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FIND Outdoors to Reopen Gladie Visitor Center, KY

Pisgah Forest, NC – FIND Outdoors, a nonprofit located in Pisgah Forest, NC, is proud and excited to partner with the US Forest Service in Kentucky to reopen the Gladie Visitor Center located in the Red River Gorge and the heart of the Daniel Boone National Forest.

“To say that we’re proud to be able to help give our visitors the gift of outdoor experiences to the Red River Gorge is putting it mildly,” stated Eric Caldwell, who kicks off 2022 as the new FIND Outdoors Board Chair. “We help make those connections between our visitors and our public lands, and we couldn’t be more excited to work with the Cumberland Ranger District.”

Gladie is the gateway to over 40,000 acres of camping, backpacking, hiking and boating – but that’s not all. With over 100 natural sandstone arches and numerous cliff faces within the Gorge, the area has become home to some of the best rock climbing in the world. Additionally, Gladie is surrounded by such recreational sites as the Clifty Wilderness Area, Natural Bridge State Park, and Chimney Top and Sky Bridge Recreation Areas. Visitors can round out their weekend getaway by staying at the Koomer Ridge Campground, and accessing the Red River Wild and Scenic River at Copperas Creek Canoe Launch.

“We are excited that FIND Outdoors is bringing their expertise to serve the public in this capacity,” stated Cumberland District Ranger Jonathan Kazmierski. “We’re confident that they will help deliver a new era of learning and public recreation in the ever-popular Red River Gorge.”

Located near the towns of Stanton, Slade, and Frenchburg, Kentucky, and the counties of Powell, Menifee and Wolfe, Gladie Visitor Center will officially reopen to the public on March 30th and will feature the same exciting opportunities as before – trail maps, exhibits on local history, and safety and recreation notifications. New to Gladie for 2022 will be a spacious gift shop featuring souvenirs, local crafts and goods, shirts, hats, and so much more. Looking for a stretch of the legs? Two half-mile trails adjacent to the visitor center are perfect for families and

leashed pups. Summer of 2022 will also usher in new programming partnerships with Eastern Kentucky University to provide visitors with a variety of learning opportunities that are unique to the gorge and surrounding national forests.

New Gladie Visitor Center Managers Joey and Brittney Santiago have a history of exceptional work with FIND Outdoors and look forward to the grand reopening. “We are honored to reopen Gladie, and are committed to continuing to be a beacon of education and information in such a unique and beautiful place, so all visitors can share it for many years to come,” stated Joey Santiago recently.

Headquartered in Pisgah Forest, NC, FIND Outdoors operates over 20 visitor centers, campgrounds and recreation areas in four states, and celebrates its 50th anniversary of providing the public with exceptional outdoor experiences for all. 2022 will see the nonprofit hosting special events revolving around the important milestone. In addition to the 50th, two major milestones are also reflected this year – FIND Outdoors was awarded the GuideStar “Gold Seal of Transparency” for nonprofit high standards, and currently, the organization reinvests 88.73% of our total revenue back into our sites, programs, and mission.

Natalie Britt, FIND President and CEO, believes it’s no mistake that FIND continues to grow. “We have an amazing team behind our name that operates at the highest level of nonprofit and organizational standards, and we’re so happy to now be a part of the Red River Gorge family!”

Gladie will officially open on March 30th, followed by a weekend of activities and giveaways April 2-3 to commemorate the partnership between the Forest Service and FIND. Visitors can expect programs from Kentucky Reptile Zoo, live music, discovery touch table, storytelling, and a special appearance by Smokey Bear himself! Stick around for special giveaways and more FIND fun all weekend long. Follow FIND’s Facebook and Instagram pages for the full calendar of events and to learn more about this exciting weekend.

For more information on FIND Outdoors, their nonprofit work, managed sites and upcoming events, please visit www.gofindoutdoors.org and visit our Facebook and Instagram pages. Sign up for our newsletter to get all event updates and more!

GPS coordinates for Gladie Visitor Center are: Latitude 37.83329468, Longitude: -83.60774657.

About FIND Outdoors

FIND Outdoors, formerly the Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association, is a 50-year-old 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Pisgah Forest, NC. We serve over 900,000 visitors annually with a mission that promotes educational, recreational and interpretive opportunities about forest and water resources, natural history and the Cradle of Forestry in America. FIND Outdoors proudly manages campgrounds, visitor centers, sales outlets and educational facilities on public lands in North Carolina, Kentucky, Georgia and Indiana and the Northwest Trading Post on the Blue Ridge Parkway. FIND accomplishes its mission by providing exceptional outdoor experiences through partnership opportunities for the health, safety and education of all visitors to local and regional public and private lands.