



IN REPLY REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
107 Park Headquarters Road  
Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738



10.B.

Dear Interested Party:

This letter is in regard to scattering ashes or cremains within Great Smoky Mountains National Park boundaries. The conditions pertaining to this activity are outlined in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 2.62 (b), which states: "the scattering of human ashes from cremation is prohibited, except pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit, or in designated areas according to conditions which may be established by the Superintendent."

In Great Smoky Mountains National Park, human ashes may be distributed only in undeveloped areas of the park, that is, not near any developed location; no less than 200 feet (67 yards) from any buildings or historic building, structure, or cemetery; no less than 100 feet (33 yards) away from visitor centers, roads, trails, campgrounds and picnic areas, and no less than 150 feet (50 yards) from any water source.

The ashes must be scattered and not deposited in any type of container. The placing of any monument or marker of any sort is prohibited. The placement or planting of real or artificial flowers, memorial trees, brass markers, wooden crosses, etc. is prohibited. Cremations must be accomplished in accordance with state law.

The use of aircraft to scatter ashes shall be in accordance with regulations of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Dispersing of cremains must only be conducted on routes approved by the FAA.

This letter serves as the permit required by the citation referenced above. Instructions regarding location and notification will serve as the terms and conditions required by 36 CFR 2.62(b). This letter or a copy thereof must be in possession of at least one member of the party when human ashes are scattered in the park. There are no fees connected with scattering cremains in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

For those that are interested in gathering with groups of more than 25 people, a special use permit is required in addition to this letter of permission to scatter cremains. Applications for Special Use Permits can be downloaded from the park website or requested by email at [grsm\\_special\\_use\\_permits@nps.gov](mailto:grsm_special_use_permits@nps.gov). For any other questions or concerns, please contact the Special Use Permit office by phone, (865) 436-1207, or email.

Sincerely,

Cassius M. Cash  
Superintendent