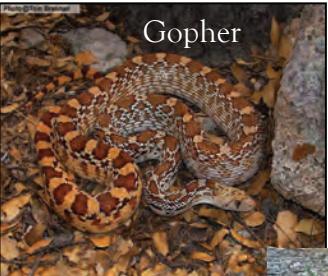


NON-VENOMOUS LOOK-ALIKES!



Many harmless snakes are mistaken for rattle snakes and are needlessly killed by humans. Rattlesnakes are predators of rodents, birds and lizards, and are important for balancing local populations of those animals. Snakes are critical components of a healthy ecosystem.



What to do if a rattlesnake bite occurs:

- Stay calm: minimize body movement.
- Remove watches, rings, other jewelry, and restrictive clothing.
- Keep limb below heart and immobilized.
- Seek immediate medical attention.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

SNAKES IN THE CAMPGROUND



Sonoran Mountain Kingsnake (non-venomous)

Informational Resources

Living with Venomous Reptiles
publication from
www.reptilesofaz.org

Special Thanks to Volunteer John Felix for Creating this brochure!



U.S. Forest Service
Red Rock Ranger District
Coconino National Forest

**A GUIDE FOR
CAMPERS IN
OAK CREEK CANYON
CAMPGROUNDS**

SNAKES IN THE CAMPGROUND

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE A SNAKE?

If you see a snake here in the campground, DON'T PANIC!!!

Don't assume that the snake is venomous. Some non-venomous snakes, such as gopher, glossy, night, and lyre, resemble a rattlesnake at first glance.

The best advice is to LEAVE SNAKES ALONE.

Most snakes that are hidden or moving will continue to do so unless approached too closely.

If the snake is a rattlesnake (the only venomous reptiles we have in Oak Creek Canyon), back away slowly to a safe distance. If the snake moves toward you, it is probably just trying to get to a safer location, so continue backing away. It will not chase you!

If the snake seems to be posing a potential safety threat, then contact your campground host to have the snake safely removed and relocated.



Arizona Black Rattlersnake (venomous)

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ More than half of all rattlesnake bites are caused because the recipient provoked the snake!
- ◆ A rattlesnake can strike a distance of up to two-thirds of its body length. Always maintain a safe distance of at least the full length of the snake, and preferably 6 feet or more.
- ◆ It is illegal to harm or kill them without a special permit!
- ◆ A dead rattlesnake can inflict a reflex bite containing venom for several hours after its death! Do not assume that it is safe to handle a dead snake!

RATTLESNAKES SHOULD ONLY BE HANDLED BY PEOPLE HAVING THE PROPER TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT. YOUR CAMPGROUND HOST CAN CONTACT EXPERIENCED VOLUNTEER HERPETOLOGISTS TO RELOCATE VENOMOUS SNAKES.



Black-Tailed Rattlersnake (venomous)

The Narrow-Headed Garter Snake



Narrow-Headed Gartersnake (non-venomous)

Oak Creek Canyon in the Coconino National Forest is home to a rare species of snake called the Narrow-Headed Gartersnake. These snakes are non-venomous, and are generally found in the creek or along its banks. Populations of this snake are declining due to recreational use of streams, loss of native fish upon which it preys, and introduction of crayfish. If you are lucky enough to see this unusual creature, feel free to observe and admire it, but please do not handle, disturb, or harm it!