

Black Bear Battalion Staff Visits Mt. LeConte

Members of the Harlan County High School JROTC recently visited Mount LeConte in the Great Smokey Mountains for adventure training weekend.

Participating in the trip were Cadet LTC. Amanda Jones, Cadet MAJ. Jonathan Franklin, Cadet CSM Roy day, Cadet CPT. Devon Elliott, Cadet CPT. Luke Johnson, Cadet MAJ. Daylon Wynn, Cadet CPT. Justin Hensley, Cadet CPT. Lucas Caldwell, Cadet CPT. Joshua L. Kelly, Cadet CPT. Quinn Noble, Cadet CPT. Josh Zunda, and Cadet CPT. Joseph Carreras.



The HCHS JROTC cadets hiked 5.5 miles up the mountain. They also hiked the same distance down, with a total of 11 miles logged.

At 6,593 feet, Mt. LeConte is the third highest peak in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park. It is located in the mountains of Sevier County, TN.

Established in 1925, the LeConte lodge is a small resort located on the top of the mountain. It was first a tent, then a single cabin. Now it is a series of log cabins and a central lodge/dining hall situated along the top of a mountain. There is no transportation to the lodge. All guests must hike on one of five trails that access the mountain. Due to this lack of access, supplies must be brought in via helicopter and llama pack trains.



Mt. LeConte has a climate similar to that of southern Canada, giving it cool summers and cold snowy winters. Snowfall averages 39.43 inches near its base to 79.82 inches at the peak. The climate is much cooler and somewhat wetter than the lower elevations. The lowest temperature recorded was a minus 32 degrees Fahrenheit on January 13 1986. The warmest day is believed to have been on June 25, 2010 with a temperature of 85 degrees. However, due to the reading haven been taken in the sun, it was inaccurate and the temperature officially was only 76 degrees that day.

"I am very proud of myself, and my staff," said Cadet LTC. Amanda Jones. "We all had a great time. We were very sore afterward, but it was worth the trip. All of my staff would agree," Cadet LTC. Amanda Jones said.

