



“WOW” Selfie Station Scavenger Hunt

HOW TO PLAY

- Find the landmarks listed below at different locations on property.
- Take a selfie (or photograph a friend) at each station of the view that WOWs you.
- Like our page on Facebook and/or Follow us on Instagram
- Post your photos to Facebook or Instagram using the hashtag **#blrWOWedme** and tagging **@BearLakeReserve**
- Post the full list of photos from all “WOW” Selfie Stations within a year and win!
- Once you have posted the full list, contact any Lake Club Manager or email BLR Communications Manager Kristin at kristin@bearlakereserve.com to claim your prize.

“WOW” SELFIE STATIONS, COLLECT ALL 10 & WIN!

1. Golden Farm Chimney
2. Rusty the Truck
3. Bear Creek Park Treehouses
4. The Bridge (built in 1930)
5. “Overlooking” Clingman’s Dome
6. The Point at Bear Creek Lake (near the Lake Club)
7. Sols Creek Waterfall (from the lake or from the road)
8. The Island (any view, from land or lake)
9. Picture from golf tee box #7, #5, or #1
10. FREEPLAY: Picture from ANY BLR hiking trail (13 options)

WHAT YOU WIN

Everyone who posts all 10 photos with appropriate tags and hashtags is automatically eligible to claim a \$10 Bear Bucks Gift Card good towards your choice of dining or activities at Bear Lake Reserve.

WANT BONUS BUCKS?

Take and post an optional 11th WOW station photo of either sunset or sunrise at the Overlook* and automatically receive an additional \$5 on your Gift Card!*

QUESTIONS: HANNAH@BEARLAKERESERVE.COM
SOCIAL MEDIA SUPPORT: KRISTIN@BEARLAKERESERVE.COM

* Participants must take and post all photos within one calendar year to qualify (Bonus Bucks photo must be different than Clingman’s Dome photo). Gift cards are valid for one year from date of issue, limit one per family. Participants must show all photos have been posted to and tagged on social media to qualify (posts may be edited at any time within a year from your first post to be fully compliant with contest rules). See review for Accessibility Notice and Exemption for those with mobility concerns.

A Little History Behind Each WOW.

Golden Farm Chimney* The original Golden Farm Chimney built in the 1900s is along the trail beyond Mill Pond Pavilion (there is also a replica built on Meadow Trail). Visible on the ground around the chimney are the faint outlines of a cottage. **FUN FACT:** The cottage was likely used by local moonshiners as a still to make homemade “hooch,” given its seclusion and easy access to water.

Rusty the Truck In the early 1930s, an outbreak of blight killed off all Smoky Mountain Chestnut in the area. Meade Lumber — the land owners at the time — denuded the area to harvest the valuable standing dead chestnut. There were two main methods of hauling lumber back then: Mott’s Lumber used narrow-gauge railroads and skidders (like a 4-wheel ATV). Meade Lumber Company used logging trucks to haul trees to a mill in East LaPorte, where they were processed and shipped off as lumber. “Rusty,” named by a BLR Staffer some years ago, is one such truck, a Corbin manufactured in Hendersonville NC in the early 1930s. Of little to no long-term value, Corbins were usually abandoned where they broke down rather than repaired or retired.

FUN FACTS:

- The blight is still around — there is still no local chestnut population in the region.
- The original forest contained huge, pre-Columbian old growth trees. Since the deforestation, only new trees remains (< 100 years old).
- The Tuckasegee River is too shallow to float logs. That’s why trucks and rails were used.
- Corbins were a predecessor to the WW2 “Half Track,” which had wheels in front and treads like a tank in the back.

Bear Creek Park Treehouses These treehouses were built based on a design sanctioned by the Boy Scouts of America, valued for their safety and spaciousness. Notice they are supported by the ground and are built around the trees. **FUN FACT:** Current homeowner and local historian Bill Clarke was in charge of developing Bear Creek Park and coordinated the construction of the treehouses.

Bridge (1930) The Bridge at Bear Creek Park is actually a former one-lane logging bridge, constructed of steel and supporting only a single lane to bear heavy loads and logging traffic. It has since been faced with wood and enforced with concrete embankments. **FUN FACT:** Every road in Bear Lake Reserve is originally a logging road, with routes determined by men scouting on foot to determine the best route for the logging trucks. These loggers covered so much ground on foot that their shoe size would often increase by two sizes!

Clingman’s Dome is not only the highest peak visible from the Overlook (on the side facing Tuckasegee River), it is also the highest point on the entire Appalachian Trail! Directly to right of the peak, you can see a lower elevation notch called Newfound Gap, which was a natural route for pioneers crossing the Smoky Mountains to enter the “New Frontier.” It was also the route used by Cherokee who were pushed off their British-arranged treaty land by the newly founded American government following the Revolutionary War.

FUN FACTS:

- Clingman’s Dome is about 60 miles away as the crow flies.
- Cherokee used blowguns to hunt small game only, and used crushed black walnuts to temporarily sedate fish to catch them by hand.

The Point is an all natural outcropping along the lake and provides some of our most well-known scenic views. The WOW factor is huge! **FUN FACT:** The house on top of the mountain peak opposite The Point is the Wolf Creek Christmas Tree Farm.

Sols Creek Falls at Bear Creek Lake Sols Creek Falls flows into Bear Creek Lake with a steep 120 ft drop. It’s visible from several different locations, including by boat. Land access to the Falls is not viable due to the steep, rocky terrain across private property, nevertheless it remains one of our most breathtaking favorites! **FUN FACT:** Duke Energy — which uses the lake system to generate electricity — drained Bear Creek Lake to repair the dam in 2018/2019, and the level dropped over 90 feet (its lowest since the lake was created).

The Island is a natural feature of the land, a mountaintop that exceeds the elevation of the lake. Before the lake was created, there were homes and families growing crops along the riverbed, including the Shook family, which Shook Cove Road is named after. The island would have been a peak among those homes. **FUN FACT:** The island is visible from airplanes, making Bear Creek Lake easy to identify at altitude.

Nicklaus Design® Golf Course This 9-hole course, the first to be created by Nicklaus Design®, includes gorgeous panoramic views of up to 60 miles in clear weather. For safety, the continuity of play, and the integrity of our greens, keep your WOW photos limited to tee boxes #7, #5, or #1 exclusively! They are readily accessible at only 20 - 40 feet from the main road, and #7 offers the most stunning views, including of Clingman’s Dome! **FUN FACT:** Hole #1 has been ranked among the Top 10 Best in Western North Carolina by multiple publications.

Hiking Trails There are over 20 miles of hiking trails across the Bear Lake Reserve property, all of which have been designed to be as easily navigable as the terrain allows for foot traffic. **FUN FACT:** There are 20 miles of hiking trails on property, ranging from easy to challenging.

* ACCESSIBILITY NOTICE: All WOW Stations are wheelchair accessible with the exception of Golden Farm Chimney. Those with mobility concerns may exclude Golden Farm Chimney from their list of qualifying social media posts and still be eligible to claim the prize.