

Black Bear Awareness Week

2017 Daily Fact HS/MS Announcement



All facts have been taken from "A Practical Guide to Bear Country: Living with Bears" by Linda Masterson (2006)

Monday, September 11

Bear grunts, woofs, moans, and other sounds directed at humans mean "I'm not comfortable in this situation." These are not signs of aggression. A truly dangerous bear is silent. In both cases, keep calm and back away from the bear slowly and steadily. Speak to it calmly; do not shout or scream. If you have friends with you, group together to make yourselves look bigger. Remember, bears cannot see very well at a distance.

Tuesday, September 12

Black bears have an acute sense of smell. They can smell a person a mile away. Imagine what our BBQs, kitchens, and trash smell like to them. What an enticement! It is up to us humans to keep our spaces clean and temptations, like trash and pet food, locked securely away, so that bears will be less likely to get themselves into trouble.

Wednesday, September 13

Bears that associate people with food are more likely to damage property, harass people, break into tents, cabins, campers or cars, or injure someone. Bears that engage in this kind of bad behavior usually must be killed. If you could all make sure that your trash can and your neighbors' trash cans are locked tight and the lid is secured tightly down, it would help to keep our black bears out of trouble.

Thursday, September 14

A black bear is **not** being aggressive when it stands up. A black bear stands up on two feet to use its super-sensitive nose to better sniff things they are trying to identify. A black bear shows it is nervous or feels threatened when it lays its ears back. Laying its ears back means "back off and go away." Do not run away. Never run away. Back away slowly and calmly in the direction you came from, always facing the bear.

Friday, September 15

Scientists believe that bears hear in the ultrasonic range of 16 – 20 kilohertz or higher—much better than humans do. Thanks for paying attention to learn more about bear behavior during Black Bear Awareness Week! Have a terrific weekend and stay safe out there.