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OUTDOOR ICE SKATING AND OTHER FUN HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AWAIT FAMILIES AT WILDERNESS AT THE SMOKIES AND SOAKY MOUNTAIN WATERPARK

Sevierville, Tenn. – The holidays are all about traditions and Wilderness at the Smokies is happy to provide plenty of opportunities for them. The resort's real ice skating rink will be returning for its fifth season from November 8, 2024 -January 13, 2025.

The ice rink will occupy a 3,200 square foot portion of the resort's outdoor wave pool, where hotel guests and the public can have fun together. Music, holiday lights and a Winter Wilderland snack area will add to the fun atmosphere.

"This holiday tradition has been growing in popularity since started it six years ago," said Pete Tennis, managing director of Wilderness at the Smokies. "There is nothing more memorable than going ice skating during the holidays and enjoying a cup of hot cocoa or roasting marshmallows over one of our firepits in our Winter Wilderland and then going to see Shadrack's Christmas Wonderland Light Display across the street at Soaky Mountain."

The rink will be open from 10 am to 10:30 pm Saturday – Sunday, Thanksgiving week (November 23-December 1) and Christmas break (December 21-January 1); and 4 pm to 9 pm Monday- Friday. In addition, a **DJ** will be onsite Fridays and Saturdays beginning November 8, from 7 to 10 pm, including New Year's Eve until 12:30 am. On Friday, December 13 from 7-10 pm the rink will host a **Taylor Swift Night** with a DJ playing all of Taylor's greatest hits. Guests are encouraged to wear their favorite Taylor Swift outfit and "Skate It Off!" Santa will also be onsite and rink side for select afternoons. For a detailed calendar of hours visit <https://www.wildernessatthesmokies.com/waterpark-hours/> and click on the ice rink hours tab.

Unlimited ice skating packages are available for \$24.99 when guests make their advance room reservation. Public admission at the rink \$18.99 plus tax, which includes skate rental. Soaky Mountain Waterpark season pass holders can skate for the discounted rate of \$10.99 if they show their wristbands.

Other fun things happening on the ice rink include **Skate for a Cause** on November 16 from 10 am to 10:30 pm where 100 percent of the public ice skating admission will go to Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee; and **Cool Sports** will be hosting youth hockey games featuring local areas skaters from 7 am to 1 pm on Saturday, December 7.

Tennis adds for those younger, unexperienced skaters who are unsure of skating a special **Monty's Youth Skate** will be offered every Saturday (except December 7) between 9 -10 am (before the rink opens) for younger, unexperienced skaters to get time on the ice without bigger and faster people speeding around them. The resort will provide skating aids, a surprise Christmas gift, and an opportunity for a photo with the resort's mascots, Monty and/or Molly. The cost is \$9.99 per child and includes skates as well as the day's admission to the rink.

Other Holiday Activities Planned

Shadrack's Christmas Wonderland at Smoky Mountain

Across the street from Wilderness at the Smokies, Soaky Mountain Waterpark will also be celebrating Christmas with Shadrack's original Christmas Wonderland Light Display, November 15-January 5, from 6-10 pm in its parking lot. Afterwards your family can visit Snowy Mountain Village (Open Nov 15 – 17 and then Nov 22 – Dec 30) Located inside Soaky Mountain Waterpark. It will feature holiday inflatables, seasonal lights, Christmas trees and fire pits. Plus, there will be loads of fun for all ages including holiday crafts for kids, a train and teacup rides for people to enjoy, an Elfie photo op experience, great food, delicious desserts, and visits with Santa or Boomer on some nights! For details

visit: <https://soakymountainwaterpark.com/shadracks-light-display-is-returning-to-soaky-mountain-2024/>

Santa's Workshop

Back at Wilderness at the Smokies resort guests will again be able to enjoy Santa's workshop in the Resort's River Lodge Conference Room as well as outside in the Winter Wonderland by our ice skating rink. Kids will be able to participate in cookie decorating and even have the opportunity to write and mail a letter to Santa. will be open: November 29, 3-7 pm; December 6, 13, and 20, from 3 -8 pm; November 30, December 7, 14, 21, 22 and 23, from 11 am-8 pm; and December 1, 8, and 15 from 10-2 pm

Santa Appearances

The jolly ol' man will also be returning to Wilderness at the Smokies and will be visiting with guests November 29, from 3-7 pm; November 30, December 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 22, and 23 4-7 pm. He will be in the outdoor Winter Wonderland by the resort's ice rink the first hour of each scheduled appearance and then in Santa's Workshop during the last two hours.

Story Time with Mrs. Claus

Join Mrs. Claus on Saturdays and Sunday (Nov. 30th, Dec. 1st, 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 21st, 22nd) from 10-11 am as she hosts 30-minute Christmas themed story times in Camp Social. Advance reservations can be made at

<https://www.wildernessatthesmokies.com/>

Christmas Day Buffet

The resort will be hosting a Christmas Buffet in Camp Social from 1-7 on Christmas Day. Details about it can be found on the resort's blog at

<https://www.wildernessatthesmokies.com/holiday-happenings-2024/>

Reservations are required. Please call 865.868.4483 extension 10106 to make one.

The Wilderness at the Smokies features 234 Stone Hill guest rooms; 472 River Lodge suites; 20 Villas; 6 treehouse cabins; 8 five-bedroom cabins; 14 four-bedroom cabins; 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 adjacent to the resort; and more than 200,000 square feet of meeting and convention space adjacent to Stone Hill Lodge.

It is owned by Wilderness Resort and Waterparks, a Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin-based hotel and hospitality development and management company which also operates Soaky Mountain Waterpark across the street from the resort as well 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.

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