

Bear Safety



REMOVE BIRD FEEDERS:

If you live in an area with bears, it is best to not set out bird feeders. In general, most bears are denned from mid-December through February. If you choose to put out bird feeders, doing so during this time may decrease the chance of a bear coming to your feeder. In mild winters, some bears may be active year-round. Bring in any feeders at the first sign of bear activity.

IF YOU SEE A BEAR:

If you see a bear in your yard or neighborhood:

Back away slowly while repeating “Hey, bear” in a calm voice. From a safe distance, make loud noises such as shouting or banging pots and pans. The bear will usually leave accompanied by its young.

If you see a bear in the woods:

Black bears are usually wary of people. Normal trail noise will alert bears to your presence, and they will often disappear before you see them. If you see a bear and it is unaware or uninterested in your presence, quietly back away and leave the area. If the bear sees you and is curious or appears threatened (retreats up a tree, lowers its head with ears flattened, sways back and forth, makes vocalizations or swats at the ground or a tree), begin repeating “Hey, bear” in a calm voice and back away. These behaviors do not mean the bear will attack- they indicate you have gotten too close.