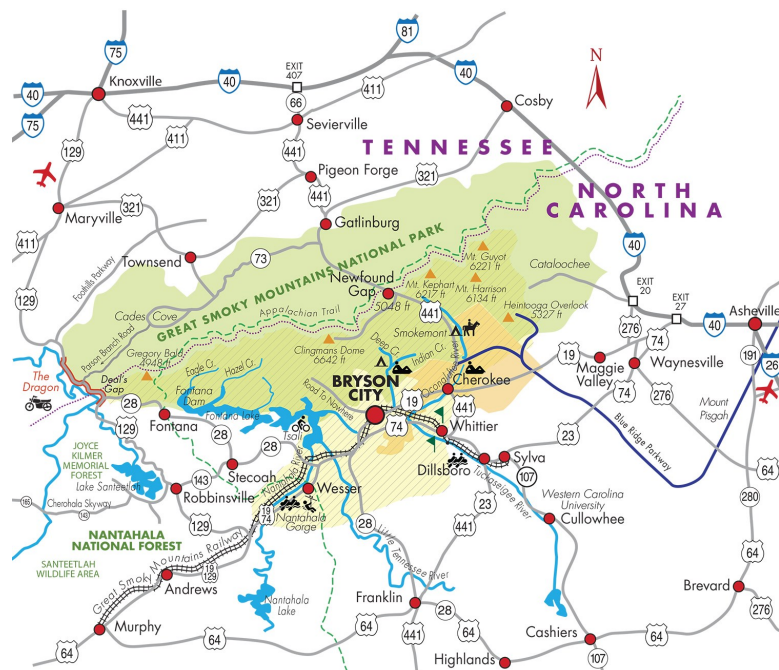




Relocation Guide



Swain County Chamber of Commerce
800-867-9246, greatsmokies.com

Welcome and thank you for considering Bryson City and Swain County as your new home. In the following pages you will find all the information you might need as you make your transition to our town. If you need further information please visit www.greatsmokies.com or call the Chamber of Commerce at 800-867-9246.

Alcohol –

In Bryson City, liquors are sold only at the ABC Store on Veterans Boulevard (9am-9pm, Monday-Saturday). Beer and wine is sold at grocery, convenience, and package stores within city limits. Hours vary by store, but on average will be 6am-12am, except on Sunday, when sales are only permitted from 12pm-6pm. Many Bryson City and Swain County restaurants also offer alcoholic beverages. For a comprehensive list of restaurants offering alcohol visit <http://www.greatsmokies.com/dining.php#.Uqdc3eIUaSo>

Automobile Tags –

Within 30 days of establishing North Carolina residency, you must obtain a NC automobile tag. The tag office is located in the Administration Building on Mitchell Street. 828-488-8247.

Burning Permits –

Inside city limits, permits to burn yard waste are issued at Town Hall located at 45 Everett Street. Outside city limits, permits are issued at “Old” Clampitt Hardware located at 129 Main Street, and Kings Grocery in Lauada on Highway 74 West.

Bus Service –

Commercial bus service is available in Maggie Valley, approximately 40 miles from Bryson City. The Cherokee Boys Club offers a charter bus service for the area, and transportation services are also offered by Swain Transit, 828-488-3213, and Cherokee Transit, 866-388-6071 or 828-497-5296.

Contacts –

Swain County Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 509, Bryson City, NC 28713

828-488-3681, 800-867-9246, chamber@greatsmokies.com

Karen P. Wilmot, Executive Director

The Swain County Chamber of Commerce consists of over 370 members representing a wide range of businesses including retail, wholesale distribution, attractions, services, manufacturing, dining, and lodging. Located at 210 Main Street, the Chamber serves as a center for business and visitor information. The Chamber also sponsors special events for the community and visitors, seminars, and networking opportunities.

Swain County Economic Development Commission

101 Mitchell Street, Bryson City, NC 28713

828-488-9273, ext.256, kenmillsedc@yahoo.com

Ken Mills, Director

The Commission assists both small and large businesses in many areas including finance, workforce, demographics, and successful marketing strategies.

Telephone, Cable, and Internet Services –

Cable TV service, internet connection, and local and long distance phone service is offered by ZitoMedia, 828-488-9323. Frontier Communications also offers local, long distance, and internet connection; new residents may call 800-483-4000 for hook-up, new businesses may call 800-483-5000. Satellite TV services can be obtained through Bryson City Electronics at 828-488-1100. There are numerous cell phone and local Internet service providers.

Voter Registration –

To be eligible to vote in Swain County, you must be a citizen of the US, at least 18 years of age, and a legal resident of Swain County. You must be registered at least 21 working days prior to any election in order to vote in that election. Registered voters always vote in their neighborhood precinct. The Board of Elections can be reached at 828-488-6177.

Workforce –

Employment, June 2007: 7,512

Unemployed, June 2007: 383

Unemployment Rate, June 2007: 5.1%

Unemployment Rate, June 2006: 4.5%

Useful Websites –

WNC Business Assistance Providers, www.wncbap.org

www.nccommerce.com

www.TheSmokyMountainTimes.com

Advantage West, www.awnc.org

www.siteselect.net/countyfrofile-swain.my

NC Taxes, www.dornc.com

Economic Security Commission, www.ncesc.com

www.ncruralcenter.org/databank

Swain County Chamber of Commerce,

www.greatsmokies.com

Business License –

A Privilege License to do business in the Town of Bryson City may be obtained at the Town Hall located at 45 Everett Street. Fees range from \$25 to \$2,500 depending on the type of license required. No license is required if your business is located outside city limits.

Childcare –

There are seventeen licensed child care facilities in Swain County with a total attendance of 792 children.

Civic Organizations –

Local civic groups play an active and critical role in a variety of public service activities. For a complete list, visit <http://www.greatsmokies.com/business.php?business=&category=90#.UqddlOIUaSo>

Climate –

The lack of seasonal extremes allows for frequent outdoor activities and comfortable living throughout the year. Among the most valued aspects of Swain County's climate are the cool summer nights which have lured visitors to the area for generations. For more information visit <http://www.greatsmokies.com/weather.html>

Commercial Airports –

The closest airport is located in Asheville, NC and is approximately 1 hour away. Other options include Atlanta, GA, Knoxville, TN and Greenville, SC.

Cost of Living Index (2012): 82.7 (US average is 100)

County Map –

A detailed map of Swain County and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is available at a cost of \$5.00 and is available at the Swain County Chamber of Commerce. For mail orders make check or money order payable to Swain County Chamber of Commerce, and mail to PO Box 509, Bryson City, NC 28713.

DMV Office -

The DMV office is located on US Hwy 19 N. 828-488- 3684. You may obtain your North Carolina driver's license here as well as North Carolina ID cards.

Driving Distances -

Atlanta, GA: 165
Asheville, NC: 70
Charlotte, NC: 185
Greenville, SC: 113
Knoxville, TN: 80
Raleigh, NC: 309

Education -

The county takes great pride in the academic and athletic achievements of its students. Swain County Schools are administered by a 5 member board of education elected by county voters and employs a superintendent who carries out the policies approved by the board. Swain County Board of Education: 828-488-3129.

The public school system consists of a Head Start program, Bright Adventures Pre-K, two K-5 elementary schools, one 6-8 middle school, and one 9-12 high school.

Mountain Discovery Charter School is a public, tuition free school for grades K-8. Admission is based on space availability. It employs a teaching approach that addresses individual learning styles while adhering to the North Carolina standard course of study.

Grace Christian Academy offers a Pre-K program and grades K-8 instruction. The school utilizes the A Beka Curriculum which provides a Christ-centered education. Before and after school programs are also offered.

Quality of Life -

Swain County has something to offer every age and family dynamic. Excellent schools, quality healthcare, pleasant climate, numerous recreational activities, and close-knit communities that encourage and emphasize family life. And for those who still "hanker" for a more urban environment, Swain County is conveniently located within easy driving distance of several major cities.

Recreation -

In addition to the many outdoor opportunities offered in Swain County, there is also an organized Recreation Department which offers a variety of classes and events. It also offers a public swimming pool, tennis courts, several public ball-fields, and playgrounds. You may reach the Swain County Recreation Department at 828-488-6159.

Right-to-Work State -

North Carolina is a right-to-work state. The percentage of unionization is one of the lowest in the nation.

Shipping -

Motor freight carriers serving Swain County include Old Dominion, Roadway, J.D. Hunt, John B. Lenoir, Virginia-Carolina, and C-W Transport. United Parcel Service, Federal Express, Airborne, Emory, Roadway Parcel and DHL are also available. The Great Smoky Mountains Railroad, while primarily a tourist-based operation, has the ability to ship for commercial customers.

Taxes -

North Carolina has an income tax on both personal and business income. It does not levy a property tax. Sales tax is collected at the rate of 6.75% on all goods with some exceptions. Swain County levies an ad-valorem tax on 100% assessment at the rate of \$0.3300 per \$100 property value. The Town of Bryson City has an ad-valorem tax within its corporate limits, using the county assessment. The current rate for Bryson City is \$0.3100 per \$100. County tax office: 828-488-9273, Town tax office: 828-488-3335.

Library –

The Marianna Black Library is a member of the Fontana Regional Library System. Among the many services offered are the use of computers and the Internet, and faxing and copying services. For more information visit www.fontanalib.org or call 828-488-3030.

Media –

Daily newspaper service is provided by the Asheville Citizen Times. Weekly newspapers include The Smoky Mountain Times, The Cherokee One Feather, and The Smoky Mountain News.

Places of Worship –

Many denominations are represented in Swain County including Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Church of Christ, Church of God, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Church of the Nazarene, Episcopal, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Seventh Day Adventist, and United Methodist. Two Jewish synagogues are located in Asheville and Jewish services are held regularly in Franklin, 40 minutes south of Bryson City. For a list of churches visit <http://www.greatsmokies.com/business.php?business=&category=38#.Uqdm4OIUaSo>

Population –

2010 Census:

Swain County – 13,981

Bryson City – 1,353

2000 Census:

Median Age: 39

2017 Projected Median Age: 43

Note: seasonal residents do not qualify for population studies. Seasonal residents may total up to 25% of Swain County residents.

Southwestern Community College is based in neighboring Jackson County and operates a learning center in the Almond area of Swain County.

Western Carolina University, part of the University of North Carolina system, is located in the Cullowhee area of Jackson County with a drive time of approximately 45 minutes from Bryson City.

Electric Service –

Duke Energy provides electric service to the area, 828-369-4500. You may pay your bill at Radio Shack in the Valley Village Shopping Center located on Old US 19.

Emergency, Fire, and Law Enforcement Services –

The Swain Emergency Medical Service (EMS), Bryson City Police, Swain County Sheriff, Swain County Rescue Squad, and four volunteer fire departments may be reached by dialing 911. The Swain EMS provides ambulance services. The Swain County Rescue Squad is a volunteer organization that provides wilderness search and rescue operations, river rescue, and traffic control at accident sites. The squad has eight certified emergency medical technicians.

Employment –

2012 Annual Employment: Total Government: 4,888 Total Private Industry: 3,037

Top Employers:

Swain County Schools: Education & Health Services: 250-499

Consolidated Metco Inc: Manufacturing: 250-499

Swain County: Public Administration: 100-249

Great Smoky Mountains Railroad: Trade, Transportation & Utilities: 100-249

Nantahala Outdoor Center: Trade, Transportation & Utilities: 100-249

Shaw Industries Group Inc: Trade, Transportation & Utilities: 100-249

Garbage Collection and Recycling Center –

For residents within the city limits, curbside garbage collection is provided by the Town of Bryson City, 828-488-3335. For county residents, a recycling center is located on Old US 19 and accepts paper, colored and clear glass, all plastics, tin, and cardboard.

Government, County –

Swain County government consists of a Board of Commissioners and a County Manager. The board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the County Administration Building. 828-488-9273.

Government, Town –

Bryson City government consists of a Mayor, Board of Aldermen, and a Town Manager. The board meets on the first Monday of each month at 6 pm in the Town Hall. 828-488-3335.

Health Care –

Swain County Hospital, which is part of the WestCare Health System, is a fully accredited acute care facility. Staffing the hospital full time are family practice physicians, an internist, an obstetrician, pediatricians and a physician's assistant. Other specialties offered on a weekly basis include orthopedics, cardiology, radiology, pulmonary, pathology, general surgery, pain management, and podiatry. The emergency room is staffed 24 hours a day. 828-488-2155.

There is also an urgent care facility, Smoky Mountain Urgent Care and Family Medicine Center, which offers onsite x-rays labs, and wellness coaching. The urgent care center is open seven days a week and the family care practice is open Monday through Thursday. 828-538-4546.

Additional medical facilities include eye care, dentists, an assisted living community, skilled nursing facilities, public health provider, home care providers, and mental health center.

Highways Serving the Area –

US Highways 441, 74, and 19, North Carolina Highway 28

Housing –

The most current information on rentals, homes for sale, and land for sale can be found in The Smoky Mountain Times. You may access the classified ads at www.thesmokymountaintimes.com. For a list of real estate offices visit <http://www.greatsmokies.com/business.php?business=&category=99#.Uqd6YeIUaSo>

Income –

2000 Census Median Family Income: \$34,048
2000 Census Median Household Income: \$28,665
2017 Projected Median Household Income: \$39,365
2017 Projected Per Capita Income: \$21,126

Industrial Park –

Swain County offers an industrial park just west of Bryson City on Old US 19. Utilities include city water and sewer, electric, natural gas, and fiber optics for broadband needs. For more information call 828-488-9273.

Labor Force Training –

Southwestern Community College assists companies in training the local workforce for special applications.

Swain County Technology and Training Center: The technology center is designed as a regional facility capable of onsite or remote classroom or conference center for up to 25 people. The center also features large format digital touch screens as well as full robotic training. 828-488-9273.

Western Carolina University: The Center for Integrated Technologies offers precision metrology, rapid prototyping systems, a telecommunication laboratory, and an OptoElectronics laboratory. The school also offers the WNC Technical Assistance Program to provide WCU expertise to the business community. 828-227-7368, www.cit.wcu.edu.