

## Avoiding Bears

Here are some tips for avoiding dangerous encounters with bears.

Adhere to good Scout camping practices including:

- **Cooking**-Prepare and cook food close to a fire ring. Sleep away from areas where food has been eaten or prepared, including the cleaning of fish. Never eat food in a tent. Don't wipe your hands on your pants.
- **Cleanup**-Put wet garbage and uneaten food in plastic bags and hang them in a bear bag. Carry out wet garbage and dispose of it properly when you return to inhabited areas. Dispose of dirty dishwater and cooking liquids through a strainer.
- **Food storage**-Store food and other "smellables" in a properly hung bear bag at night. Smellables include soaps, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lip balm, sunscreen, insect repellent, unused film cartridges, candy bars, and first-aid kits. Hang your bags) on a rope strung between two trees-the bags) should be at least 12 to 14 feet above the ground. The weight of the rope will enable you to toss it over a limb, or tie up a couple of handfuls of dirt in a bandanna for a weight with which to hang your bear bags. Serious injury may result from using a rock. If you leave your campsite or pack during the day, hang your food and smellables. Do not leave your packs unattended at any time.
- **Personal sanitation**-Avoid strongly scented lotions, soaps, deodorants, and shampoos. Wash early in the day (before 3:00 P.m.) so that residual smells will dissipate before night. Avoid using hair dressings, perfume, and deodorants. Brush your teeth as you usually do.
- **Sleeping**-Wear sleeping clothing at night that has been stored inside a sleeping bag. At night, store away from the tent (preferably hung in a bear bag) all trail clothes, clothing soiled with spilled food, and containers that hold, or have held, drink mix or fuel.
- **Bear sightings**-Report bear sightings to the landowner or land managing agency and other trekkers as soon as possible. Note the bears size and color, and whether or not it had cubs.

