

# Grandfather Mountain

## Nature Photography Weekend

### 2026 Schedule

### FRIDAY, JUNE 5

**8 a.m.** | Grandfather Mountain gates open for event attendees and participants. Timeframe for the weekend contest begins.

**12 - 7 p.m.** | Berrie Smith Camera Cleaning (*Outside the Classroom in the Clouds in the Wilson Center*) (additional cost)

**2 - 5 p.m.** | Check-in outside the Classroom in the Clouds in the Wilson Center for Nature Discovery.

**3:15 p.m.** | Classroom in the Clouds (*in the Wilson Center*) opens to event attendees and participants.

**3:30 - 4:30 p.m.** | Beginner's Guide Presentation - Kyle Cook and Melissa Southern (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

**4:45 - 5:15 p.m.** | Welcome, Weekend Overview, Naturalist Presentation (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

**5:15 - 5:45 p.m.** | Don Nelson Winner Announced, Contest Overview and Rules (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

**6:00 - 7:00 p.m.** | Social Time/Non-Alcohol Beverages/Light Bites (*Williams Outdoor Learning Space*)

**7:30 p.m.** | Access to the Wilson Center closes.

**8:43 p.m.** | Official sunset time.

**12 a.m.** | Event attendees/participants must be off the mountain if not camping.

# SATURDAY, JUNE 6

**5 a.m.** | Grandfather Mountain gates open for event attendees and participants.

**6:09 a.m.** | Official sunrise time.

**8 - 9 a.m.** | Late check-in outside the Classroom in the Clouds in the Wilson Center for Nature Discovery.

**8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.** | Classroom opens to participants. TEAM members are on hand for contest submission questions.

**4 p.m.** | Contest Turn-in Deadline (*outside the Classroom in the Clouds*)

**4:15 p.m.** | Saturday Welcome Presentation (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

**4:30 - 5:30 p.m.** | "Infrared in Nature" - Tony Sweet (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

**5:30 - 6:30 p.m.** | Saturday Night Dinner Buffet (*access will be staggered*)

**6:40 - 7:40 p.m.** | "Storytelling with Nature Photography" - Jane Palmer (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

**8:43 p.m.** | Official sunset time.

**12 a.m.** | Event attendees/participants must be off the mountain if not camping.

# SUNDAY, JUNE 7

**5 a.m.** | Grandfather Mountain gates open for event attendees and participants.

**6:09 a.m.** | Official sunrise time.

**8 - 11 a.m.** | Berrie Smith Camera Cleaning (*outside the Classroom in the Clouds*) (*additional cost*)

**8 - 9 a.m.** | Optional Buffet Breakfast (*Mildred's Grill*) (*additional cost*)

**9:15 a.m.** | Sunday Welcome Presentation (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

**9:20 - 10:20 a.m.** | "Creating Striking Wildlife Images" - John Mauser (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

**10:20 - 11:20 a.m.** | "Creative Composition: It's not what you photograph, it's how you photograph" - Jennifer King (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

**11:30 a.m.** | Contest award presentation (*Classroom in the Clouds*)

**12 p.m.** | Event programming for the weekend ends.

**3 p.m.** | All tents need to be out of the Woods Walk picnic area.



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