

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
2700 Suwannee Canal Road
Folkston, GA 31537
Phone: (912) 496-7836
Fax: (912) 496-7991
<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee>

News Release



For Immediate Release
Date: July 5, 2017

Contact: Susan Heisey, 912-496-7366, ex 233
Supervisory Refuge Ranger

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Now Accepting Annual Commercial Guide Permit Applications

Folkston, GA..... Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has opened the application process for 2017-2018 Day-Use and Overnight Guide Permits. If your organization charges a fee to participants to visit Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, whether you are for profit or nonprofit, you are required to have a Commercial Guide Special Use Permit. This includes educational organizations, tour companies, and outfitters. **If you have a guide permit already and would like to renew for 2017-2018, you still need to send in a complete package with application, copy of CPR/First Aid, insurance, and permit fees.**

For complete guidelines and application forms, visit the refuge website at:
<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Okefenokee/visit/permits.html>

Commercial Guide Special Use Permit applications are only accepted once a year and are due to the refuge by August 5, 2017. Permits will be awarded during August and will authorize the specific commercial services requested and approved by the Refuge Manager. The permit will allow the vendor to provide their authorized service to the public starting October 1, 2017 and until September 30, 2018. Permits are renewable annually provided the permittee adequately provides quality services to the public and closely follows the terms of their permit.

All application documents can be e-mailed to gracie_gooch@fws.gov. For more information, contact Gracie Gooch at gracie_gooch@fws.gov or (912) 496-3200. The Main Entrance to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (Suwannee Canal Recreation Area) is located approximately 11 miles southwest of Folkston, Georgia, off Hwy. 121/23.

-fws-

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>.