



## THINGS TO REMEMBER WHILE CAMPING IN BEAR COUNTRY

**YOU ARE IN BEAR COUNTRY.** The George Washington and Jefferson National Forests provide homes for a wide range of plant and animal life - including bears.

Bear sightings in this area are on the rise. To protect your family, camping gear and the bears, follow recommended practices for safe camping in bear country. Report all bear sightings to Forest Service Officials.

### SAFE CAMPING IN BEAR COUNTRY:

- Do not store food, garbage, or toiletries in your tent!
- Keep your camp clean.
- Store your food safely. Use bear-proof containers. Metal ammunition cans (\$10-20) and Bear Canisters (approximately \$50-60) are easily packed and transported.
- Keep your tent and sleeping bag free of all food smells.
- Store the clothes you wore while cooking or eating with your food.
- Burn all grease off grills and camp stoves.
- Wipe table and clean eating area thoroughly.
- Store food and coolers suspended from a tree at least 10 feet off the ground and four feet out from the tree trunk.
- Dispose of garbage properly. Secure it with your food and then pack it out.
- Do not burn or bury the garbage.
- Sleep away from food areas. Move some distance away from your cooking area or food-storage site.
- Store toiletries with your food; the smell of toiletries may attract bears.

Scents and use of perfume or cologne is sometimes an attractant to bears.

### A BEAR OUTSIDE YOUR TENT:

If you hear a bear or other animal outside your tent make sure it is aware that there is a human inside by using a firm monotone voice. Turn on a flashlight or lantern. If the bear enters the tent fight back and yell. Many bears have been driven off this way.

For More information contact:  
George Washington and Jefferson National Forests  
(540) 265-5100

Or visit the [Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries website](#).

