



## BRI – What to Bring and Expect

General “stuff” to be aware of at Fontana Village Resort:

- If you are traveling to Fontana **from Knoxville TN**, please be extremely careful the last hour of the trip. There are 318 curves in the road the last 11 miles of the trip! Try not to panic.
  - If you want to **AVOID** the above mentioned 318 curves, there is an alternate route. This takes you closer to **Gatlinburg** following US-321 to US 441/Newfound Gap Road to 74 near **Bryson City** then on to **Fontana**. Be aware that Google Maps notes an additional hour of travel time but is the “less curvy” route through the NC mountains.
- Cell phone service is sketchy. Try not to panic.
  - Verizon is the carrier for the area.
- The on-site number for FVR is **828-498-2211**. Give folks who **MUST** be able to reach you this landline number, or come prepared with calling cards for use with the landlines.
- The General Store at Fontana Village Resort is stocked with basic grocery items in case you forget anything.
- Graham County, North Carolina is a dry county. Alcohol is available for purchase at FVR restaurants until closing. Beer and wine are available for purchase at The General Store. If you prefer alcohol or a specific brand, you may wish to purchase your own for your room or cabin **BEFORE** driving to the Resort. **NOTE:** We are no longer hosting a Hospitality House, try not to panic.
- There are no refrigerators available in the Lodge rooms.
- If your child is registered for **Youth Leadership Academy**, you must pick up **ON TIME** after sessions end. The YLA session times mirror **ONLY** the general speaker session schedule, the Monday night reception and the President’s Ball dinner/dance.

Whether you’re an over-packer or an under-packer, a few essentials for a comfortable week at BRI include:

- Sunscreen and bathing suit
- Bug spray
- Cash/checkbook (remember what that is?) for activity fees, silent auction, BRI bling
- Food you can’t live without (depending on YOU, this could be special coffee, alcohol, chocolate or kale, artisanal cheese and bubbly water).
- Comfortable clothes including a jacket/sweater for the sometimes cold conference room
- Comfortable shoes. There is a fair amount of movement between sessions, activities and lodging.
- Your own bath/hair products
- Water bottle/travel coffee mug (Mother Earth thanks you)
- If you must iron, bring one with you
- Circus-themed attire for the President’s Ball dinner/dance, if you wish to dress up. (**NOT required but highly encouraged.**)
- Cash for the cash bar on Sunday & Thursday.

If you still have room, consider bringing:

- Folding chair
- Pillows
- Towels (the Lodge provides but if you prefer substantial ...)
- Poncho/rain jacket/umbrella



## Activities

There are many optional activities at BRI, offering a refreshing change from our usual every-day routines. Almost all of the activities are open to everyone including families and guests. The activities are a great way for Blue Ridgers to connect with one another outside of the more formal sessions, laughing, playing, “competing” and celebrating together.

Some activities are scheduled and organized by BRI; these will be noted in the program booklet along with times, contacts and any additional fees required for participation.

For BRI Activities, you may need:

- Props, musical instruments, etc. for your Talent Show performance and for just sitting around strumming
- Cards and board games to share, in case of rain
- Sneakers for the 5k and other sports activities
- Disk Golf equipment
- SMORES Sticks
- Yoga mat
- Hiking shoes
- Pom-poms and noisemakers to cheer on competitors
- CASH, checkbook or credit card to pay for participation in activities:
  - CASH BAR at the Sunday night welcome reception and President's Ball
  - Food tickets for the Monday night Cookout
  - Items you might want to buy from the Silent Auction
  - Purchase of BRI merchandise
  - Rockin' 5K entry
  - Tickets for Group Pontoon Boat Rental

Lots of activities are available to all Fontana Village Resort patrons and you are “on your own” to partake in those as you’d like. We will have a schedule of those available upon arrival at the Resort.

Items to consider packing for these activities include:

- Bike and helmet
- Cards and board games
- Tennis racquet and balls
- Basketball
- Baseball/softball gloves and bats

## Helpful info about the area: from Knoxville & Asheville



### From Knoxville...

If you are traveling in from the **Knoxville** airport (which is not technically IN Knoxville, but rather located south of the city), you will likely drive to Fontana through **Maryville**. Please note there is not much of ANYTHING past **Maryville**, even gas.

**Thank you Britney Sink for the following recommendations for stocking up, fueling up and gearing up on your way if needed:**

### Awesome Eats

- Aroma Cafe/Cuban (Britney's pick!) 2570 E Broadway Ave, Maryville, TN 37804
- Lemon Grass/Thai 912 W Lamar Alexander Pkwy, Maryville, TN 37801
- Full Service BBQ 113 S Washington St, Maryville, TN 37804
- Rocky's Jamaica Sunrise- located inside the Clayton Center for the Arts 502 E Lamar Alexander Pkwy, Maryville, TN 37804
- Foothills Milling Company- a staple in Maryville 315 S Washington St, Maryville, TN 37804

### Drinks

- Public House on High 321 High St, Maryville, TN 37804
- Tri-Hop Brewery 205 Court St, Maryville, TN 37804
- Round 6 Brewery 427 Whitecrest Dr, Maryville, TN 37801

### Coffee Shops

- The Artistic Bean 1738 W Broadway Ave, Maryville, TN 37801
- Vienna Coffee 212 College St, Maryville, TN 37804

### Pharmacies and Walk-In Clinics

- Minute Clinic located in CVS at 103 Foothills Mall Dr, Maryville, TN 37801
- Walgreens Healthcare Clinic 225 N Hall Rd, Alcoa, TN 37701

### Grocery stores near the highway

- Aldi 836 Louisville Rd, Alcoa, TN 37701
- Food City 1610 W Broadway Ave, Maryville, TN 37801
- Kroger 507 N Foothills Plaza Dr, Maryville, TN 37801

### If you need to stop for any essentials before heading out of Maryville

- Target 800 Watkins Rd, Maryville, TN 37801

**In case you need a souvenir from your adventure on the Tail of the Dragon (THIS IS THE 318 CURVES MENTIONED ABOVE), there is a store, as well as a scenic overlook:**

- Tail of the Dragon Souvenir Store 17555 Tapoco Road, Robbinsville, NC 28771

**The last mapped gas station on the way to Fontana Village is in Maryville before you get on the Tail of the Dragon. Be sure you are fueled up before you leave town!**

- Fast Lap Market and Deli 2972 Calderwood Hwy, Maryville, TN 37801

## **From Asheville...**

If you are traveling in from the Asheville airport, Asheville has pretty much anything you would need or want. Lots of great websites outline the foodie finds, hipster shopping and all the city has to offer.

- Target 15 McKenna Rd, Arden, NC 28704
- Fresh Market 1378 Hendersonville Rd Ste H, Asheville, NC 28803
- Publix 1830 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC 28803
- CVS (on nearly every corner, across the street from Walgreens)
- Malls/Outlets
- More breweries per capita than any other place in the US

Once you leave the city, there are also numerous stops between there and Fontana Village Resort for supplies. You are encouraged, however, to stock up before you travel much past the **Waynesville** area as it becomes less populated pretty quickly and your choice become more limited. Beyond **Bryson City** (40 minutes from Fontana) even gas station become hard to find.

### **Walk-In Clinics/Emergencies outside Asheville area:**

- There is an urgent care facility in Robbinsville, about half an hour away
- There is an urgent care facility in Bryson City about 40 minutes away.
- The closest hospital is also in Bryson City.

### **Grocery stores/liquor store outside Asheville area:**

- The last grocery store and ABC store is in Bryson City which is about 40 minutes from Fontana.

### **If you need to stop for any essentials and forgot to stop before leaving Asheville:**

- There is a Walmart (shudder) in Sylva, NC (about an hour before reaching Fontana)