

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
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<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee>

News Release



For Immediate Release

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Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge to Celebrate 80 Years in 2017

Folkston, GA..... On March 30, 1937, the executive order was signed to establish Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. With 80 years of conservation, education, and history, 2017 is a year of celebration. To kick off the celebration, the refuge has designed a fun and creative visiting experience called the Oke is 80 Passport Challenge designed to encourage visitation and promote exploration of the refuge.

The activities in the passport vary and include all entrances to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. No matter which activities visitors complete, they are sure to find the Oke is 80 Passport Challenge enriching, educational, and fun. Visitors can take advantage of the challenge activities to explore new areas of the refuge, learn about new wildlife species, and practice outdoor skills.

The Oke is 80 Passport Challenge requires no registration; just pick up an Oke is 80 Passport Challenge booklet at the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center and get started! The goal is to complete as many activities in the passport book, and any participant (or family) that completes at least 25 activities will receive a prize. The refuge has designed a limited edition patch that will be given away FREE to individuals completing at least 25 activities. Both the Oke is 80 Passport Challenge books and prizes may be picked up at the Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center at the Main Entrance. Completed passport books must be submitted no later than April 22, 2017 to be prize eligible.

Additionally, we would also like to announce the 2017 Fee Free dates where visitors may receive free entrance to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (Main Entrance – Suwannee Canal Recreation Area and Stephen C. Foster State Park):

January 16, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 20, Presidents' Day
September 30, National Public Lands Day
October 8, First Sunday of National Wildlife Refuge Week
November 11–12, Veterans Day Weekend

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The Main Entrance (Suwannee Canal Recreation Area) to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is located 11 miles southwest of Folkston, GA off Hwy 121/23. The refuge is open daily and offers a variety of opportunities for the visiting public. Call 912-496-7836 or visit the refuge website at www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee for hours of operation, upcoming events, and entrance fee information.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook pages at www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge or www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwssoutheast>.