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Tennessee Overhill : Putting the “Family” Back into Family Vacations

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Etowah, TN –April 5, 2005 -The Tennessee Overhill in southeast Tennessee offers numerous attractions, activities, and annual events that will bring joy to the young and the young at heart. So return the “family” back to your family vacation as you cool off, have fun, relax and experience the rich history of the region. And don’t worry, all these sites have been kid tested and approved!

- Cool off at the Lost Sea, America’s largest underground lake. Designated as a National Registered Landmark, the earliest known visitor to the cave was a saber-toothed tiger, whose fossilized remains are now in the Museum of Natural History. A guided walk to the bottom of the cavern is rewarded with a trip in a glass bottom boat. 423-337-6616
- Get the scoop when you tour the Mayfield Dairy Visitor Center, one of the largest dairy plants in the Southeastern United States. Enjoy a short video history of the dairy, see how milk is bottled and learn why Mayfield’s has been called “The World’s Best Ice Cream” at the ice cream parlor. 423-745-2151
- Home of the 1996 Olympic Whitewater Championship the Ocoee Whitewater Center offers paddlers the chance to raft the Olympic Race Channel and a whole lot more. The Center also has an easy onemile hiking trail and access to over 40 miles of hiking and biking trails suitable for all ages. A Wildlife Viewing Area at the Center is a hands-on outdoor laboratory-teaching visitors about diverse ecosystems and wildlife habitats. Family Conservation Education Programs are held each Friday in June. Discover animal tracks of the forest and make your own mold to take home; explore the forest and animal habitats along the historic Old Copper Road Trail; and experience a bug’s life by learning about insects and participating in a bug hunt. Enjoy a picnic lunch as you admire the Native Garden, swim in the “blue hole” or just dip your feet in the wading pools. Annual events held at the Whitewater Center include Kids Fishing Day, Smokey Bear’s Birthday and the Ocoee River Rodeo.423-338-5201
- Beat the heat this summer on the Hiwassee Scenic River. Outfitters rent funyaks, tubes and rafts or people can canoe and kayak on their own. This peaceful, scenic river runs through the Cherokee National forest and the pastoral farming community of Reliance, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Hiwassee River is ideal for beginners and families with Class 1 and 2 rapids.

- The Sequoyah Birthplace Museum is Tennessee's only Native American owned museum and focuses on Overhill Cherokee history and Sequoyah, creator of the Cherokee syllabary. Located on the banks of the Tellico Lake and across the road from Fort Loudoun State Historic Area, they host an annual arts and crafts festival each September with Native American arts and food in conjunction with the 18th Century Trade Faire at Ft. Loudoun. 423-884-6246
- Step back in time and tour Fort Loudoun State Historic Area, the first British structure built in Tennessee. This reconstructed fort is an ideal place for kids to learn about colonial history. Indoor exhibits share artifacts found during the reconstruction and the park grounds provide room to run and play. Several reenactments are held throughout the year to give visitors a real feel for 18th century life. Picnic areas, a lake beach, and hiking trails make for a nice day for families. 423-884-6217
- The Louisville & Nashville Railroad Station Museum is located in a 1906, two-story Victorian rail station and former division headquarters. Exhibits tell the story of the town of Etowah, built as a planned community by the L&N Railroad, and traces its working class history. An active rail yard is outside where young and old can look out the upstairs windows to watch trains switching and passing through. 423-263-7840
- Sweetwater Valley Farms boasts the best farmstead cheese in the state of Tennessee, with names like Tennessee Aged and Volunteer Jack. See how cheese is made while tasting delicious samples at this family owned and operated dairy farm complete with calves to pet. 865-458-9192
- Families looking for something to do during the summer nights can experience the Mid-Way Drive In Movie Theater. Starting in May enjoy first run movies from your car at this 1960's style drive-in movie theater, there is a snack bar and a children's playground. 423-263-2632

For more information on things to see and do, contact the Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association at 423-263-7232 or online at www.tennesseeoverhill.com.

Photos available on request.