

# 2019 Brasstown Bald Field Trips

We're glad you're interested in bringing your group to visit Brasstown Bald, the highest point in Georgia! Please read over the details below to help make your visit safe and enjoyable. When you have decided what your group is interested in doing while you visit, send us your request by filling out the "Group Inquiry Form" and emailing to [krista@cfaia.org](mailto:krista@cfaia.org). For additional questions after reading over the details below, please call the Brasstown Bald Office at (706) 896-4137.

## Site Resources

- **Observation Deck Viewing (20 minutes)** – with 360 degree views, on a clear day you can see 4 states (Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee). Interpretive panels are stationed throughout for extra insight!
- **Summit Trail (20-30 minutes, each way)** – Walk on our 0.6 mile paved interpretive Summit Trail. The trail starts at the parking lot and passes through a high elevation rhododendron filled heath bald forest. The interpretive trail stimulates discussions about wagon train travel, forest habitat, and watersheds.
- **Four Seasons Film (14 minutes)** – Documentary film focusing on the changing seasons and weather that make Brasstown Bald unique. Plays on the hour, and half-hour in the Mountain Top Theater located across from the Exhibit Hall.
- **Exhibit Hall Exploration (approximately 20-30 minutes)** – Explore our hands-on educational Exhibit Hall in the Mountain Top Visitors Center. Geology, weather, cultural history, logging, conservation history, habitats, careers, and forest products are just some topics ready for discovery. A life size train engine and scavenger hunt are highlights for some students.
  - The scavenger hunt is designed for kids ages 5-12 and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Typically groups are divided into pairs.
  - The Junior Ranger Program, designed for kids ages 8-12 is also available for \$4 per student and will take approximately 1 hour to complete (includes Junior Ranger Booklet and Brasstown Bald Patch).
- **Picnic Area (12 tables)** – At the end of the parking lot we have picnic tables and bear proof trash bins for your groups enjoyment.
- **Guided Programs** – We are working hard at expanding our offerings to enhance your groups' experience! At this time we do not offer guided field trip programs for students or adults. Please let us know if this is something you think your group would like to participate in and we will be sure to contact you when it becomes available!

## Park Entry & Payment

We only take reservations for weekdays and limit groups to 100 people

- Free entry for all students ages 15 & under/ \$5.00 use fee per child, ages 16 & over
- \$5.00 use fee per adult, including group leaders, chaperones, teachers, bus drivers)

*Please specify if your group is a Title 1 school*

**Day of Payment is preferred, however invoicing is available. Checks can be made out to: CFAIA**

## Group Leader Guidelines

**Time:** Groups may schedule a field trip between the hours of 10am and 2pm. 10 am being the earliest time to arrive and 2 pm being the latest time to arrive. The amount of time you spend depends on what you would like to participate in and have time for. For larger groups, we recommend breaking up into smaller teams of 30 and alternating through the site resources available.

**Hiking:** Groups will walk to the Brasstown Bald Visitors Center from the parking lot via the 0.6 mile paved Summit Trail. While the trail is short, it is also steep and considered moderately strenuous. There are benches and interpretive panels along the route. Please stay on the trail at all time to protect our environment. If there is anyone in the group that is unable to hike or it is raining, the shuttle will be available where needed.

**Lunch:** You are welcome to have lunch with your group at the picnic area on site. It is located at the end of the parking lot, both on the East and West sides. Bear proof canisters are provided for your trash. Please leave no trace! Drink machines are available as well as snacks in the general store.

**Bathrooms:** Flushable toilets and running water sinks/ fountains are located in the main recreation area just past the ticket booth and under the pavilion, and also available at the Visitors Center at the Summit. A pit toilet is located in the middle of the parking lot.

**Clothing:** The highest point in Georgia has much different weather than the valleys below. It is regularly 10-15 degrees cooler on-top of the mountain. Even if the sun is shining below, it can be cold and rainy at the Bald. Please have your group prepare for comfort by bringing an extra layer (sweatshirt, jacket, or raincoat).

**Bus Drivers:** The road up to the Bald gets up to 25% grades at some points with many sharp curves. Please let your drivers know ahead of time so they know what to expect.

**Ground Rules:** Chaperone/ leader to student ratio 1:8

**General Store:** Located on the parking lot level, this cabin is filled with forest related merchandise including books, stickers, t-shirts, stuffed animals, kid's activities, and more! For larger groups of children, we allow 10 at a time with 1 chaperone/ leader present.

**THANK YOU!!**