



L-R: Bobby Pecore; Pete Tennis Wilderness at the Smokies Managing Director; Jennifer Mitchell; and Kim Johnson our Human Resources Director

For Release: March 1, 2022

Contact: Heidi Fendos, PR Counsel, heidi@fendospr.com or 414.403.0744

**WILDERNESS AT THE SMOKIES HONORS ITS
EMPLOYEE AND MANAGER OF THE YEAR**

SEVIERVILLE, Tenn. – The owners of Wilderness at the Smokies recently honored two team members for going above and beyond in their jobs.

According to Pete Tennis, general manager of Wilderness at the Smokies, “Providing outstanding customer service is what makes guests loyal and return for future visits. This is why we have our annual awards programs to encourage our team members to perform at their best all of the time. We recognize outstanding employees monthly and annually.”

The 2021 “**Manager of the Year**” was Jennifer Mitchell who has been a Wilderness at the Smokies team member since 2014. She began her career with us as a Human Resources Assistant and through the years has been promoted to HR Generalist, HR Benefits Manager, International Recruiting Manager, and most recently HR Manager.

Mitchell currently heads up the resort's WIT Program (whatever it takes, retention program). A program that meets monthly to organize fun activities for our employees and hosts fundraisers for the community. In addition, she hosts the resort's annual Wilderness Workshop – A fun management training workshop that is a perfect combination of retention goals, team building and management training.

Prior to joining the Wilderness team, she was an Administrator at an outpatient surgery center in Chicago. She lives in Morristown TN.

Mitchell was awarded a PTO Day; a two-night stay at a hotel; a \$500 bonus; a \$100 Visa card; dinner for two at the Thirsty Miner or Hidden Trail; local entertainment tickets; and a \$20 WATS gift card.

The 2021 Employee of the year was Bobby Pecore who has been a Security Guard with the resort since 2019. In this position, he maintains the safety and order at all of the Wilderness at the Smokies properties. Prior to joining the Wilderness team, he worked for 25 years for the US Army and for 15 years as a Sheriff's Deputy/Corrections Officer. He holds a certificate in Business and is a National Notary Signing Agent. He lives in Sevierville with his wife Treva and 2 children.

Pecore received a PTO day; a one-night stay in Gatlinburg; a river boat and dinner excursion for two; a \$250 bonus; a \$50 gift card to Walmart/Amazon or Food City; dinner for two at Thirsty Miner or Hidden Trail; a parking pass to park wherever he wants at the resort for a month; and local entertainment tickets.

The Wilderness at the Smokies features 234 Stone Hill guest rooms; 472 River Lodge suites and 8 Villas; an 84-degree, year-round indoor waterpark; two seasonal outdoor waterparks; an indoor family entertainment center; a variety of dining and shopping options; a 36-hole championship golf course; and more than 200,000 square feet of meeting and convention space. It is owned by Wilderness Resort and Waterparks, a Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin-based hotel and hospitality development and management company which also operates Wilderness Resort, Glacier Canyon Lodge, Wilderness on the Lake and Sundara Spa all in Wisconsin Dells.

Wilderness at the Smokies has created hundreds of jobs in the greater Sevierville community, attracting year-round tourism, and having a major impact on sales tax and room tax generated for the City of Sevierville since opening its doors in 2008. For more information visit WildernessattheSmokies.com or call 877.325.9453.