

# REMEMBER: A Fed Bear is a Dead Bear



*Nature*  
**HISTORY**  
*Discovery*

# Black Bears

- Store food in a car trunk, or in several layers of plastic bags hung between two trees at least 10 feet off the ground.
- Do not sleep near cooking or food storage areas.
- Keep your campsite clean. Wipe up after meals, and burn grease off grills.
- Dispose of garbage in bear-proof garbage cans, or pack it out. Bears will dig up buried or burned garbage.
- Store toiletries with your food. The smell of these will also attract bears.

**KEEP WILDLIFE WILD.  
PLEASE DON'T FEED ANY WILDLIFE.**

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Oregon State Parks

# Black Bears

What do you do if you see a bear? All situations vary, depending on the bear, the terrain and the people involved. In most cases, the bear will detect you first and leave the area. Bear attacks are actually rare, compared to the number of close encounters. Never approach a bear under any circumstances.

## Bear Behavior

Black bears are generally shy and avoid human contact. However, it is smart to take precautions if you camp in bear country. Bears use all their senses to identify what you are. Their eyesight is good and sense of smell acute. If a bear stands upright or moves closer, it is trying to detect smells in the air. This is not a sign of aggression. Once it identifies you, it may leave the area or try to intimidate you by charging to within a few feet before it withdraws.

You are responsible for preventing conflicts. If a bear gets food from you, it is likely to behave more aggressively toward the next people it meets. Do not reward a bear for associating with people.



## Face to Face With a Black Bear

If you encounter a bear:

### Stop

Face the bear and back away slowly. Avoid direct eye contact because bears may perceive this as a threat. Give the bear plenty of room to leave the area.

### Stay Calm

If you see a bear and it fails to see you, calmly leave the area. If on a trail, step off the trail on the downhill side and slowly leave the area. Do not run or make any sudden movements. Running is likely to prompt the bear to chase. You can not outrun a bear.

### Make Noise

Make noise while hiking to reduce the chance of surprising a bear.

### Be Alert

Getting between a female and her cubs is dangerous. If a cub is nearby, move away from it. Be alert for other cubs in the area.

### Fight Back

If a bear attacks, it is suggested you fight back. Black bears have been driven away when people have fought back with rocks, sticks, and even bare hands.

### Report

Report all bear sightings to a park ranger as soon as possible.