

How to Prevent Bear Problems

- Keep your campsite clean.
- Store all food and coolers properly. All food must be tightly wrapped or well sealed.
- Not only do bears have a keen sense of smell, they can learn to identify coolers, picnic baskets, shopping bags etc. by sight as food sources. Bears are also extremely intelligent creatures. Once they have learned where they might find food, they will return.
- Tent campers should store food and coolers in your car's trunk *or* covered and out of sight in your vehicle's cab, with windows up. Do not cook or store food, garbage or scented items in your tent. Do not eat in your tent.
- Cabin campers should store all food inside the cabin, tightly wrapped and in the refrigerators. Do not leave unwrapped food sitting out in the cabin. Do not leave food or coolers outside. Do not bring garbage cans inside.
- Treat scented items the same as food - store them properly. (soap, deodorant, toothpaste, scented candles, auto air fresheners, sun tan lotion, etc.)
- NOTE: SOILED DIAPERS can also attract bears!
- Do not leave unwrapped food or scented items in your car.
- Bears can be expected to be more active in the evening so please plan your evening meal early and clean up thoroughly afterward.
- Clean grills and cooking utensils thoroughly after use.
- Never burn garbage or grease in your fire pit or grill. Do not pour grease on the ground.
- All garbage, refuse and recyclables are to be removed from the campsite at least once a day but always after the evening meal. Follow your campgrounds procedures as directed by campground employees.
- Use caution when approaching the dumpsters.
- Do not sleep in the clothes you cooked, prepared food or ate in.
- Do not bring the clothes you cooked, prepared food or ate in into the tent.



Protecting your safety and well being while conserving our wildlife

We ask that, as you enjoy your stay here and marvel in the wildlife that abounds around you, you join us in acting as stewards to protect our resources. Regardless of size or demeanor, all wildlife is an important component of our biodiversity and plays a vital role in the function of healthy ecosystems.

Your safety is of great importance to us. We will take whatever actions are appropriate. However, our goal is to prevent dangerous situations from occurring from the start.

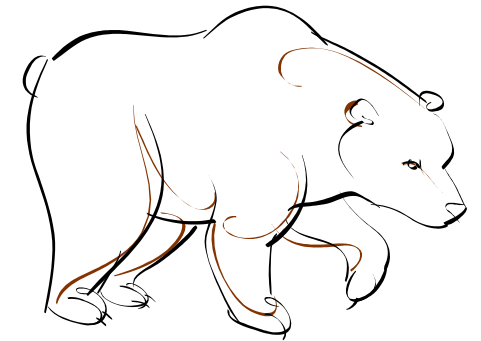
Please observe and enjoy our wildlife from a safe distance and refrain from feeding any animals. It may seem harmless, and maybe even helpful, but it can result in unhealthy wildlife populations. Just as importantly, it can cause the animals to lose their natural fear of humans which can lead to potentially dangerous activities as well.

To read our policy on wildlife management, please visit our website at <http://www.parks.ny.gov> or, more specifically, <http://parks.ny.gov/inside-our-agency/documents/PolicyOnFishAndWildlifeManagement.pdf>

For more information about black bears in New York State, please visit the Dept. of Environmental Conservation's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov> or, more specifically <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6960.html>



NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation



BEARS AND CAMPING

Palisades Region
Harriman State Park
(845) 429-8257 or (845) 947-2444



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation



NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Palisades Interstate Park Commission

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www.parks.ny.gov
www.palisadesparksconservancy.org

What to do if you encounter one or more bears within the campground

- Don't panic. Bears are more likely to be afraid of you than you are of them but remember that bears are powerful animals that may defend themselves if they feel threatened.
 - **Resist the urge to get a closer look, take pictures, toss food etc.!**
- Be sure that you and everyone else in the area are safely out of the way.
- Be sure to leave an escape route for the bear or bears.
- Do not feed or approach the bear(s).
- Do not try to protect your food, garbage or other possessions.
- Frighten the bear(s) by making noise such as banging pots, yelling, blowing car horns, using air horn, etc. Make yourself as big as possible by waving your arms.
- If the bear does not leave or makes any warning or threatening gestures such as huffing or making popping sounds or simply makes you feel threatened, back away slowly without making eye contact. Do not run.
- Report the encounter to the nearest park employee as soon as possible. If there are no employees available, contact NYS Park Police at 845-786-2781.
- Always follow the direction and advice given by NYS Parks Police Officers and Employees as well as from NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation Officers and employees. It is based on education and experience.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Beaver Pond Campground	845-947-2792
Sebago Cabins Campground	845-429-2039
Tiorati Office	845-429-8257
New York State Park Police	845-786-2781

For the full official Harriman State Park map, as well as other information about the parks, please download the NY State Parks Explorer app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store:



Outside the campground, in wooded areas, a bear that is passing by and not approaching your area should be allowed to continue on in its normal activity. Enjoy the fact that you've had the opportunity to see one of New York State's largest mammals (second only to the moose)!

What's going to happen to the bear?

- A bear that approaches your area should be frightened away as described earlier. If it leaves the area and does not appear to be interested in any other campsites or gathering areas, it should be left to continue its activity. If it does not leave, back away and notify a park employee immediately.
- Park employees will consult with NYS Park Police who will attempt to urge the bear to leave using less subtle, non-lethal aversion techniques.
- NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation officers will be called in the event that a bear does not heed our efforts and poses a threat to our visitors and employees. NYS DEC officers will take action depending on the bear's behaviors and the level of threat it poses.



The sooner a bear is conditioned to stay away from human activity, the better off the bear will be. It will be living a normal bear's life, eating a healthier diet found in the wild.

Did you know?

Feeding black bears (intentionally or accidentally) is illegal.

§187.1 of NYS DEC Regulations reads:

(a) *"Purpose" The purpose of this section is to protect public safety while conserving New York's black bear populations. The deliberate, intentional feeding of black bears is prohibited. The incidental, indirect feeding of black bears becomes unlawful once a written warning has been issued by the department.*

(b) *"Definitions."*

(1) *"Feeding" means using, placing, giving, exposing, deposition, distributing or scattering any material to attract one or more black bears to feed on such material.*

(2) *"Incidental or indirect feeding" means using, placing, giving, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering any material for a different purpose but which attracts one or more black bears. This includes storage of garbage or refuse and use and storage of birdseed in a manner that is accessible to bears*

(c) *Prohibited activities. It is a violation for any person to:*

(1) *Feed black bears, except as authorized by section 187.2 of this part;*

(2) *Incidentally or indirectly feed black bears after the department has issued a written notice to the person or persons directly responsible for the incidental or indirect feeding of a black bear.*