



PHOTO: PAT GAINES

Be BearWise OUTDOORS

Six Outdoor BearWise Basics



Stay Alert & Stay Together

Pay attention to your surroundings and stay together. Walk, hike, jog, or cycle with others when possible. Keep kids within sight and close by. Leave earbuds at home and make noise often so bears can avoid you.



Leave No Trash or Food Scraps

Double bag your food when hiking and pack out all food and trash. Don't burn food scraps or trash in your fire ring or grill. *Leaving scraps, wrappers, or even "harmless" items like apple cores teaches bears to associate trails and campsites with food.*



Keep Dogs Leashed

Letting dogs chase or bark at bears is asking for trouble; don't force a bear to defend itself. Keep your dogs leashed at all times or leave them at home.



Camp Safely

Set up camp away from dense cover and natural food sources. Cook as far from your tent as possible. **Do not store food, trash, clothes worn when cooking, or toiletries in your tent.** Store in approved bear-resistant containers OR out of sight in locked vehicle OR suspended at least 10 feet above the ground and 10 feet from any part of the tree. *Local regulations vary.*



Know What To Do If You See a Bear

Never approach a bear. If you see a bear that is not aware of you, enjoy this special moment, then move away quietly. **Never run or climb a tree;** running may trigger a chase response. **If a bear approaches you:** hold your ground, stay together, wave your arms, make noise. If the bear keeps approaching, **use bear spray.**



Carry Bear Spray & Know How To Use It

Keep bear spray accessible. Bear spray is safest, easiest, most effective way to deter an aggressive bear. Never pre-spray anything: bear spray is a deterrent, not a repellent.

Visit [BearWise.org](https://www.BearWise.org) for more encounter advice (scan QR code below).



Learn More:
BearWise.org

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