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**Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park**

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**A focus on fall**

**Winning shots feature stunning scenes of Chimney Rock**

Visitors to Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park didn’t let disaster dampen their competitive spirit.

Even though a retaining wall in the Park’s upper parking lot collapsed in late October, causing the Park to close and then partially reopen for a time, there was still an overwhelming number of photos submitted to the Give It Your Best Shot Fall Photo Contest.

Entries in this quarter’s competition featured rich fall colors, dramatic scenery and hikers enjoying the views from some of the highest points in the Park.

In early December, the Park’s Facebook followers chose the People’s Choice Award winner by liking and sharing their favorite photo.

Sierra Haynes, from Fraziers Bottom, West Virginia, received more than 60 votes for her photo of a peachy sky over Lake Lure.

Haynes’ photo will be featured as the Park’s Facebook and Pinterest Board Cover for two weeks. She’ll also receive two Park admission tickets, lunch for two at Old Rock Café and a $20 gift certificate from Old Time Photo in Chimney Rock Village.

A panel of expert judges reviewed entries to determine who would take home the contest’s top prizes.

Roger Orzoco’s photo of a guest enjoying expansive views of the Hickory Nut Gorge with her canine won second place. In the photo man’s best friend looks as though he’s ready to go on another adventure, but his owner is too enthralled by the views to notice fido’s need for more hiking.

Orzoco, a Charlotte, North Carolina resident, will receive two Park admission tickets, lunch for two at Old Rock Café and two tickets to Lake Lure Boat Tours.

The competition’s first place winner was chosen because she captured the spirit and mystery of Chimney Rock’s newest trail with her lens.

Greensboro, North Carolina, resident Victoria Short’s image from the end of the Skyline trail features dramatic hues of yellow and orange surrounding the upper cascades of the Park’s 404-foot waterfall, Hickory Nut Falls.

Short will receive an overnight getaway in the Hickory Nut Gorge at the 1927 Lake Lure Inn & Spa, two admission tickets to the Park, brunch for two at the 1927 Lake Lure Inn & Spa and two tickets to Lake Lure Boat Tours.

The Park’s Winter Photo Contest is currently underway. Shutterbugs can learn more about entering their images of Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park by visiting chimneyrockpark.com or Facebook.com/chimneyrockparknc.

**About Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park**

[Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park](http://chimneyrockpark.com/index.php) is a still-developing international outdoor destination located 25 miles southeast of Asheville on Highway 64/74A in Chimney Rock, N.C. It is recognized as one of the Southeast’s most iconic sites and popular travel destinations. The Park’s 535-million-year-old monolith called Chimney Rock can be accessed via the 500-step Outcroppings Trail and offers guests 75-mile panoramic views of Hickory Nut Gorge and Lake Lure. The Park features one of the highest waterfalls of its kind east of the Mississippi River, Hickory Nut Falls, at 404 feet. Hickory Nut Gorge, one of the state’s most significant centers of biodiversity, is home to 36 rare plant species and 14 rare animal species. The Rumbling Bald section of the greater State Park off of Boys Camp Road in Chimney Rock is the only other area of the Park that is currently open to the public. A destination for travel groups, weddings and special events, the Chimney Rock section of the Park also hosts innovative educational programs for schools, homeschoolers, scouts and summer camps. Visit Chimney Rock’s website at [chimneyrockpark.com](http://www.chimneyrockpark.com).

Cutlines

#1 (COURTESY CHIMNEY ROCK AT CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK)

Sierra Haynes photo of a peachy sky over Lake Lure was chosen by the Park’s Facebook friends as the People’s Choice Award winner.

#2(COURTESY CHIMNEY ROCK AT CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK)

Roger Orzoco’s photo of a guest enjoying an adventure with her dog in the Park placed second.

#3(COURTESY CHIMNEY ROCK AT CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK)

First place winner Victoria Short captured this image of the Park’s newest feature, the Skyline trail, on an early fall day. Vivid yellows and oranges made this photo the perfect representation of the Park in the fall.