While Smokey is a national symbol and a friend of children, you should always stay away from real, live bears in the wild. Black bears normally have a fear of people. But some bears learn to associate people with food. They learn that a rope in a tree or a backpack may contain food.

Visit the DEC website at www.dec.ny.gov for more information on bears at campsites.

Taking care of food and trash helps keep bears in the woods and out of yards and campgrounds. List two things you do and don’t do to avoid having a bear at your home or campsite:

DO:

(example) Remove all garbage from our campsite at least once a day, especially after each evening meal.

1. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
2. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

DON'T:

(example) Sleep in clothes worn while cooking.

1. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
2. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________