

Little Kids, Big Adventures Around Knoxville, Tennessee

Learning About and Experiencing the Cumberland Plateau,
Tennessee Valley, and Great Smoky Mountains

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Preamble

Welcome

Welcome to our book! This book is intended to serve as a resource for anyone looking to learn about or experience the outdoors around Knoxville, Tennessee.

Our aim in writing this is primarily to serve as an accessible guide to others looking to learn more about the outdoors around Knoxville. It is written with someone either new to Knoxville or someone who is looking to learn about the outdoors areas around Knoxville. For example, we take care to explain what we mean when we point to locations like the Cumberland Plateau (and how locations like *The Plateau* are different from the Smokies and the area in which Knoxville may be found, the Tennessee Valley.)

It will also have elements that will be of interest to those with more knowledge about and experience exploring the outdoors around Knoxville. For example, we've included detailed trail maps for each location and we include historical and scientific information to add context to the areas we describe.

To sum up the above, this is a book *primarily* but not exclusively for those looking to explore the outdoors around Knoxville, Tennessee who hope to do so with children. No experience with exploring the outdoors, in general, nor with the outdoors around Knoxville, is assumed. We focus on hiking, but mention other activities when relevant. Having established the audience, we next turn to some *other* aspects of the book.

Prologue

We moved to Knoxville from Michigan in 2018. When we moved, we knew about the Smokies - it's hard not to read about them when reading about Knoxville. But, the Smokies are *huge* - and while there is a lot of information about the Smokies available, it can be hard to parse. Are these recommended places also the most busy? Where are the hidden gems - the places locals go? What's practical to make it to on a day trip from Knoxville? It's too easy to end up on