

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

A CCBC FACULTY-LED STUDY AWAY PROGRAM
WITH GENEROUS FUNDING FROM CCBC'S HONORS COLLEGE
MAY 18-23, 2025



ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL IMPACTS OF SOUTHERN APPALACHIA SETTLEMENTS

Join CCBC faculty and staff from environmental science, geography and history as we explore the most visited, most biodiverse park in the National Park system. For five days, we will use the renowned Tremont Institute as our home base for a hands-on, immersive dive into the environmental and social issues facing the park today, as well as the evolving historical interpretation of human settlements of generations past.

Great Smoky Mountain National Park spans more than 800 square miles between North Carolina and Tennessee in the beautiful and historic Southern Appalachia region. This area is known for its incredible diversity of plants and animals, largely due to the temperate climate. A quarter of the park's forest is 'old growth,' with trees that are hundreds of years old.

Human history here is also diverse: The park has been home to Paleo-Indians, Cherokee people, European settlers, pro-union activists, free and enslaved African Americans, loggers, and workers in the Civilian Conservation Corps. All these groups left behind their mark on the park -- clues to the American past still being uncovered today.

History, nature and a distinct Appalachian culture come together in the Smokies. This program is your opportunity to explore it all.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY - JAN. 13-FEB. 21](#)

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

THE PROGRAM FEE OF \$50 INCLUDES:

- Round-trip ground transportation between CCBC Catonsville and Tremont, TN
- Five nights' accommodations in shared rooms
- Most meals
- Guided hikes
- Field studies
- Hands-on learning activities
- Historical/cultural excursions
- Evening cultural campfire programs
- Basic medical and travel insurance for program duration

MADE POSSIBLE BY
GENEROUS FUNDING FROM





Photo courtesy of Tremont Institute

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be at least age 18, be a current CCBC student, and be ready to complete an interview with one of the program's faculty leaders. Student applicants should also be in good academic and disciplinary standing at CCBC.

Students in any major may apply.



APPLICATION & PARTICIPANT SELECTION

Applications for this program will be accepted online from January 13 through February 21, 2025. Interviews will be conducted either in-person or virtually on a rolling basis.

Program applications will be adjudicated by a committee of CCBC faculty and staff at the end of February. Applicants will be notified of their participation status by early March, 2025.

ADJUDICATION CRITERIA

Seats are limited due to transportation and facility accommodations, so acceptance into this program is competitive.

The adjudication committee will consider the following:

- Application answers
- Faculty referrals
- Program interviews
- Applicability of program to educational and professional goals
- Anticipated graduation date
- Academic standing
- Judicial history

PAYMENT & REGISTRATION

The program fee of \$50 must be paid in full by Monday, March 10, 2025.

In addition, each admitted student must register with the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont by March 10, 2025. Faculty leaders will provide the link and instructions.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Participants experiencing financial hardship may apply for a scholarship to cover the \$50 program fee. Scholarship requests will be adjudicated in March 2025 by a committee of CCBC faculty and staff.

LODGING & MEALS

The program includes one night's stay in a hotel (three participants per room) in the Alcoa, TN, area and breakfast at the hotel. It also includes four nights' lodging in a shared dormitory (separate wings for males and females) at the Great Smoky Mountain Institute at Tremont, plus all meals while on site. It is the student's responsibility to disclose dietary restrictions at the time of program application.

Participants are responsible for meals on the dates of travel (first and last day of program).

INSURANCE

This study away program includes a basic travel insurance and emergency medical policy for the duration of the program.

Participants over age 60 may pay a supplemental insurance fee.

For more details about insurance, contact CCBC's Global Education Office.



ABOUT THE TREMONT INSTITUTE

For more than 50 years, the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont has been connecting people and nature inside Great Smoky Mountains National Park through in-depth experiences and education programs that celebrate ecological and cultural diversity, foster stewardship, and nurture appreciation of the national park.

Tremont Institute is situated about four miles from the Townsend, TN entrance of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It is surrounded by miles of trails, a rushing river, and a half million acres of mountains and forest.

Participants are housed in air-conditioned and heated living quarters with bathroom/shower facilities. Tremont offers a full kitchen staff providing three meals a day.

MEET YOUR PROGRAM LEADERS



Jeremy Monn

Jeremy teaches geography and earth science courses at CCBC as an assistant professor. Growing up in southern Pennsylvania, he spent much of his childhood playing sports and exploring the outdoors -- hiking, canoeing, and kayaking. Jeremy's favorite national parks include Maine's Acadia National Park and Florida's Dry Tortugas National Park. Jeremy has led two previous study away programs to the Great Smoky Mountains in addition to leading local volunteer efforts aimed to connect students with nature.



Melissa Chambers

Melissa is an instructor of history at CCBC. She has also been a coordinator in CCBC's Global Education office, where she helps connect students with off-campus learning experiences, including study abroad and study away in the USA. Melissa has led two previous study away programs to the Great Smoky Mountains, as well as a study abroad program to the UK. Melissa loves to travel and enjoys camping and the outdoors. She has made several trips exploring the Great Smoky Mountains.



Nick VanHorn

Nick is the chair of CCBC's performing arts and humanities department at CCBC and teaches philosophy and ethics courses as an assistant professor. He is very interested in biodiversity loss and climate change as well as the interconnectedness of living beings. When not working, Nick spends his time hiking, gardening, planting trees, and camping. Some of his favorite destinations are the Redwoods of Northern California and Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia.



James Spay

James is an instructor of earth science, environmental science, and oceanography at CCBC. He was born in the UK and developed a love of nature while hiking in the Highlands of Scotland. James enjoys exploring new environments and learning about their wildlife.





ITINERARY

SUNDAY, MAY 18

8 a.m. departure from CCBC's Catonsville campus. Lunch on the road (cost not included). Arrive in the Alcoa, TN, area in early evening. Check in to the hotel. Group dinner at an area restaurant.

MONDAY, MAY 19

Breakfast included at the hotel. Morning tour of Maryville University, including meeting with environmental science faculty. Arrive at Tremont Institute for orientation and lunch. Afternoon waterfall hike, followed by free time to settle into accommodations. Dinner followed by evening campfire activities with your faculty leaders.

TUESDAY, MAY 20

Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided by Tremont Institute. Full day visit to Cades Cove to explore regional cultural history through investigating historic home sites and to engage with multi-faceted park management questions. Evening debriefing with faculty at the campfire, followed by a short evening hike to experience the forest at night with a guided meditation.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided by Tremont Institute. A full day high-elevation ecology hike (3 to 5 miles) to explore park biodiversity and regional air quality, water quality, and impacts of visitor use. Includes hiking a section of the Appalachian Trail. (Modified physical activity options also available.) Evening debriefing with faculty leaders at the campfire, followed by the Lost Mill String Band sharing the musical heritage of Southern Appalachia.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided by Tremont Institute. Morning "Literary Landscapes" activity, followed by a half-day ethnobotany workshop, exploring how humans depend on plants for survival through the lens of regional cultural history and local knowledge of ecosystems. Afternoon visit to the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center in Townsend. Evening debriefing with faculty at the campfire, followed by local storytellers sharing tales of Appalachian and Cherokee traditions.

FRIDAY, MAY 23

Breakfast and to-go lunch provided by Tremont Institute. Packing up followed by mid-morning departure for CCBC Catonsville. Refreshment stops en route. Evening arrival at CCBC Catonsville.

Daily excursions are subject to change, and the order of activities may be switched or substituted as needed based on availability.



STUDY AWAY PROGRAM ACKNOWLEDGMENT: GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK



SUBMIT SIGNED ACKNOWLEDGMENT PAGE AND ASK ANY QUESTIONS TO:

Melissa Chambers (mchambers2@ccbcmd.edu) or Jeremy Monn (jmonn@ccbcmd.edu)

CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION, OPEN JAN. 13 - FEB. 21, 2025

<https://forms.office.com/r/pYRUcefCzW>

ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY FOR FACULTY-LED STUDY AWAY

At the time of application,

- be in good academic and disciplinary standing at CCBC
- be at least age 18
- be ready to complete an interview with a faculty leader

STUDY AWAY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

PAYMENTS

- Before the required deadline, participants must pay for the program in full.
- Program payments are nonrefundable. Payments will be processed by CCBC upon receipt.
- Payment may be made online using a credit card. Payment instructions will be sent via email.
- Consult with the program packet for specific program inclusions.
- Students experiencing financial hardship may apply for a scholarship to cover the \$50 program fee.

AMOUNT

CCBC STUDENTS: \$50

PAYMENT DUE

March 10, 2025

REFUND AND WITHDRAWAL POLICY

- Program payments are nonrefundable. CCBC withdrawal, drop, add, and refund dates deadlines do not apply to study away.
- If CCBC has already paid or encumbered funds on a participant's behalf at the time of a withdrawal, the participant is obligated to pay the amount encumbered or paid by CCBC unless and until the third party reimburses CCBC or releases CCBC from the financial obligation.
- Some CCBC study away program insurance policies include limited cancellation coverage under certain circumstances; others do not carry cancellation coverage. Participants are responsible for requesting and reviewing program insurance coverage to ascertain whether it meets their needs and may purchase additional insurance coverage independently if they wish to. A participant who wishes to cancel participation in study away for any reason after the published payment deadline may pursue a claim with the program insurance policy if it includes applicable cancellation provisions. Refunds are not guaranteed.

ACADEMICS

- Study away programs are academic in nature and participants must expect to invest time and effort in this program's learning activities.
- Participants will complete assignments per the faculty leaders' written directive, both during the spring 2025 semester and onsite.
- Attendance at all scheduled program activities is required, both at CCBC and away. Participants are expected to be punctual at all scheduled activities. Lateness and absence may result in suspension or expulsion.
- Participants will take part in two required pre-departure orientations during the spring 2025 semester and in one post-travel meeting (dates to be announced).
- Student participants must satisfactorily complete assigned academic work to receive the study away transcript credential.

TRAVEL

- Travel to and from the program site, as well as travel as part of program excursions, will be via CCBC vans. Participants will travel together as a group.

HEALTH

- Applicants should consult with a healthcare provider to ensure that they are fit to travel and to participate in a program conducted largely outdoors, including in forested areas.
- The majority of this program will be held outdoors. Participants should dress for outdoor weather and activities, and bring rain gear and bug spray. Participants should also prepare for significant walking on uneven terrain and bring sturdy, comfortable shoes for walking. Consult with a travel medicine specialist for further recommendations.
- Participants who require special accommodations of any sort should make their needs known to the Global Education office as early as possible. Otherwise, it may delay their participation in study away until reasonable accommodations/adjustments can be determined. There is no guarantee that all individual needs and circumstances can be met.
- Participants may complete a health disclosure form and paperwork pre-departure as required.
- If a participant becomes ill or injured, s/he should notify the program leader(s) immediately.

CONDUCT

- While studying away, participants are expected to abide by all applicable laws and by CCBC rules and policies, including the CCBC Student Code of Conduct.
- Participants are advised not to go out alone. If during free time adult student participants wish to leave the group, they are advised to tell a faculty leader where they are going and when they plan to return.
- The leaders have the right and responsibility to dismiss from the program any participant if the program leaders deem such action to be in the best interest of the group. In such instances, no refund or credit will be awarded to the member so dismissed. Breaches of local law will be reported to law enforcement agencies.
- All facilities reserved for the group are to be used solely by members of the group.
- Participants are financially responsible for any damages to accommodations or facilities used on the program.

CONTACT

- Participants' names and email addresses may be shared with fellow participants unless a participant has opted not to have this information disclosed by informing CCBC's Global Education office in writing.
- Should their academic status, disciplinary status, contact information, or other information related to the application change, participants are to contact and update the Global Education office immediately.
- Participants waive all rights of access and give permission to CCBC to use photographs or other media taken during the program for CCBC print and web publications unless a participant has opted out by informing CCBC's Global Education office in writing.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By my signature, I acknowledge that I have carefully read and I understand the policies and procedures found in this document governing participation in study away, and I agree to abide by them. I certify that the information I have provided in this application and in any accompanying materials is complete and correct.

CCBC and its employee(s) and agent(s) accept no responsibility in whole or in part for any delays, delayed departure or arrival; loss, damage, or injury to any person or property; or mechanical defect or failure of any nature, howsoever caused; or for any substitution of hotels. Program costs are quoted based on information current at the time of printing and are subject to changes therein at or before the time of final payment. No revision of the printed program or its included features is anticipated; however, the right is reserved to make any changes that may become necessary with or without notice and with the mutual understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual. The right is reserved to reject applications and to dismiss any person as a member of the program at any time.

I further agree that CCBC may withdraw me from the program and send me home at any time during the program at my expense if CCBC determines that my continued participation in the program will adversely affect my health, safety or welfare, or the health, safety, welfare or enjoyment of the program by others. I agree further that a decision to withdraw me from the program is final and that I am not entitled to any refund.

I understand that programs or components of programs must sometimes be cancelled for reasons outside CCBC's control. In these situations, CCBC will determine what refunds, if any, are due to participants.

In the event of an emergency situation where I am unable to express my own medical care decisions, I hereby authorize faculty, staff, designated agents, and/or an attending physician to seek emergency treatment on my behalf if, in their opinion, emergency treatment is necessary to safeguard my health. I acknowledge and agree that nothing in this release shall be understood as creating any obligation or duty on the part of CCBC to obtain medical care on my behalf. I agree to pay for any charges for emergency medical treatment that are not covered by my personal health insurance, and release CCBC and its agents from any liability or actions.

I acknowledge that I am voluntarily participating in this study away program. I acknowledge that I am aware that there are risks associated with travel, and that my participation in study away may expose me to risks of bodily or other personal injury or damage to property. CCBC and its Global Education office take reasonable steps to provide information and guidance, but I understand that CCBC cannot guarantee my safety and I assume full responsibility for all risks associated with my participation in study away. I agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless CCBC and its Global Education office, and CCBC's officers, agents, employees, and representatives from and against any claim which I, the participant, my parent(s) or guardian(s) or any other person may have for any losses, damages or injuries arising out of or in connection with my participation in study away.

PARTICIPANT NAME (printed)

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE

DATE