

Peanut butter. Granola bars. Orange peels. Some of the most lethal substances known to bears.



Here in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, we ask that you store your food properly, and never ever feed the bears. Why? Because fed bears cease to look for food in the wild and almost always become problem animals that have to be removed from the park or put to death. The good news is that we can prevent most of these tragedies just by doing the following:



(1) Secure all food, toothpaste, soap and trash at night or when not in use by one of the following means: (a) hang by cord or rope at least 10 feet off the ground and 4 feet from the nearest tree trunk or limb; (b) use special cable systems or food storage boxes available at some sites; (c) use bearproof food canisters available for sale or rent at park visitor centers.

(2) Do not cook or store food in or near your tent (odors on gear may attract a bear).
(3) Pack out all your trash — don't bury it or try to burn non-combustibles.
(4) If a bear approaches you, frighten it by yelling, banging pans together, or throwing rocks.
(5) If you are attacked, fight back. Playing dead is not appropriate.



GARBAGE KILLS BEARS.