

## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Julie Dion  
Phone: 904-249-9784, Office  
904-612-8976, Mobile

[JulieDion@DionMarketing.com](mailto:JulieDion@DionMarketing.com)

[www.visitncsmokies.com](http://www.visitncsmokies.com)



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## Free Ways to Explore Western North Carolina

*There are Many Affordable Ways to Discover Haywood County, Whether it's Taking a Day Trip to do Some Fly Fishing, or Hiking to the Top of the Highest Point*

**Haywood County, NC** – Finding [free things to do](#) and inexpensive activities while on vacation can help make a smaller dent in your wallet. Western North Carolina has hundreds of free activities ranging from hiking and rock climbing, to trout fishing and picking delicious fruit. Don't forget to bring the pooch along for some adventuring.

- **Hiking, Biking and Rock Climbing:** North Carolina has some of the best hiking in the Southeast. There are hundreds of different trails to choose from, including the Appalachian Trail. You can hike your way up to a peaceful waterfall, or bike through the picturesque mountain woods. You can even bike up to the Balsam Gap Overlook, which is the highest point on the Blue Ridge Parkway. There is also an abundance of different areas for rock climbing. With over 50 areas to choose from and seven different indoor climbing gyms, there's sure to be something to satisfy your climbing urge.
- **Monarch Migration and Waterfall Tours:** If your timing is right, it's a sight you will long remember: speckled orange bands of monarch butterflies flying through the Blue Ridge en route to Mexico's warmer climate. Come September, butterfly lovers start watching for the first signs of the regal monarchs fluttering through the Blue Ridge. Some travel distances of more than 1,500 miles, from as far north as southern Canada. But, if you're looking for some year-round excitement, the waterfall tours prove to be a relaxing way to explore the mountains. There are eight waterfall tours in the area, with only one being \$1 to visit.
- **Beautiful Parks and Pet Friendly Areas:** North Carolina is famous for its year-round beautiful parks. Whether you're visiting them in the snow or in the early start of spring, the mountain terrain is stunning during any season. The parks are a great way to capture some photographs, or take a long walk to rejuvenate. There are also pet friendly areas to take your dog, so don't forget to bring it along for the adventure. There are five

pet friendly places, with one of them being a dog walk, so you can both do some exercising.

- **Fishing and Picnicking:** Rushing streams, sparkling rivers, rippled ponds, and serene lakes are plentiful in Haywood County. A unique feature of the water is that it all originates here, none of it actually flows into the county from elsewhere. The water is filled with mountain trout, and is ideal for fly fishing. Grab your tackle box, and get ready to cast your fly rod and enjoy the pleasures and peacefulness of fishing in our mountain waters. There are also ideal areas for picnicking during the warmer months. Choose from one of the parks, or adventure around and find a secluded spot to sit and eat. The area is plentiful with places to sit, relax, and watch the colorful sunset.

Along with its picturesque natural beauty, Haywood County offers year-round cultural, music, family-fun activities and special events throughout the year. For more information, click <http://www.visitncsmokies.com/do>.

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