



June 10, 2016

THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD CITIZEN SCIENTISTS!

WHAT ANIMALS LIVE ALONG THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY??

What animals live along the Blue Ridge Parkway? Through a project funded by the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation the National Park Service is trying to determine just that! Using heat and motion sensor cameras, park biologists, and soon a cadre of “citizen scientists” are setting up “camera traps” at locations throughout the 470-mile route of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The cameras are mounted to trees and capture photos of animals as they walk in front of the camera.

The Blue Ridge Parkway is looking for volunteer “Citizen Scientists” to help set out and monitor the wildlife cameras. If you don’t mind getting outside three or four times a month and walking/hiking in the rugged terrain along the Blue Ridge Parkway and are interested in what animals might lurk along the Parkway please consider volunteering for this project. Volunteers will work in groups of 2-4 people to set out and monitor 1-2 cameras each over a months’ time.

The National Park Service will host an orientation session and workshop on the “Camera Trap” Project on Saturday, June 25, 2016 from 9:00 am to approximately 12:30 pm in the downstairs classroom of the Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center in Asheville, NC. The first hour of the workshop will include an orientation/slide show presentation by Park Biologist Tom Davis on the camera project. The final two hours will be devoted to hands-on instruction on how to set up a camera trap and will involve a brief (up to a 1/3 mile) hike in the woods off trail near the Visitor Center. Participants should wear sturdy hiking/work boots and comfortable clothing. The workshop will be held rain or shine.

Please note that participants are asked to please register in advance by calling or emailing Tom Davis at **540-745-9663** or via email at **G_Tom_Davis@nps.gov**.

Additional workshops may be scheduled at a future date depending upon interest.