BUILDING FOR A BETTER FUTURE
At Tremont, we deeply believe that connection to place and to each other enriches our lives and strengthens our communities. **We all belong in nature**, and we succeed in our mission when we facilitate inclusive outdoor learning that contributes to each participant’s sense of belonging in the outdoors and the Great Smoky Mountains.

Tremont has over 50 years of expertise in helping people discover the natural world around them. We embrace the idea of nature as not that which is untouched by humanity but where all life thrives. As such, we work each day toward a thriving planet for all. We envision our community enhanced by lifelong learners in pursuit of wonder and curiosity about the world around them. We envision an education system that integrates nature-based, outdoor learning as fundamental to the success and health of its students – where youth regularly and frequently engage with local and national parks throughout their formal education. We envision a workforce that embraces the possibilities of our future, taking inspiration from nature and seeking innovative solutions to some of our society’s biggest challenges.

We have a vision where people of all ages, through a connection to the world around them, come to imagine new possibilities for themselves and for the planet.

To achieve this vision, we are embarking on an ambitious journey, our Keystone Campaign, to establish our second campus and build an unparalleled education center that increases our impact and provides transformative learning opportunities for youth and adults.
Since 1969, Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont has shared the wonders of nature with hundreds of thousands of youth and adults in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. A private non-profit 501(c)(3), Tremont operates through a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service to provide immersive overnight programs that connect people to nature and to each other.

In today's society, we spend our lives increasingly indoors. This is negatively affecting our physical and mental well-being. Yet, we have the chance to reinvigorate our relationship with nature, and, in turn, to gain from this connection. This is our goal, and this is our work. Tremont’s education programs are uniquely positioned to increase access to these benefits. Research tells us that when children learn outdoors, their test scores, behavior, attention, social skills, and confidence improve. When people learn outdoors, they experience decreased stress and increased physical activity leading to healthier outcomes. This campaign is ambitious, but the impact is clear. We will grow our capacity. We will reach individuals through new and sustained partnerships and programs. We will build a world-class education center. We will model a better future. And together, our success will show that when we create buildings that are good for people, for our planet, and for our shared prosperity, our vision for a better future is possible because it exists right here in East Tennessee.

We've endured challenges to our programs: blizzards, fires, floods, and a pandemic. Yet, we've proven resilient because people choose Tremont as a place to find inspiration and healing in the outdoors. In recent years, we've celebrated increased visitation to the Smokies. Our programs, put on hold during the pandemic, have resumed, and we are challenged to meet the growing demand for our programs. For many reasons, we cannot expand our current footprint within the protected boundaries of the National Park. Instead, our solution is to grow into two distinct but interrelated campuses just minutes apart.
In 2019, Tremont purchased 194 acres in Townsend, Tennessee, bordering Great Smoky Mountains National Park, increasing our capacity for existing programs and opening pathways for new programs, participants, and partnerships.

On this land, we are building an education center that doesn’t just do less bad for the environment but positively impacts the environment and our community. We aim for our second campus to be Tennessee’s first Living Building Challenge certified project and one of only a few dozen nationwide. To achieve this certification, we will meet key imperatives to promote the responsible use of water, materials, and resources. We will feature innovative, clean energy technologies, generating more electricity than we use. We will treat water on site, putting clean water back into the watershed. We will restore and preserve critical habitat on our land to benefit all those that live in the shadow of the Smokies. Our success will be a campus that integrates built and learning environments to support a thriving community living in balance with the natural world.
East Tennessee is home to a vibrant and prosperous economy, world-renowned research facilities, nationally-ranked higher education institutions, and our nation’s most visited and biodiverse national park. Our region is a collaborative ecosystem rich in innovation, creativity, and forward-thinking practices that seek to pass on a better world to our children. Tremont will meet the moment of our time and join us together in pursuit of a stronger future for all.

THE EAST TENNESSEE ADVANTAGE

REACHING OUR BOLD VISION WILL TAKE TIME, AND WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS. STARTING WITH PHASE ONE, WE HAVE DESIGNED INDOOR AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION SPACES TO SERVE DAILY VISITORS, OVERNIGHT SCHOOL GROUPS, AND ADULT RETREATS IN GROUPS OF VARIOUS SIZES. THE FLEXIBILITY ALLOWS US TO MEET THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS OF EACH GROUP, PROVIDING UNIQUE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL.

IN OUR KEYSTONE CAMPAIGN, WE SEEK TO RAISE $27 MILLION TO COMPLETE PHASE ONE. YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS CAMPAIGN WILL BRING OUR PIONEERING PHASE ONE DESIGNS INTO REALITY. WE WILL BUILD A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE FEEL GREATER JOY, NEW AWARENESS, AND CONNECTION. A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE LIVE AND LEARN TOGETHER. A PLACE THAT IS A BEACON OF HOPE AND INSPIRATION FOR OUR REGION.

THE JOURNEY AHEAD

RENDERING BY HENNEBERY EDDY ARCHITECTS

RENDERING BY HENNEBERY EDDY ARCHITECTS
The future campus achieves the Living Building Challenge, an ambitious set of requirements that promotes the responsible use of resources and materials, while demonstrating sustainable and equitable practices on a net-positive campus.

The Living Building Challenge requires that buildings address seven key focus areas. Hear how our staff connect to these imperatives at tremontfuture.org/lbc.

KEY BENEFITS OF THE SECOND CAMPUS

More students will participate in experiential programs like those already offered on our campus within the National Park.

Youth and adults will benefit from new day program offerings, not currently available at Tremont. These provide pathways for workforce development and learning opportunities in sustainability, STEM, green building, ecology, food systems, and more.

New adult programs will bring together groups for immersive experiences. Corporate and board retreats, small group gatherings, and others will benefit from a campus designed with workspaces that promote creativity and collaboration, and from facilitated exploration of nearby outdoor areas.

More individuals and schools needing financial aid will receive tuition assistance, increasing access to the benefits of time spent in nature.

A Living Campus

The future campus achieves the Living Building Challenge, an ambitious set of requirements that promotes the responsible use of resources and materials, while demonstrating sustainable and equitable practices on a net-positive campus.

The Living Building Challenge requires that buildings address seven key focus areas. Hear how our staff connect to these imperatives at tremontfuture.org/lbc.
**NAME**

*These estimates include +/- 25% contingencies for design, construction, and estimating.

As we launch this campaign, our first priority will focus on the design and engineering work and property overhead to ensure our project is shovel ready. The campaign is estimated to take up to five years, and the subsequent funding will enable the construction of buildings and necessary infrastructure.

Campus features include:

- A central gathering building that includes classrooms, a conference space, a commercial kitchen, and a dining hall for 100 people
- Two dorms with 4 rooms that sleep 8 (full occupancy at 64 people)
- Two dorms with 6 rooms that sleep 2 (full occupancy of 24 people)
- Multipurpose open-air structures including a pavilion and Council House
- Maintenance shop
- Staff housing (adaptive reuse of existing brick home with an additional unit)
- Parking, roads, electric vehicle charging stations
- Land improvements for agriculture, forest farming, and recreation
- Water treatment infrastructure for storm and wastewater systems

Explore the full vision for the second campus at tremontfuture.org/master-plan.

**KEYSTONE CAMPAIGN SPECIFICS**

*Your investment in this campaign will bring our vision into reality, shaping Tremont's future and, more specifically, our campus. As part of our capital campaign, there will be many ways to honor your support through naming opportunities for buildings, classrooms, gardens, trails, and gathering areas. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us.*

**CAMPAIGN GOAL:**

$27 MILLION

**NAMING OPPORTUNITIES**

Your investment in this campaign will bring our vision into reality, shaping Tremont's future and, more specifically, our campus. As part of our capital campaign, there will be many ways to honor your support through naming opportunities for buildings, classrooms, gardens, trails, and gathering areas. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us.

**Why the “Keystone Campaign?”**

A keystone species, like hemlocks and bears in the Smokies, hold ecological significance and impact the success of other species in their ecosystem. Like these species, Tremont will play a pivotal role in our region’s thriving relationship between its people and natural resources.
WAYS TO GIVE

We invite you to be a part of our journey. When you choose to support the Keystone Campaign, you are investing in critical education for our future.

Gifts can be made in a variety of ways:

- Online at tremontfuture.org
- By check mailed to: 9275 Tremont Road, Townsend, TN 37882
- Planned gifts and bequests
- Securities and stock transfers
- Matching gifts through your employer

In addition to one-time gifts, we welcome pledges of support that can be given over time.

Key Staff

- Cathy McClary, President & CEO, cathys@gsmnit.org
- Megan Womack, Development Director, megan@gsmnit.org
- Pete Crowley, Director of Operations, pete@gsmnit.org

Board of Directors

- This campaign would not be possible without the support and guidance of Tremont’s dedicated Board of Directors.

- Tim Topham, Chair
- Daniel Green, Treasurer
- Leslee Alexander
- Whitfield Bailey
- Tom Barnett
- Karen Bentz

- Dr. Harold Black
- Brandon Bruce
- Corey Clayton
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- Dick Ray
- Bill Varner

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In partnership with Great Smoky Mountains National Park, our mission is to deliver experiential learning for youth, educators, and adults through programs that promote self-discovery, critical thinking, and effective teaching, and leadership. We believe that education creates lasting positive change for people and our planet.

From our home in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, our research and residential programs investigate the diversity that sustains all life, develop a sense of place, and cultivate a stewardship ethic that will influence lifelong decision-making.