

# Camping in Bear Country

## Avoid Attracting Bears To Your Camp



### Colorado Is Black Bear Country

Black bears typically avoid people but they can learn to find food in campsites. They are not after you, *they are after your trash and food!*



PHOTO BY ONCEANDEFUTURELAURA

Seeing a bear in its natural habitat is a wonderful experience, but it's better to watch them from a distance. *You can prevent the needless death of a bear!*

Help Keep Colorado's Wildlife, Wild  
Learn More At

[CPW.STATE.CO.US/BEARS](http://CPW.STATE.CO.US/BEARS)

### Secure Your Trash and Food

- **NEVER INTENTIONALLY FEED A BEAR!!**
- **Stash Your Trash.** Use bear-proof trash containers when available. If they're full, double bag trash and lock it in your trunk or RV. *Never leave trash outside.*
- **Store Attractants Safely.** Store food, beverages and toiletries in bear proof food lockers. Many bears have discovered that coolers, bags and boxes are full of food; never leave them in your tent or anywhere a bear could see, smell or reach. If no other options, lock food and trash in your vehicle's trunk or in your RV.
- **Keep A Clean Tent.** Don't bring anything with an odor into your tent, including all foods, beverages, scented toiletries, gum, toothpaste, sunscreen, candles, and insect repellent. Don't sleep in the clothes you cooked in; store them with your food.
- **Lock RVs and Vehicles.** Close windows and lock your vehicle and RV when you leave your campsite and at night before you go to sleep.

### If A Bear Enters Your Campsite

- **Do Not Turn And Run.** Yell, wave your arms and try to appear larger.
- **Make It Feel Unwelcome.** If the bear continues to approach, throw rocks or sticks toward it and continue yelling.
- **If It Attacks.** Black bear attacks on humans are very rare but if this happens to you, fight back as aggressively as possible!
- **Be Aware Of Your Surroundings.** When hiking in the woods, be on the lookout and avoid surprising a bear or other wild animal.
- **Notify Authorities If You Encounter An Aggressive Wild Animal.** Immediately report any conflicts to the nearest CPW office.

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