

You are in Bear Country! San Bernardino National Forest



¡Esta en campo de osos! San Bernardino Bosque Nacional

Welcome to the San Bernardino National Forest. The forest is home to many different types of wild animals including black bears. Bears have lived in these mountains for hundreds of years. Once even grizzly bears lived here—indeed it is from them that Big Bear got its name. Unfortunately grizzly bears were hunted to extinction by humans and were gone by the early 20th century. Now only black bears live in the San Bernardino National Forest.

Black bears can be brown, blonde, or gray, as well as black. They are generally shy and will avoid people. The bears in the forest are wild and are unpredictable. In order to keep both humans and bears safe it's important to limit the contact people have with bears.

- **Never approach or feed a bear**
- Keep your site clean! Throw away garbage immediately after meals. Use bear-resistant garbage cans whenever possible.
- Never leave food out on the table or in a tent.
- Store food in an airtight container in the trunk of your vehicle or use bear-resistant food containers if available.
- While hiking, make noise to avoid a surprise encounter with a bear.
- Keep a close watch on children, and teach them what to do if they encounter a bear.
- If you encounter a bear, do not run; instead, face the animal, make noise and try to appear as large as possible.
- If attacked, fight back. If a bear attacks a person, immediately call 911.
- Report any bear encounters at this site to the California Department of Fish and Game at 909-484-0167

Bienvenidos al Bosque Nacional San Bernardino. El bosque es el hogar de muchos tipos de animales salvajes como osos negros. Dándoles de comer a los osos no tiene razón. Es también contra la ley. Por favor, respete y proteja a los animales salvajes. Manténgalos salvajes.

- Mantenga vigilancia sobre los niños y enséñenles qué hacer si se encuentran con un oso.
- Cuando camina por el campo haga ruido para evitar un encuentro con un oso.
- Nunca mantenga comida en su tienda de campaña.
- Ponga comida y artículos de tocador en recipientes que resisten osos o en recipientes herméticos dentro de la cajuela de su vehículo.
- Guarde las sobras de comida y limpie parrillas de barbacoa después de uso.
- Mantenga limpio el campamento. Deposite la basura en contenedores y guarde la comida inmediatamente después de comer.
- Use botes de basura que resistan osos cuando sea posible o guarde su basura y comida en un lugar fuera del alcazo de osos.
- Nunca se acerque a un oso o recoja un oseño.
- En caso que usted se encuentre con un oso, no corra. Enfrentase con el animal, haga ruido y trate de aparecer lo más grande posible.
- En caso de un ataque, pelee por su vida.
- Permitir que los animales salvajes se alimenten con comida y basura humana causa que pierdan su estado.
- Si un oso ataca a una persona, llame al 911 inmediatamente. Reporte encuentros con osos en este sitio a California Department of Fish and Game 909-484-0167.

Bear Quiz—Test Your Knowledge!

1. True or False? Grizzly bears used to live in the San Bernardino National Forest.
2. T or F? Bears have poor eyesight but a great sense of smell.
3. T or F? Black bears can be brown.
4. T or F? It's okay to feed bears.
5. T or F? Your food is safe from bears in an ice chest.
6. T or F? You can outrun a bear.
7. T or F? Bears can break into your car if they smell food.
8. T or F? Bears can't smell your food if it's in a can.
9. T or F? Bears hibernate during the winter in the San Bernardino National Forest.
10. T or F? Keeping your campsite clean decreases your chance of bear problems.

Quiz Answers

1. True. Grizzlies lived in this forest until hunters killed the last one in 1921.
2. True. Bears are near-sighted, but their sense of smell is 7 times better than a bloodhound!
3. True. Black bears can be brown, as well as blonde, gray, and even white! There is a variant of black bear that is actually white in color and lives along the coast in British Columbia in Canada.
4. False. Feeding bears teaches them to approach humans. These bears become accustomed to getting food at campgrounds or residences and they become unsafe. Feeding bears may ultimately lead to their death. Please help avoid that tragedy.
5. False. Bears are smart. They know what is in an ice chest and are they can open one easily.
6. False. Despite rumors to the contrary, bears can outrun a human on ANY terrain, uphill or down.
7. True. Bears can smell food that is inside a car. In some places like Yosemite National Park they routinely break into cars. Here on the San Bernardino National Forest this habit has not become widespread, fortunately. Still we recommend that you use bear-resistant containers whenever possible. If you are storing food in your vehicle, make sure the windows are rolled up and the doors locked. Use the trunk, or if your vehicle doesn't have a trunk, store food covered up by a blanket or tarp.
8. False. Bears have extraordinary senses of smell and can smell canned food.
9. False. Black bears in our area are usually active year-round.
10. True. Bears are usually just interested in food and garbage—if you keep a clean camp then you and your family will stay safe—and the bears will stay wild and free!

For more information, please contact:

San Bernardino National Forest Supervisor's Office (909) 382-2600
Big Bear Discover Center (909) 382-2790
Lytle Creek Ranger Station (909) 382-2851
Idyllwild Ranger Station (909) 382-2921

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