HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Look for certain species within Great Smoky Mountains National Park (we'll show you which ones to target).

2. Use your smartphone to report them with iNaturalist.

Scientists use your observations to make new maps for Species Mapper. These maps help park management & researchers protect habitat in the Smokies.

WHAT IS SPECIES MAPPER?

Species Mapper (maps.nps.gov/species) lets users see where different species have been spotted and where they are likely to live across Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Park management use these maps to make informed conservation decisions and researchers use them to ask questions about biodiversity across the Smokies landscape.

We need more observations of thousands of species in the Smokies, telling us where they're found in the park, so that they can be mapped in Species Mapper. You can help by making observations with your smartphone and the iNaturalist app. Read on to find out how.

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are more than 20,000 known species living in Great Smoky Mountains National Park!
- Nearly half of those species are insects and over a quarter of those insects are beetles (like this glowworm beetle male, right!)
- Over 1,000 species are new to science, first discovered here in the Smokies!
- Discover Life in America manages the Smokies ATBI (All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory) to catalog and understand every lifeform in the park.
- Scientists think that there are still 40,000 to 60,000 undiscovered species living in the park. There are still so many discoveries to be made!
- Find out more about Discover Life in America and the Smokies ATBI by visiting dlia.org.
GETTING STARTED

Get iNaturalist app: Find iNaturalist in the App Store or Google Play and install it on your device.

Register with iNaturalist: You’ll need an iNaturalist account to submit observations. You can set one up by following prompts through the app or clicking Sign up at inaturalist.org.

Find our Guide: In app, go to the menu (≡) > Guides and search (Q) “snapit”. Select the Guide entitled Species SnapIt & MapIt Priorities. Download the Guide to your phone by going to the Guide’s settings (≡) > Download for offline use (recommended since cell coverage is poor in the park). To delete a downloaded Guide, go back to the Guide settings > Downloaded > Delete download.

Take a hike! Visit the park and search for the species in our Guide. When you find one of them (or any other lifeform you find intriguing), submit a photo (or photos) of it as an iNaturalist observation, via the app or a web browser.

Repeat: Your valuable data will be used to map additional species in Species Mapper. Make more observations of the same species (different individuals) and see how many more species you can find in the park.

SUBMIT AN OBSERVATION VIA iNATURALIST APP

1. Open app. Tap Observe or .

Snap a photo of a lifeform. If its blurry, tap RETRY to take another. Tap Next or OK to proceed.

Try taking a photo from a different angle or different body part. 1 photo is required, 2+ is better.

3. Tap here to identify your lifeform (automatic ID requires a data signal).

Optionally add field notes like “found on oak tree”

5. Check date/time and location (should fill automatically)

6. Submit your observation. Thanks!

SUBMIT AN OBSERVATION VIA WEB BROWSER

You can add observations from your digital camera through iNaturalist’s web platform.


2. Click (upper right).

Drag & drop photos or click Choose files to add 1 or more images of a lifeform.

3. Under Details, click the first box to identify your lifeform. Check the date/time, add a location for your image and add optional field notes like “hanging from branch.”

4. Under Projects, select Discover Life in America ATBI.

5. Click Submit. Awesome!

TIPS & TROUBLESHOOTING

- Enable location services on your phone (in the settings menu) so that location can automatically be added to your observations.

- Take multiple photos: It'll make your lifeform easier to ID. Try different angles and/or different parts of the organism (for a tree, show leaves and bark).

- Bad cell signal? No problem! You can make iNaturalist observations while offline. When you reach a signal area, go to the main observations screen, drag down and release to sync your observations with the iNaturalist cloud.

- AI identification assistance: iNaturalist has a magical feature to help you identify what species you’re observing. Just snap a photo and click What did you see? on the observation screen for species suggestions. Note: data connection required for assistance; cell signal limited in park.

- For updates, join our iNaturalist Project Discover Life in America ATBI and visit our website

Discover Life in America @discvrlife
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