

Collector's Journal

A SERVICE OF COLLECTORS ALLIANCE

2014 Great Smoky Mountains National Park Quarter - Tennessee

Twenty-First in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

The first of five 2014 Quarters in the America the Beautiful series honors Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee. It is also the twenty-first coin in the complete collection that will eventually include a National Park or other national site in each state and overseas territory.

The four additional coins to be issued in 2014 will showcase Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, Arches National Park in Utah, Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado, and Everglades National Park in Florida. The coins are issued in the order in which the featured sites first came under federal jurisdiction.

Each coin is issued in a limited edition of only about 10 weeks, meaning that only one America the Beautiful Quarter is struck by the U.S. Mint at a time. Only when one coin's production period is over does the next one start. As a result, each unique Quarter can never be made again. America the Beautiful Quarters are struck for circulation at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The two distinct coins are identified by a small "P" (Philadelphia) or "D" (Denver) mint mark under "In God We Trust" on the obverse.

Great Smoky Mountains is one of the few National Parks east of the Mississippi River and is the only National Park in Tennessee. It straddles the Great Smoky Mountains – part of the Appalachian Mountain chain – along more than 50 miles of Tennessee's eastern border with North Carolina. One of the largest federally-protected areas in the eastern United States, it encompasses more than 800 square miles of stunning scenery.

Unlike most National Parks that preserve unspoiled land, the region now occupied by Great Smoky Mountains National Park was once inhabited by pioneers who established farms and mines, created extensive logging businesses, and formed settle-

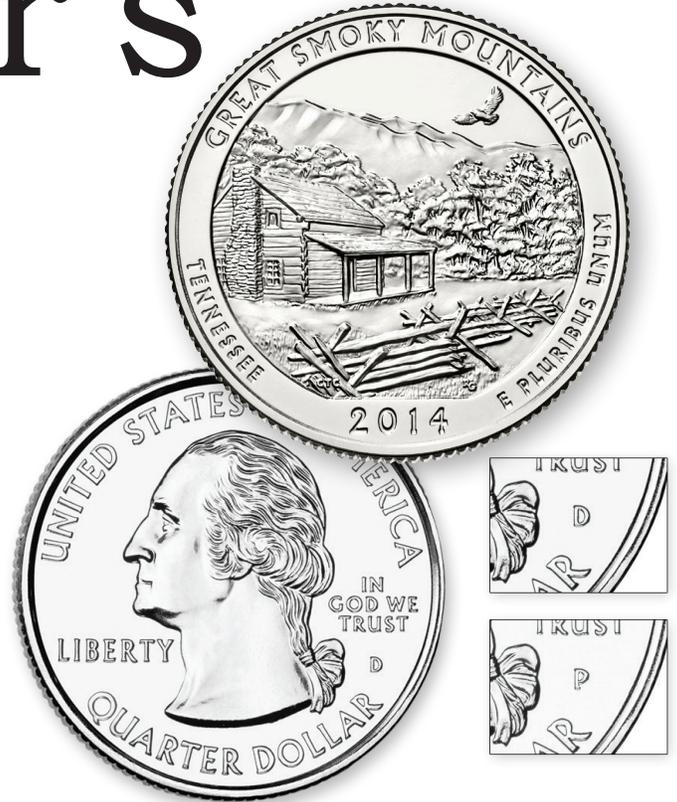
ments. Congress authorized the park in 1926, but it took several years to purchase the land and evict the people. The park was formally created in 1934.

Today, Great Smoky Mountains is the most popular National Park in the nation, attracting about 9.4 million visitors annually. Most people enjoy the park's extraordinary beauty from Newfound Gap Road and Cades Cove Loop Road, although its great diversity of plant and animal life can best be experienced along the many hiking trails.

The reverse of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Quarter is a tribute to both the park's history and its present use. It features a typical log cabin that is a remnant of the early settlers, while the background shows the forests and mountains that are now protected by the federal government. A hawk circles overhead to symbolize the park's wildlife.

Four designs were originally considered for the Great Smoky Mountains coin. In addition to the final design, one highlighted another view of a log cabin, one depicted a family of black bears with mountains in the background, and the final one had a lizard and flowers in the foreground with mountains in the background.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in January 2014.



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