



BLACK BEARS AND THE BACKCOUNTRY VISITOR

Black bears are a common and integral part of New York’s ecosystem. Eating human food and other products is unnatural and unhealthy for bears. Please follow these steps to ensure your safety and that of bears and other wildlife:

- Store food, toiletries and garbage in bear-resistant canisters or “food hangs.”
- Place food hangs between two trees--use dark ropes and hang food 15 feet above the ground and 10 feet from the trees.
- Keep food in bear-resistant canisters, or in hangs, at all times; take out only what is needed for cooking.
- Never leave food unattended.
- Never cook or eat in your sleeping area.
- Cook early, no later than 7:00 p.m.
- Avoid walking trails at nights
- Never approach a bear.
- If approached make noise--never run.

NOTE

DEC REGULATION REQUIRES THE USE OF BEAR-RESISTANT CANISTERS BY OVERNIGHT USERS IN THE EASTERN HIGH PEAKS WILDERNESS BETWEEN APRIL 1 AND NOVEMBER 30.

More information may be found on the DEC web site www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6960.html or call the DEC Wildlife Office at 518/402-8883



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