

# BLUE GHOST FIREFLY TWILIGHT TOURS

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)

### **Should we bring a flashlight or a head lamp?**

A flashlight with red light is preferred, that way no one will be blinded by oncoming light and the natural habitat will be protected and undisturbed by unnecessary white light. Otherwise, we will have red cellophane and rubber bands to cover your flashlight.

### **Are there any restrooms on the Trail?**

The Cradle of Forestry Discovery Center will be open and available throughout the event and restrooms are located inside the building. In an emergency, please speak with any of our team members, who will direct you to the closest available option.

### **Can I bring my pet?**

While we love pets, this evening event is not an appropriate environment for pets due to the number of participants, walking trails in the cover of darkness along with the impact on the natural resources and the quiet enjoyment of the event. Leashed well-behaved pets are welcome at the Cradle at other times.

### **What time should I arrive for this event?**

The front gate to the Cradle of Forestry opens at 8:15 pm. You will need to check-in, sign waivers for everyone in your group, have the opportunity to use the restroom if needed and shop in the Gift Shop. You will then make your way to the Outdoor Amphitheater for the evening briefing which starts promptly at 9:00 pm.

### **How long is the event?**

Gates open at 8:15 pm. The trail briefing and program starts promptly at 9:00 pm and you can enjoy the trail and habitat from 9:00 pm to 10:30 pm. Team members will clear the trail and require everyone to depart the trail area by 10:30 pm.

### **Are the paved trails uneven?**

Yes, the trails were paved several years ago and as the earth shifts, tree roots grow and as other natural challenges happen, the surface of the trails are affected as well. These trails are deep in the forest, so leaves, roots, limbs, rocks and debris are a natural occurrence.

### **Are the trails handicap accessible?**

While our trails are paved, you will be participating in a night event under the cover of darkness utilizing very low red light. The trails have been interrupted with tree roots, rocks and other hazards that make it more difficult at night.

### **Can I use a walker, wheelchair, or motorized scooter?**

Since this is a night event, under the cover of darkness in very low red light, mobility assisted devices are not recommended or feasible. While the trails are paved, they have been interrupted with tree roots, rocks, limbs and other debris that make traveling on the trail more difficult at night. Additionally, the trails have steep inclines and drops, turns and meanderings that make it more difficult to traverse at night.

### **Will you provide a wheelchair?**

Wheelchairs are not available for use at the Cradle of Forestry. See recommendation above regarding the use of mobility assistance devices.

### **A group member may not be able to walk the entire distance, if they would like to wait for the rest of the group can they return to the building or stay in the Discovery Center?**

Yes, they are welcome to return to the Discovery Center building to wait for the return of other group members. There are benches along the trail as well that they can wait on to rejoin other group members. As a reminder, it will be dark at the benches with no light available on the trail other than the low red-light trail markers.

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### **Will it be dark in the woods?**

Yes, this is a twilight event and for optimal viewing, darkness void of light pollution is required.

### **Is there a light to guide our way?**

Yes, the trails will be lined with red lights to guide you to optimal viewing sections. Additionally, team members will be dispersed throughout the trails to ensure you have the best experience possible.

### **Will we be on a paved trail?**

All the trails at the Cradle are paved hard surfaces. However, these trails go deep into the forest, so expect tree roots, rocks, limbs and other debris to be present. Some areas of the trails are not completely smooth due to these factors.

### **Will the Gift Shop be open? Will the Gift Shop be open after the tour?**

The gift shop will be open and available prior to your tour for your shopping pleasure. We are also working to provide Gift Shop availability after the tour, but that has not been confirmed.

### **What do I do if I am running late for the event start?**

Enter the main building (Cradle Discovery Center) and we will direct you to where you need to go.

### **If I am late will the entrance be locked?**

The entrance gate will typically stay open until all registered visitors for the event have arrived. If you are registered for the evening event and find the gate closed, please call (828) 877-3130.

### **If I purchased my tickets secondhand or was given tickets from someone, what information will I need to provide when I arrive?**

If you purchased tickets secondhand or were given tickets from someone, make sure you **GIVE THE NAME THE TICKETS WERE PURCHASED IN AT CHECK IN**. We register visitors the night of the event based off the name used to originally purchase the ticket. Please note that if the original purchaser is a Cradle Passholder, you will also need to be a Cradle Passholder to utilize those tickets. Tickets purchased utilizing the Cradle Passholder rate must provide a Cradle Season Pass at check in.

### **Will everyone in the group need to sign a waiver?**

A waiver is needed for every participant going on the trail during the event. Families can utilize one waiver by placing the name of all participants on the same document with all adults signing and one adult signing for any included minors.

### **If someone is unable to walk back to the Cradle Discovery Center will you be able to provide transportation off of the trail?**

In the event someone is unable to walk back to the building we can utilize a golf cart for transportation back to the Discovery Center. This option is only for emergency situations or to avoid one. If you feel your health or mobility will limit your ability to walk back to the building, we will request that you not register to participate in this event.

### **How will we know who is a guide?**

This is a self-guided event. You will receive a briefing and short presentation prior to going on the trails. Many team members will be stationed throughout the event and can be identified by the glowing necklace or bracelet they are wearing.

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### **Will we be going off trail?**

All event participants are requested to stay on the paved trails. Going into the grass, wooded areas and off trail damages the natural habitat along with the fireflies so everyone is requested to stay on trail for the entirety of this event.

### **How far do I have to walk?**

The trails at the Cradle of Forestry are 1 mile or more in length from the Discovery Center building. For optimal viewing, the deeper you go in the forested area, the better chance you have to see the Blue Ghost Fireflies.

### **Where else off the Cradle site can I see Blue Ghost Fireflies?**

Led ticketed events are not available at other locations in Pisgah National Forest. At times, you can see Blue Ghost Fireflies in the Pink Beds while utilizing a red flashlight only. You need to approach this opportunity with extreme caution and we cannot guarantee that you will be able to see/view Blue Ghost Fireflies. When you go into areas that are not controlled and monitored, you are destroying the habitat of the female firefly by going off trail. If you attempt viewing on your own, we recommend that you go to the site during the day to first learn the terrain and any hazards that might exist. You must know that you are also own your own and any dangers or unforeseen encounters you experience are your responsibility and the Cradle of Forestry, FIND Outdoors and the US Forest Service-Pisgah Ranger District are not responsible for you or your group members in any way.

### **Please do not wear light up shoes!**

The light pollution emitted from "light up" shoes is very distracting and harmful to the natural habitat. The introduction of any extra unnecessary light also minimizes the chances of optimal viewing of the Blue Ghost Fireflies.