



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, in 1937 the Tennessee General Assembly established the Tennessee State Park system; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Tennessee is committed to ensuring a brighter future for Tennesseans by supporting the creation and expansion of our state's parks, natural areas and trails; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee has one of only seven state park systems in the nation that is free to access for all, and every Tennessean lives within an hour's drive of at least one state park; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee's professionally-managed state park system is consistently ranked among the top four state park systems by the National Recreation and Park Association; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee's 57 state parks create more than \$2 billion in economic impact in Tennessee, and directly employ nearly 1,500 people in jobs providing fulfilling careers serving Tennesseans and protecting our natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is home to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the most visited national park in the United States and a World Heritage Site; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022 alone, Tennessee State Parks and National Parks in Tennessee hosted more than 40 million visitors contributing to our state's economic success; and

**WHEREAS**, the parks across our state help build strong communities, protecting natural, cultural, and scenic resources and providing opportunities for exploration, recreation, and restoration;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 22-30, 2023, as

*State and National Park Week*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twenty-first day of April 2023.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Justin Barnett*

Secretary of State