

Be Bear Aware

Keep You and Our Bears Safe!



How You Can Help:



Store food in vehicles, bear proof boxes or lockers, or on bear poles – even during the day.



Put garbage in bear-proof garbage cans.



Put food and garbage away immediately after eating.



Medicines, deodorant, and toothpaste may smell like food to a bear. Please store these items with your food.



Never feed bears or other wildlife. When bears lose their fear of people, they become dangerous and may have to be killed by staff.



Report any bear/human interactions to park staff at 906-494-2660 (summer only) or 906-387-2607.



How to Act: If you encounter a bear, **assume a "large" stance**. Get others to help you, and make noise, clap, shout, and be loud! If the bear shows aggressive behavior - such as **growling, "chuffing" or physically challenging you** - slowly back away from the animal, maintaining your stance and noise. But keep your food from the bear if possible!



Park visitors found not complying with food storage regulations will be fined and may be required to appear before the magistrate in court.

Keep our Bears Safe!

A Fed Bear is a Dead Bear!



Be Bear Aware While Camping

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore



Black Bear Facts for Campers

Bears can smell food up to a mile away.

The ability to smell food from far away is one of a bear's strongest senses. An apple core or banana peel thrown off into the woods or the water from rinsing dishes that gets dumped on the ground all smell pretty good to a bear. All trash needs to be put in bear resistant trash cans and not kept at your campsite. All dishwater - even rinse water from brushing your teeth - needs to go into the restroom toilets and not on the ground where bears can smell it.



Bears are highly intelligent and creatures of habit.

A bear remembers from year to year where it found food during the different seasons, and a mother teaches her cubs how to find food throughout their territory. If a bear comes into a campsite and finds food even just one time, it will come back again and again and again looking for more. Keep your food safe and make sure a bear cannot find anything to eat.

Bears are very strong.

Bears turn over huge rocks and pull apart fallen trees looking for insects to eat. Ants are one of their favorites! Keeping your food outside in a plastic tote bin or cooler will not stop a strong bear from getting inside and taking your food. Keep any food - even pet food - in your vehicle, hard sided camper, or in the provided bear proof food storage lockers.

Bears can be just as active during the daytime as they are at night.

If bears are not influenced by humans, they hunt for food anytime day or night, napping now and then in a favorite spot. When you go down to the beach or out exploring the area, please do not leave food out at your campsite even for a little while, even during the daytime.

Bears at Pictured Rocks are still afraid of people and will usually stay away from humans and out of the campgrounds.

It is up to YOU to make sure our bears stay wild and free. Your actions while you are here in the park will determine the fate of many bears. Please do not let a bear find any food or food wrappers at your campsite!

