

SCOTT COUNTY, TN
Photo Tour and Recommendations

The focus of Scott County tourism is as the Tennessee Gateway to the Big South Fork National Park, which is by far the largest tourism attractor to the region. But Scott County has so much more to offer that they need to better capitalize on. In fact, of all eight of the counties, they had the greatest variety in offerings. Everything from a fantastic museum complex, ATV riding area, horse back riding and stables, elk viewing, potential for scenic train ride, coal history, canoeing opportunities, and much more!

Below is a photo tour of Scott County with recommendations under each one.



This is the entrance to the State of Tennessee, Scott County and the community of Winfield. There is no way a visitor comes away with any other message than a clutter of signs. The historical marker and other points of interest is lost.

Welcome to
The Town of Winfield
SCOTT COUNTY, TN

Tennessee's Gateway to the Big South
Fork National Park Recreation Area

- *Drive safely, don't litter and buckle up* -

Place this sign below the Tennessee state line sign using the same poles. Move the historical marker to the right in front of the power pole. Remove all other signs. Might add a sign below the historical marker which says "Home of the National Champions 1988 Jr. Pro Basketball League" or move the existing sign to another better location.



In conversations with individuals in the area, this particular event was noted as the festival the county has become known, the dates of which should be noted on the sign. This would also be an excellent location for tourist information about the county itself. Tourist info sign should be added and a display rack provided within the municipal building with maps and brochures of offerings within the county and directions to the Chamber Welcome Center in Huntsville for more information.

ONEIDA



Coca-Cola Bottle Factory



"Cup of What" Coffee & Café



Outdoor Store

One of the greatest assets in Oneida is their community park which offers a depot museum, lighted walking trail, swimming pool, picnic area, amphitheater, playground, sports fields, public restrooms, lake access and so much more.



Lake Access for boating



Gazebo



Playground



Picnic Areas



Public Swimming Pool



Amphitheater



Fields for sporting events



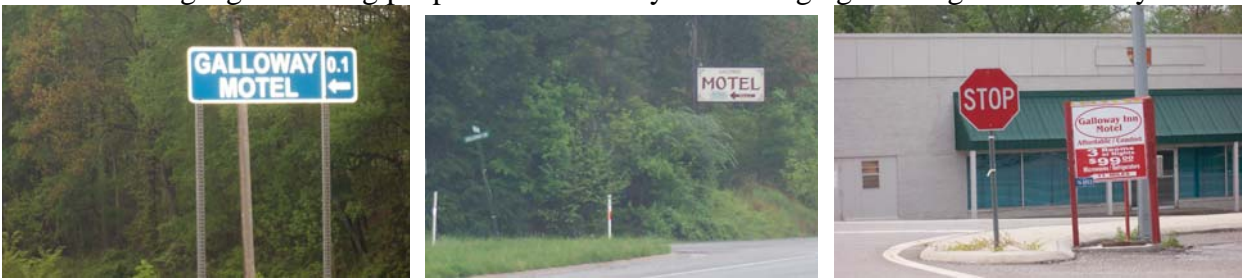
Exercise Area

The park area also offers an excellent location for a staging area for the proposed train excursion. The train ride was proposed to start down the road but this is a much more visitor friendly area and has the potential to add more amenities in the future. See section on Train Excursion later in this document.

LODGING IN SCOTT COUNTY



Lodging appears to be limited within Scott County. This hotel in Oneida appears very welcoming. I also noted the Galloway Motel down the road which actually had the most amount of signage directing people to them of any of the lodging offerings in the county.



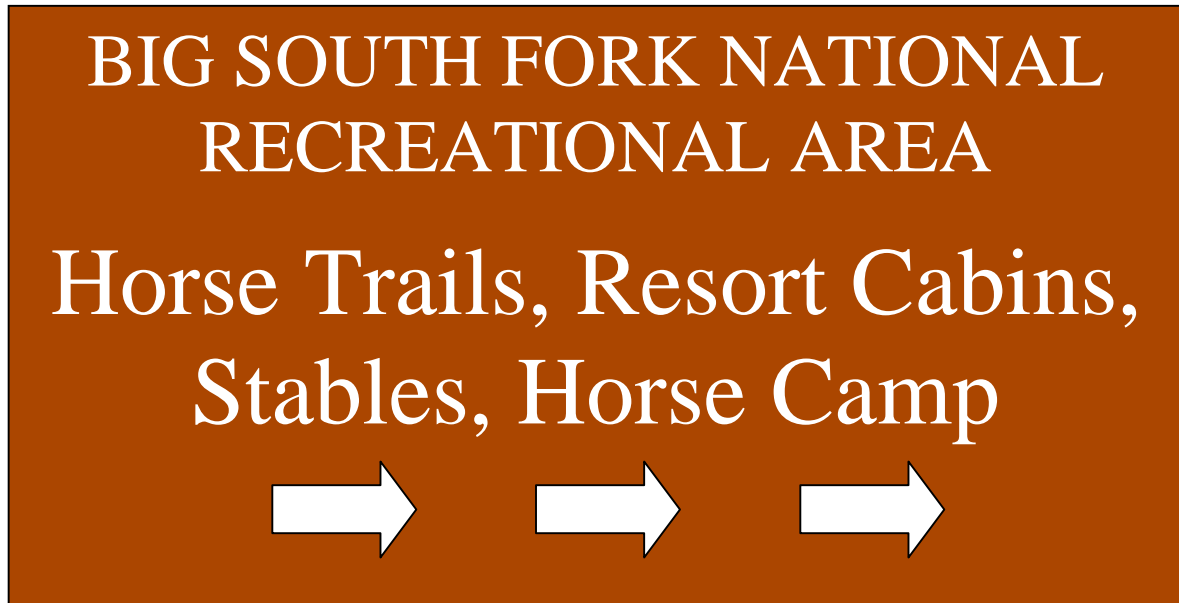
There are also a few B&B's as well as cabins at Possum Trot, Williams Creek and Wilderness Resort, and camping at Station Horse Camp. Are these noted in a brochure of Scott County somewhere or did I overlook them?

Scott County is very lucky to be one of the counties with direct access into the Big South Fork...

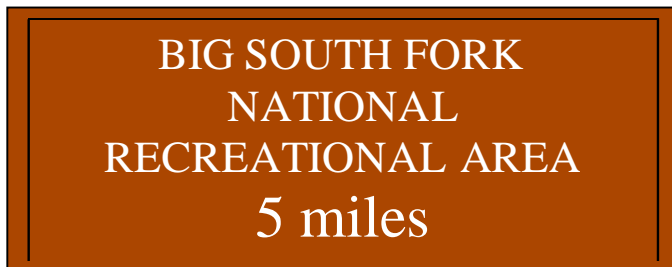


Oneida should capitalize more on the fact that they have access to miles and miles of horseback riding trails within the Big South Fork. Other than this one sign, this message was never really conveyed to those traveling along Highway 27. Station Horse Camp, Wilderness Resort and Williams Creek Cabins are excellent attractors for the county and will encourage overnight stays in the region if properly promoted.

RECOMMENDED SIGN TO REPLACE EXISTING SIGN



The sign above better informs people that horse-related tourism offerings is located if one turns right. There should be a sign 5 miles before the turn off letting people know the turn is up ahead for Big South Fork National Recreational Area and another one just prior to reaching the turn.



After one turns off Hwy 27, there should be more informative signs available for what is up ahead.



Recommendation for sign

BIG SOUTH FORK TRAIL

- ← Monteagle Stable – 1 mi
- ← Laurel Fork Retreat - 5 mi
- ← Wilderness Resort/Stables - 6 mi
- ← Williams Creek Cabins - 7 mi
- ← Station Horse Camp – 8 mi

One passes Uncle Dale's Trading Post as one heads to the Big South Fork on Hwy 297



Uncle Dale's Trading Post is both a shop and a restaurant and should be a major draw for those staying at the horse camps, resorts and travelers headed to or from the Big South Fork. Impressive!



Is there tourism information available at this location for Willow Creek, Wilderness Resorts, etc. If not, there should be as well as a map of the Big South Fork and all the tourism offerings for the county. This could become a major stop for tourists and lead to people staying in the area longer or coming back more often.

Monteagle Stables (just west of Uncle Dale's) just recently opened and is the closest stable to Oneida. It does not have access to the horse trails within the Big South Fork but does offer boarding and lessons.



CONTINUING WEST, ONE COMES TO THE JUNCTION OF HWY 297.



There are mileage signs for Pickett State Park and Jamestown as well as signs promoting businesses in Fentress County and yet there is very limited signage on the tourism offerings actually located within Scott County.



Terry & Terry's Country Store would be an excellent location to provide Tourism Information and brochures for Scott County especially for those tourism offerings one will find if they continue straight at this intersection. Fentress County and regional information may also be provided at this site.

It would also be a draw to get people to stop and possibly purchase items from the store.



↑ Willow Creek Cabins & Stable 5 MI.
 ↑ Wilderness Resort & Stables 6 MI.
 Access to Big South Fork

Add this sign below the sign to the left



This sign is where one turns to get to Willow Creek Cabins and Stables. Shouldn't the name "Willow Creek" be noted on the sign since this is what people will be looking for? (#4 on the map)



Scenic view of Willow Creek



View overlooking the stables



More views of Willow Creek. It is beautiful and peaceful!



Three of the six cabins at Willow Creek and a shared gazebo.
Please note: The stable and riding area is separate from the lodging area.



Beautiful facility with lots of privacy between cabins and breathtaking views. Very well maintained! Definitely an asset for the community.

Big South Fork is visible in the background.

Wilderness Resort (#3 on the map) is a wonderful concept for lodging. People actually purchase three acres and build both a home and stables. Many then lease these facilities to others through a company service within the development. The designs for both homes and stables vary although all have either red or green metal roofs and are wood structures.



A few examples of the variety of resort “cabins” at Wilderness Resort



Examples of different stable designs at Wilderness Resort:





A few more examples of stable designs at Wilderness Resort



Entrance Sign to Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area



Other signage within the park directing visitors to trailhead and river access



Both camp ground area and outdoor stables are provided

Coming back to Highway 27 into Huntsville



There is a walking trail and recreational field at Roane Community College



The Huntsville Reservoir is often used by boaters with potential to become a prime residential area around the lake.

Below are photos of both the Scott County Museum and the U.S.S. Tennessee Battleship Museum located on the grounds of the Scott County High School. A barn, animals and gardens are being added nearby. Both museums were designed, developed and now managed by the students and faculty at the school.



This was an impressive museum! It needs to set regular hours and advertised more. Both this and the Scott County History Museum next door could become major attractors to the area if focus was placed on marketing. Definitely true assets for the community.



Scott County Historical Museum on the Campus of Scott County High School.



Students dress in costume and provide guided tours through each section of history. The entire experience was amazing! Both museums are a true asset to the community and should be further promoted as major attractions to the area which will eventually require more regular hours and permanent staffing to reach their full potential of attracting visitors.



Historical Society is located in this historic home called the Doisey House in Downtown Huntsville.



Could not resist taking this photo of the garage of a well known Senator who lives on a street just off the Square in Huntsville.



Signage at the entrance to the Square in Downtown Huntsville from Hwy 27

Downtown Huntsville is historic and charming with meaning unique sites many a tourists will miss. There needs to be a historic walking tour developed that includes the jail, the bank, lunch at C&K Café, a stop at the Historical Society, a walk in the park and possibly other sites.



The Old Jail was built in c. _____



Old Town Spring Park and New River Greenway includes picnic areas, benches, and walking trail



The Olde Bank is still in operation today as a bank. It was built in c. _____ and has a wonderful history

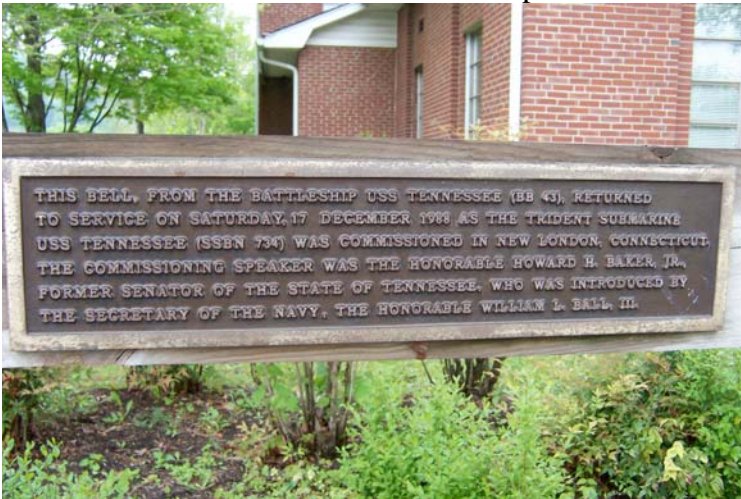


Senator Baker's Offices are on also on the Square



C & K Café located directly behind the courthouse and between the bank and the jail is a must stop for all tourists. It is a wonderful place! And I hear the food is real good too!

It would seem that Downtown Huntsville would be a great location for antique shops and/or craft stores if the entire Square was promoted more to attract visitors and became more of a tourist stop.



The bell, from the Battleship USS Tennessee, is now located in front of the Huntsville Courthouse and is set to chime on the hour.
This is an excellent location for the bell and should be used to encourage people to visit the USS Tennessee Museum by providing information on the museum at this site.



Brimstone ATV Information Office is located next to the Square in Huntsville with the actual locations for the trailheads a few miles down the road off Brimstone Road



A few historical homes and a converted school in the Huntsville area now used for a multitude of purposes.



Dr. Chambers home in Norma

As noted earlier, there has been serious considerations for developing a scenic train excursion from the Oneida Rail Station down to Campbell County. We drove the route and there is definitely great potential for this but three things must be considered.

1. Where to Start: There were two sites mentioned. One would be at the railroad yard in Oneida. The other was just below Huntsville in an area that has no development.

Our suggestion would be to start it at the Oneida City Park. It is an ideal location with ample parking, restroom facilities and other offerings people might capitalize while in the area including the Oneida Depot Museum, all of which is in close proximity to both food and lodging.



2. Where to Stop along the way:

A. Coal Camp

Does the route go past the historic coal community in which the coal camp store still stands (although it won't for much longer if something is not done) as well as ten or more tenant houses and the camp school (which has now been converted into a residence). If the camp store was renovated back to the original, it would make an interesting interpretive stop.



A few of the tenant houses



Another tenant house



Coal Camp Store

The old coal camp store is currently abandoned but has the potential for becoming an interpretive site especially if the proposed scenic train excursion comes through this area.



One of the scenic views



Elk viewing site at Norma

The ride is very scenic with a wonderful stop at Norma where there is a perfect location to spot elk grazing. There have been discussions of adding a wildlife viewing stand at this site which would be an excellent idea.



There have been discussions of taking the scenic train excursion all the way into the other county. This is too long of a trip and ends in an area where there is no place for people to get something to eat, shop or do any activity other than turn around and come back. Our suggestion would be to take the visitor as far as the swinging bridge, drop them off and allow them to spend the afternoon picnicking, canoeing and kayaking in the area. (Might even have a few paddleboats).

Horse shoes, kite flying (outfitters sells the kites), and other fun activities could be available that would not require very much infrastructure. Of course, restrooms would be a must and it would

be nice to offer a pavilion or ten for those who want a little shade or shelter from the weather in case it turns before the train arrives back. The location is perfect. Picnic lunches could be provided as part of the ticket price or possibly someone might want to offer barbecue on site. the canoe/kayak (might even want a few paddleboats) outfitter might have barbecue



3. Where to end the trip:

Taking a scenic railroad excursion into the next county or even stopping it at Hembree is too far a ride with an anticipated time of 3 to 3 ½ hours one way. The ride down to Norma would be ample long for a train experience and provide an added attraction with the picnics, canoeing, and even possibly paddleboats setting it apart from other train rides. Might even consider eventually adding tent camping and cabins. Great area for family reunions, retreats, family outings etc.



Wooden Nickle was a pleasant surprise on our trip down Norma Road.



If one travels back Norma Road then west on Hwy 63 past Huntsville one comes to a stoplight at the intersection of Hwy 29/27. This intersection mentions both Rugby and the Big South Fork. Recommendation would be to also include sites within Scott County to visit

← HISTORIC RUGBY
 HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE →
 ← BRIMSTONE ATV
 BIG SOUTH FORK REC AREA →
 ← HISTORIC ROBBINS

When the historic walking tour is developed for Huntsville, we would recommend you also include a walking tour for Robbins which includes both First Baptist Church and Barton’s Chapel as well as some historical information about Robbins. Also include a walking tour of the coke ovens starting at the powder house. Serious consideration needs to be made in how best to preserve and protect the coke ovens before they are all beyond repair.



First Baptist Church



The Town of Robbins has a rich railroad history



Barton's Chapel was built by the brother of Clara Barton, founder of the Girl Scouts



The railroad tracks follow the road out of Robbins and towards the coke ovens



The powder house for the coke ovens in Glenmary is visible from Coal Hill Road. The coke ovens themselves would require either a map or a trail to actually locate.

The Powder House



A unique vacant home on the corner of Coal Hill Road and Hwy 29.



Historic Glenmary Church

1883 cemetery in Coal Hill still has standing copper fencing around a few of the graves.

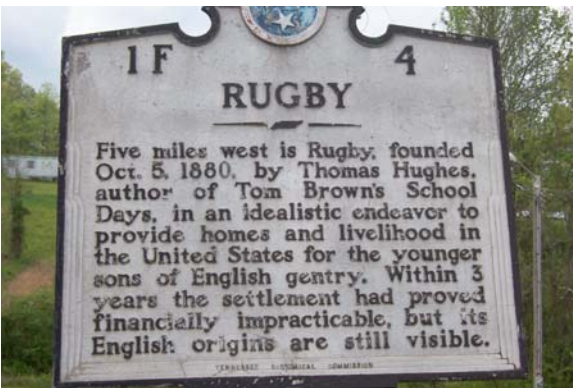
SIGNAGE



Portions of Hwy 52 has been designated a state scenic byway as has portions of Hwy 63 through Campbell County. Is anything being done to promote both these corridors?



On Hwy 52 near Elgin, there is signage directing people to visit Rugby, Jamestown and Picket State Park but nothing encouraging travelers to visit anything in Scott County



This historical marker for Rugby located Hwy 52 near Elgin is impossible to read without illegally stopping in the middle of an intersection. It needs to be moved to a location which has a pull-off. Possibly off the parking lot on the northwest corner of the intersection.

Also Note:

There is no tourist information for Scott County at the I-75 State Welcome Center at Jellico. And there is no signage encouraging one to visit Scott County along Hwy 63 which is the primary access (and state designated scenic byway) into the county from I-75.



The Dixie Motor Lodge

The Dixie Motor Lodge and the Glass House were two historic sites within the county, portions of which still remain. There needs to be waysid exhibits developed for both these sites.



The Original Glass House



One of the remaining cottages



The main structure as it now appears

