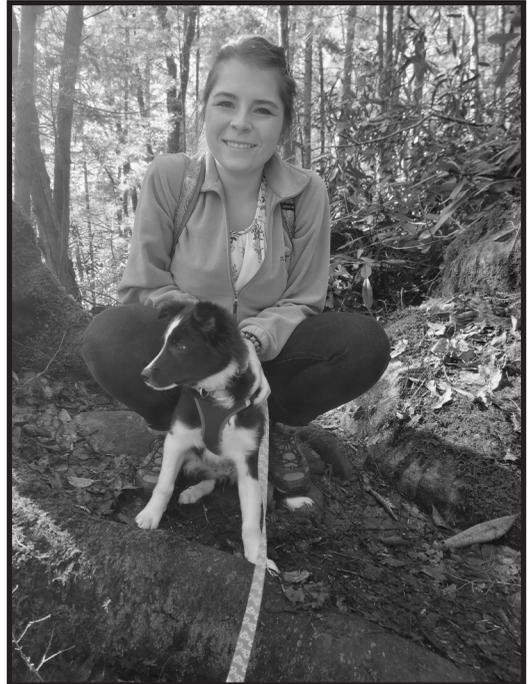
\*5 Bonus points for preparing a hearty Hobo stew over your cozy campfire.

What was in your stew? \_\_\_\_\_ Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_

**57. ♿10 Points:** Go Camping at Bear Creek Campground in 2024. This campground contains 23 developed campsites for equestrian campers and non-equestrian campers. Each site offers water and electricity, tables, grills, tie-outs for 4 horses, access to modern restrooms with hot showers, a dump station and access to miles of horse trails. Bear Creek Campground is located on Bear Creek Road off Hwy. 742, west of Stearns, Kentucky. Reservations may be made by calling 1-877-444-6777 or going online at recreation.gov.

Date Camped: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Cowboy up! Earn 5 Bonus points for preparing pigs in a blanket with a cast iron skillet over your cozy campfire. Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ : **TOTAL POINTS EARNED**



GO BIG Celebration

**58. ♿ 10 Points:** Go camping at Alum Ford Campground in 2024. Alum Ford Campground is located in the Kentucky portion of Big South Fork seven miles west of Whitley City, Kentucky at the end of Highway 700. The campground consists of six campsites each with picnic table and fire ring. Pit toilets are available, but no drinking water. The campground is located adjacent to the Alum Ford Boat Launch, providing access for motorized boats to this remote section of Lake Cumberland. The campsites are first come, first serve, no reservations and open year-round.

Date Camped: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*5 Bonus points for trying one of the many dehydrated food pouches available. Heat your water and enjoy a wonderful meal in minutes! You can even get ice cream!

What did you try, and did you like it? \_\_\_\_\_ Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_

**59. ♿ 10 Points:** Go camping at Rock Creek Campground at Obed Wild and Scenic River in 2024. Rock Creek Campground, located adjacent to the Nemo area of Obed Wild and Scenic River, offers 11 campsites. Reservations may be made by calling 1-877-444-6777 or going online at recreation.gov. The campground has grills and primitive toilet facilities, but no running water.

\*5 Bonus points for preparing a hot beverage over your cozy campfire.

What did you make? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ : **TOTAL POINTS EARNED**

## 2023: NATIVE TREE CHALLENGE

Last year's challenge embraced trees! "Forest Fun" had participants identifying, photographing and hugging a variety of trees in the parks. Why are trees so important anyway? Trees are essential for all living things! This challenge features native trees that were naturally occurring and self-sustaining populations in historic times. Remember, it is illegal to cut or dig any vegetation found within the borders of Big South Fork and Obed.

**60. 10 Points:** Did you know the yellow poplar, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, is the Tennessee & Kentucky state tree? When identifying this tree, look for the saddle-shaped leaves with either 4 or 6 lobes. It is fast-growing and a very valuable hardwood species within the region because of its light weight and tall, straight trunk. It was a preferred building material among settlers for cabins and ox yokes. It's long-winged seeds serve as a food source for some of our avian friends and small mammals, while the nectar from spring flowers is used by bees to produce a delicious tasting honey.

What is another name for the yellow poplar? \_\_\_\_\_

Why does it have this name? \_\_\_\_\_

Observe this tree in the spring and describe its flower. \_\_\_\_\_

Date observed: \_\_\_\_\_

**61. 5 points:** Some of the largest trees growing in our parks today are the American beech trees, *Fagus grandifolia*. Growing to 100 feet tall or more, this tree is easily recognized by its smooth, gray, thin bark and is often vandalized with carvings. Vandalism is a crime and you should let a park ranger know if you witness it. The bark of the beech tree is so thin, it can photosynthesize through it!

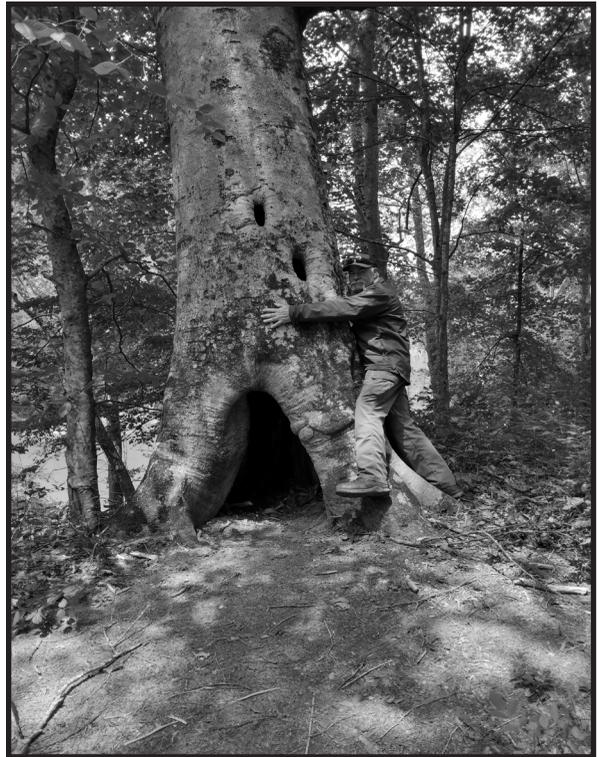
Where did you see the American beech tree?

Did it have carvings on it? What did it say?

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Bonus: Earn 5 points for taking a selfie of you hugging a large beech tree and email it to [biso\\_challenge@nps.gov](mailto:biso_challenge@nps.gov).

Total points: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ : **TOTAL POINTS EARNED**

**62. 5 Points:** The black oak, *Quercus velutina*, is common in the deciduous forests throughout much of the Eastern and Midwestern United States. Black oak leaves are often quite variable and can be difficult to distinguish from other oak species. Look for leaves that are shiny on top with fuzzy hairs on the underside, 4-10 inches long, with 5-7 bristle tipped lobes. Oak Ridge, Tennessee takes its name from Black Oak Ridge and the trees that grow there. While visiting the parks, locate this tree.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**63. 5 Points:** Oaks aren't the only tree in Oak Ridge marking a point on the map. Lending their names to the hills and ridges throughout the reservation, trees helped shape Oak Ridge during the Manhattan Project and today. A few of the greenways in Oak Ridge bear the name of native trees. While exploring the park, visit these trails and identify their iconic tree. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Greenways: \_\_\_\_\_

**64. ♿ 10 Points:** To the early settlers, native trees were an absolute necessity and played a vital role in their daily lives. Their very life depended on trees! Mountain people always knew the unique characteristics of each species and how to best use them to ensure survival. They were diligent to teach their children these skills and pass down a true appreciation for what they provided. Imagine how life was during the time of the early settlers.

Can you name 10 essential things trees provided for them? \_\_\_\_\_

Of these 10, which do you think was most important and why? \_\_\_\_\_

**65. 5 Points:** Having the largest simple leaves and the largest flowers of any native North American tree, the bigleaf magnolia, *Magnolia macrophylla*, is a species widely found in the park. Its large leaves are wavy and rounded on the sides, making ear-lobed or heart shaped lobes at the base. The large plate-sized flowers are a showy creamy white. Unlike the umbrella magnolia, the flowers are pleasant and fragrant having a cup-like shape. Unlike the other species of magnolias, the fruit is more rounded and less cone shaped.

Where did you see the bigleaf magnolia? \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Bonus: Earn 5 points for taking a picture of the large showy flower next to your GO BIG 2024 Challenge book and emailing it to [biso\\_challenge@nps.gov](mailto:biso_challenge@nps.gov).

Total points: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ : **TOTAL POINTS EARNED**

## Reflections Along The River Challenge

To commemorate the park's 50th year anniversary, the final category in this year's GO BIG Challenge invites us to explore events and decisions that led the park into today. Each activity dives into Big South Fork history and encourages us to reflect on the moment by answering personalized questions. There are no wrong answers. Feel free to express yourself on this one!

**66. ♿ 5 Points:** Over 10,000 years ago, American Indians originally occupied this area following deer, bear, elk, and bison. They found the river, known as Flute River to the Cherokee, to be abundant with fish and mussels. They camped in the rockshelters overlooking the river and left behind artifacts that continue to shed light on the past. In 1805, the Tellico Treaty ceded the territory along the Big South Fork River from the Cherokee to the United States and settlers entered the area. Subsistence farming, commercial logging, and coal mining all shaped the landscape. On March 3, 1974, the United States Congress created the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, and the few people who lived in the river settlements moved out. Visit the Bandy Creek Visitor Center and watch the park video.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If the Big South Fork NRRRA had not been created in 1974, what do you imagine the 125,000 acres of park would be instead? \_\_\_\_\_

\*Bonus 3 points Why do you think it is important we protect areas like the Big Fork NRRRA? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ : **TOTAL POINTS EARNED**



**67. 5 Points:** Blue Heron was one of the last coal camps established by the Stearns Coal and Lumber Company in 1937. Within a few years, 250 people were employed at this small mine camp. The few families who lived in the camp were isolated because there was no road into this area until the 1950s. The mines struggled to produce enough coal after World War II and permanently closed in 1962. Today this area has been reconstructed as an outdoor museum where visitors can learn about the history of coal mining and contemplate what life was like here almost a century ago. Visit the Blue Heron Outdoor Museum and tour the “ghost structures”.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ What do you think life was like for the families who lived here? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**68. 5 Points:** Visit the Oscar Blevins Farm. Oscar and Martha Ermon Blevins moved to this farm after their marriage in 1939. They lived in the simple log house where Oscar was born in 1915. They expanded the farm to include the new house, outbuildings, and large barn. In 1974, the Blevins family received word that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was purchasing their land for the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. They moved to another farm near Jamestown and are buried in Katie Blevins Cemetery.

Walk around the farm and imagine the life they built here. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ How would you feel to have left this place? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ : **TOTAL POINTS EARNED**

**69. ♿ 5 Points:** Visit the Devils Jump Overlook close to the Blue Heron Campground. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
The Devils Jump rapid originally got its name because of the logging operations along the river. The farmers would throw logs into the river and float them to Burnside, Kentucky for market. When they reached Devils Jump, the “log devils” would jump on the rocks below until the logs made it through the rapid and would jump back on them. Through most of the 20th century, this place was the subject of heated debate between congressmen from Tennessee and Kentucky and other private parties regarding a hydroelectric dam that was proposed for this spot. The Devils Jump Dam would have been the largest hydroelectric project in the eastern U.S. and measure 483 feet high, 6,260 feet long, and flood almost 37,000 acres of land. After stalling in congress for decades, it was proposed in 1974 to turn the land into a National Park that would preserve one of the last free flowing rivers east of the Mississippi. How would your view be different if the dam had been built?

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**70. 5 Points:** Black bears once ranged over much of the North American continent. While there were as many as two million black bears in North America before European colonization, the population declined to a low of 200,000 as a result of habitat destruction and hunting. During the winter and summer of 1996 and 1997, 14 black bears were released in the Big South Fork area as a test and to help determine whether the area contained adequate habitat and food sources. The population has increased over the years and park staff engage in bear management to ensure healthy and sustainable bear populations. Bears are a vital part of natural ecosystems and an important link in food webs. Hike the Bandy Creek Loop Trail. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ While hiking, look for evidence of black bears on the trail (scat, prints, hair, etc.) What did you find? \_\_\_\_\_

\*Bonus 3 points: What role do you think black bears play in the Big South Fork ecosystem? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**71. ♿ 5 Points:** Go to your favorite place in Big South Fork NRRRA. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ What place is it and what feelings do you have while you are there? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Bonus 3 points: How do you think this special place will look in another 50 years? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# GO BIG CHALLENGE ACTIVITY LOG SHEET

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



NAME:					Page	of
Route	 Hike	 Bike	 Equestrian	 Paddle	Date Month/Day	Initials
<b>Totals</b>						

# GO BIG 2024 CHALLENGE POINT LOG

Add up the points on each page of this booklet and log them onto the corresponding lines below.

Total Points Per Page						
Page 3			Page 11		Page 19	
Page 4			Page 12		Page 20	
Page 5			Page 13		Page 21	
Page 6			Page 14		Page 22	
Page 7			Page 15		Page 23	
Page 8			Page 16		Page 24	
Page 9			Page 17		Page 25	
Page 10			Page 18		Page 26	

GRAND TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

For award purposes we need you to select your age category:

Under 18 y/o                       Adult

Those who wish to be considered for an award must have their booklets turned in to the Bandy Creek Visitor Center no later than December 2, 2024. There will be a "GO BIG Celebration" on December 7, 2024 at Bandy Creek Visitor Center for everyone who participated. Those present will be considered for an award in various categories, however, employees and their families are not eligible to compete.

## AWARD CATEGORIES

- Most Hiking Miles
- Most Biking Miles
- Most Canine Miles
- Most Equestrian Miles
- Most Volunteer Points
- First Person to 100 Points
- Youth Award: Most Overall Points
- Most Overall Points: First and Second Place

\*\*Each participant can only qualify as a winner in one category.\*\*



This certificate is proudly presented to

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please print name

for completing the

# Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area GO BIG 2024 CHALLENGE

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

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Park Ranger Signature