

BearWise

Outdoor Safety Tips

Hiking, Jogging, Cycling



- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Try not to hike alone.
- Keep kids within sight and close by.
- Make noise so bears in the area can avoid you.
- Leave earbuds at home.

Cyclists and joggers traveling quickly and quietly can easily surprise bears.

- Carry bear spray and know how to use it.
- Double bag your food. Pack out all food and trash.

Leaving scraps, wrappers or "harmless" items like apple cores and banana peels teaches bears to associate trails and campsites with food.



Keep Dogs Leashed

Keep dogs leashed at all times, or leave them at home. Letting dogs chase or bark at bears is asking for trouble; don't force a bear to defend itself.

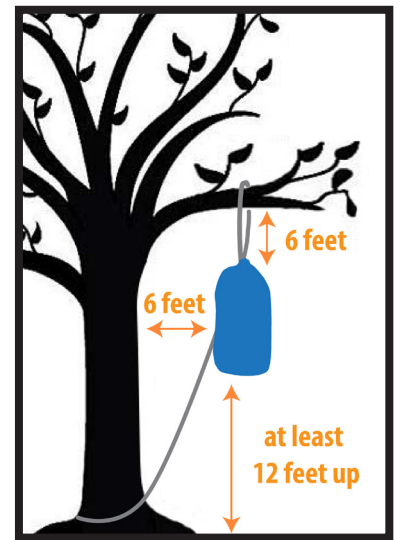
Camping or Picnicking



- Keep a clean camp.
- Don't burn food scraps or trash in your fire ring or grill.
- **Do not store food, trash, clothes worn while cooking or toiletries in your tent.** Store these items out of sight in a locked vehicle OR in approved bear-resistant containers OR suspended in a tree.
- Never spray your tent, campsite or belongings with bear spray.

In the Backcountry

- Set up camp away from dense cover and natural food sources.
- Cook at least 100 yards from your tent, downwind if possible.
- Suspend "bear attractants" **12 feet off the ground and 6 feet away from any part of the tree.**



Food Storage Requirements

CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST



CNF food storage order (36 CFR 261.58(cc)) requires that food, garbage, and other bear attractants be under immediate control (within sight or 100 feet) or stored properly in a closed hard-top vehicle, bear-proof storage container, or suspended at least 12 feet off the ground and 6 feet from limbs.

If You Encounter a Bear



Black bears are seldom aggressive and attacks are rare.

- **If you see a bear before it notices you:** stand still, don't approach and enjoy the moment. Then move away quietly in the opposite direction.
- **If you encounter a bear that is aware of you:** don't run; running may trigger a chase response. Back away slowly in the opposite direction and wait for the bear to leave.

Visit BearWise.org to learn what to do if a black bear approaches, charges or follows you.

Hunting & Fishing



Hunters and anglers are more likely to encounter bears because they move quietly and travel during early morning and late evening hours when bears are most active.

- Follow tips for hiking and camping safely.
- Carcasses, gut piles, and bait may attract bears.
- If a bear beats you to your catch or kill, don't try to reclaim it; leave the area when it is safe to do so.



CHEROKEE National Forest



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Learn More:
BearWise.org



Helping People
Live Responsibly with Black Bears