

HIKING & CAMPING IN BEAR COUNTRY

When hiking and camping in bear country
you are at risk of surprising
a bear, cougar, moose, or even a rattlesnake

Safety Tips from the Be Bear Aware Campaign

Carry Bear Spray readily accessible on your waist, hip, shoulder, or chest.

When Buying Bear Spray look for 7+ seconds of spray duration and distance of 30+ feet.

Head out to Hike in a Group. Stay close together and do not allow children or dogs to run ahead or lag behind.

Avoid Hiking at Dawn and Dusk. Wild animals, such as bears, are more active at these times of day. Avoid hiking off-trail and at night.

Look, Listen & Smell for bear signs such as tracks, scat, claw marks on trees, rocks/logs rolled over, and foul, pungent odors from carrion or a bear that has rolled in it. Watch for circling birds as they are a sign of a fresh animal kill.

Make Your Presence Known - Call Out periodically and when travelling near or through thick brush, around blind corners or cresting a hill, on windy days, and when near noisy streams and rivers.

Hiking with Dogs in bear country poses additional risks to you and your group. An aggressive animal may chase them back to you.

When Hiking with Children, keep them in immediate sight. Avoid playing near dense brush or making squealing noises.

Please Do Not approach, follow, attempt to interact with, or feed wild animals, especially bears. Wildlife + Distance = Safety.

If You Encounter a Bear, stop and group together as you ready your bear spray. Assess the situation and follow bear encounter protocol. Do not act in a threatening or confrontational way unless you are being charged by the bear and must stand your ground.



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How to Avoid Encounters

Proper Food Storage

Bear Identification

What to do in an Encounter

How to Deploy Bear Spray

BE BEAR AWARE CAMPAIGN

Camping in Bear Country

Whether you are camping at an established campground or out in the backcountry, there are special precautions we all need to take to ensure that wildlife, especially bears, do not obtain human food rewards or become habituated to people in search of food.

KEEP A CLEAN CAMP ALWAYS

Pick a Campsite away from trails, thick brush, berry patches, and areas with bear signs.

Provide Space Between Tents to give wildlife room to pass through. Do not place tents in a circle. Wild animals may feel trapped once they wander in.

Wildlife, Especially Bears, Near a Campground are more likely to be habituated to humans and food conditioned. These animals may look non-threatening but will become more aggressive in their attempts to obtain human, pet, and livestock foods.

Plan Meals so There are No Leftovers. Avoid cooking odorous foods.

Use the Bear Resistant food boxes and garbage cans at campgrounds or lock it in a vehicle when not cooking. In the backcountry, hang your food and garbage out of a bear's reach. Speak up when nearby campers are putting others at risk.

Keep Bear Spray readily available at all times in and around your campsite, especially when cooking. Sleep with bear spray and a flashlight by you.

Dogs in Camp are an added risk as an aggressive animal may chase them back to you. If you do camp with a dog, keep them on a leash.

Always Sleep in a Tent. A tent can be a psychological barrier to a bear.

Never Put Odorous Items in Your Tent. In addition to food, this includes deodorant, toothpaste, lotions, and possibly clothes you cooked food in.

When you leave, pack out all food, garbage, and refuse. Do not leave evidence of food in fire pits.

