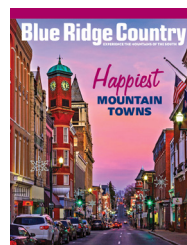


PLANNING CALENDAR 2026



	JANUARY/FEBRUARY	MARCH/APRIL	MAY/JUNE	JULY/AUGUST	SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER	NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
COVER STORY/ THEMED ISSUE	2026 Annual Travel Guide: Slow Travel and Why It's Perfect for the Mountains: Local dining, immersive stays, scenic drives, leisurely strolls and more in 7 states. - Mountain Almanac: 12 months of recipes, tips, trivia and more.	- New Green Travel: Exploring initiatives in mountain towns, state parks and more, all aimed at building a more resilient, sustainable future. - How to Start a State Park: A behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of Hayfields State Park. - Great Picnic Spots in 7 States	- Annual Festivals Guide: Our yearly compendium of fun May through December. - Blue Ridge Parkway Guide: Every year's edition is a must-explore. - Plus America250 in the Southern Appalachians and gateway towns and cities.	- Happiest Mountain Towns Poll: A roundup of the winning towns, as selected by our readers. - Amazing Float-to-Stays in 7 States - Summer in the Smokies: Top hikes, drives, water activities, family-friendly adventures, and more.	- Basecamp Towns: Adventure-ready communities equipped with everything you need for a fall weekend spent in the great outdoors. - Cabin Life in the Mountains: An in-depth look at one couple's beautiful Southern Appalachian log home.	- Best of the Mountains Poll: Readers select their favorite towns, trails, waterfalls, and more. - Holiday Getaways: Resort-style stays complete with built-in seasonal activities, festive events, exceptional dining, and more.
CONTESTS				Happiest Mountain Towns		Best of the Mountains Contest Run Dates: - Nomination Round: April 19-May 31, 2026 - Finalist Round: June 10-July 12, 2026
SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTIONS & QUICK GUIDES	Special 2026 Full Page Advertorial rates Quick Guide: Upcountry, South Carolina	N/A	2026 ANNUAL Festival Guide Annual Blue Ridge Parkway Guide (VA & NC)	Happiest Mountain Towns Winner Section	Southern West Virginia Quick Guide Fall Outdoor Adventure Section Top Real Estate Firm/Agent Profiles and Directory	Best of the Mountains Winner Section Best Christmas Towns Section Ski & Snowboard Guide
Editorial Features						
Flavors	Kentucky	West Virginia	Tennessee	Georgia	Virginia	North Carolina
The Good Walk	Tennessee	Kentucky	North Carolina	Virginia	South Carolina	West Virginia
Photo Essay	Quiet Beauty of Mountain Winters	Scenes of Spring	Among the Blooms	Currents and Cascades	Signature Peaks in Fall	Veils of Late Fall and Winter
Deadlines						
SALES CLOSE	NOVEMBER 7	JANUARY 7	MARCH 2	MAY 6	JULY 22	SEPTEMBER 24
MATERIALS DUE	NOVEMBER 13	JANUARY 14	MARCH 11	MAY 13	JULY 24	SEPTEMBER 30
ON SALE	JANUARY 6	MARCH 3	APRIL 28	JUNE 30	AUGUST 25	OCTOBER 27

Please note: Issue themes/topics subject to change. On Sale dates subject to newsstand distribution schedule.

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