

ACTIVE TRACK



Coming to Renew in the Smokies this year?

*We're excited to offer these fun and exciting
off-campus activities for Renew participants!*



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IN THE SMOKIES

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Active Track HIKING



How to **DRESS:**

- Supportive sneakers or hiking shoes
- Wear layers as the temperature may change throughout the day



What to **BRING:**

- Small backpack for carrying lunch and water
- Walking sticks
- Hat (recommended)
- Sunglasses (recommended)
- Swimming suit
- Sunscreen and bug repellent

Cost: **FREE**

- With van transportation to the trail head provided.



Johnson University

Kirk McClelland

*Professor of Service Learning,
Director of Service Engagement
and First Year Programs*

Leaders



Kirk McClelland loves hiking with his family and friends in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He also loves to hike and fly fish the mountain streams! Kirk grew up hiking in the white mountains of New Hampshire, hiked and backpacked extensively in the Adirondacks of New York, and was a backpacking, rock climbing, and rafting guide in the Collegiate Peaks region of Colorado. Over the past five years, Kirk has been leading hikes during Renew in the Smokies and looks forward to many more adventures!

Dr. Joseph K. Gordon (Joe, or Joe Go to students) is Professor of Theology at Johnson. He fell in love with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park while a freshman at Johnson University (then JBC) in 2003 and now spends as much time there as he can. He loves to help others encounter, appreciate, and understand God's fascinating animal and plant creatures in their native habitats, and has a special love for the good "creeping things" that God has made (see Genesis 1:24). When he's not teaching in the classroom, he enjoys talking about God, Scripture, and creation and especially exploring Johnson's beautiful campus and nearby areas with his wife Charis and two children, Stephen and Mariah. He is a certified Master Herpetologist through the Amphibian Foundation, and a certified Southern Appalachian Naturalist through the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont.



Dr. Joe Gordon,
Professor of Theology



Matt Johnson is partial to trails in the Smokies, but he has also logged miles in the Rocky Mountains, Grand Canyon, various other state/national parks, and the Israel National Trail. He is a Boston-qualifying marathon runner who encourages everyone to find activities they can pour into with passion.

**Matt Johnson, Director of
Community Engagement**



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BIKING

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11-MILE RIDE on the CADES COVE LOOP

Meet at the Phillips-Welshimer building parking lot prior to departure. Have some fun, get some exercise, and sing some songs as we ride the Loop and “Renew in the Smokies”.



Leaders



Tyson Chastain

Tyson Chastain has studied or worked at Johnson for most of the last 29 years and he loves interacting with guests of this annual summer program for Christian adults. This year, he is looking forward to co-leading the Cades Cove bike ride with Rocky. In 2022, Tyson participated in a 5-day, 300-mile bike ride from Ft. Myers to Key West, Florida. He even completed the “century” by riding over 100 miles in one day.

Rocky Christensen was born and raised in southern Arkansas in a small town of 404 people called Hatfield. He was raised by two parents who strongly believed in the Lord and instilled a strong work ethic in him. His dad was a full-time science teacher for 43 years and a minister for most of those years as well. His mom was a stay-at-home mom and later a speech pathologist. His parents encouraged his passion for attending a Christian college by asking him to spend two years at a “Bible college.” He took up this challenge and studied to be a minister. There were some turns God directed him on that helped him see he would carry out his calling to ministry as a financial aid professional, equipping many more to “extend the kingdom of God among all nations.” While he wears a tie to work every day, he can also run heavy equipment, run farm equipment, weld, and take care of livestock. He is excited to take you on a trip through nature where God’s fingerprints are clearly seen at every pedal of the bike.

Rocky Christensen



Active Track **GOLFING**



Location: **LAMBERT ACRES**

- Picturesque course in Maryville, about 30 minutes away from campus.

What to **WEAR:**

- Collared shirts required
- Typical golf attire
- No denim
- Golf shoes



Cost: **\$35**

- 18 holes
- With a cart
- You will be required to bring your own clubs as rental availability at the course is very limited.

Johnson University

Leaders



Richard Clark
Vice President for Advancement

“When I first started attempting golf, I would say, ‘I get paid to be frustrated, so I don’t need to pay good money to add to it.’ Then I started playing with some older men in my church who didn’t keep score, and when, at the end of the day, I only remembered the good shots, I concluded it was mostly about hanging out with guys you liked being around anyway. I decided to continue.”



Vance Tibbetts
Plant Services Supervisor



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KAYAKING

0.8 MILE PADDLE
AT THE HISTORIC
MEAD'S QUARRY PARK



About

Mead's Quarry Park only 25 minutes off of Johnson's campus offers a glimpse into east Tennessee's quarrying past that provided the pink marble used in local and national buildings and monuments such as the National Gallery of Art. This **pink marble is found almost exclusively in east Tennessee**. The sparkling blue quarry waters surrounded by tall rock cliffs make a beautiful setting for paddling. The quarry is home to number of interesting species of animals including the Berry Cave Salamander, a species that exists in only a handful of caves throughout east Tennessee, and the **only species of freshwater jellyfish in the entire world**.



Details

Activity is **LIMITED TO THE FIRST 30 REGISTRANTS!**
And costs \$28 CARD ONLY for 2-hour paddle.

BRING

Water shoes, Clothes suitable for paddling/getting wet, Sunscreen,
Water, Towel, Sunglasses recommended, Hat recommended, Snacks
– Waterproof bag.



IMPORTANT
PARTICIPANTS MUST BE
PHYSICALLY ABLE TO
INDEPENDENTLY BOARD
THEIR KAYAK

Active Track KAYAKING

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Meet the Leaders!

Clyde Timbs, Advancement I.T. Services was introduced to kayaking on a trip to Key Largo, FL and fell in love with it. Shortly after, we purchased kayaks for our entire family. Since that time we have frequently kayaked the French Broad, Holston, and Pigeon Rivers. We have also spent time on many of the east TN lakes, in the Atlantic Ocean, and Gulf of Mexico



Clyde Timbs



Jamey Gorman professor of History has been kayaking the French Broad River for several years with his family.

Jamey Gorman



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