

Safety Around Camp for Animals

Camp Wilderness covers over 2400 acres of pine forest, and offers a wide range of exciting adventures, including the opportunity to observe many types of birds, fish, reptiles, insects, mammals, and other wildlife. Throughout the camp, you will see numerous animals, especially squirrels, chipmunks, and common birds. Undoubtedly, the opportunity to observe a raccoon, deer, eagle, porcupine, or even a brown bear will provide you with a lifetime of memories.

Animals will often be an exciting part of your adventure. Seeing them in their natural habitat is always a pleasure, but it is wise to remember that they are the permanent residents of the wilderness, while you are visiting. Treat them with respect, give them enough space so they will not feel threatened by your presence, and they will seldom present a threat to your safety. When an animal feels frightened, threatened or trapped, it may fight for its life by attacking, scratching, and biting. In the event you are injured, seek treatment immediately.

Each of the animals that live and roam through Camp Wilderness has their own characteristics, and pattern of behavior. Occasionally, a brown bear may wander through camp. They may be honey-colored, blonde, brown, or black. They may have a tan muzzle, or a white patch on their chest.

Avoidance of bears and most wildlife can be summed up in one word... FOOD! If an animal doesn't find abundant food, it will move on. Most conflicts between people and wildlife, especially bears, are linked to careless handling of food or garbage. Learn to live responsibly with wildlife.

Young wildlife sometimes strays from their parents, and appear to be lost or abandoned. In most cases, however, the parents know where the youngest is. Taking in lost or abandoned young usually does more harm than good. Wild animals are best left in the wild. If you notice an animal that is sick or injured, notify the Camp Ranger.

In the end, wildlife is best if viewed from a distance. Keep our campsite clean, and do not keep snacks in your tent. The creatures of Camp Wilderness do not like to be chased, harassed, or to have rocks, sticks, and other items thrown at them. If you leave the wildlife alone, they will leave you alone. Please, respect our permanent residents while you enjoy your stay at camp!

General Wildlife & Habitat Stewardship

- Hike on designated trails. Going off trails damages plant life and causes erosion.
- Use the Buddy system. Tell an adult where you plan to hike.
- Be alert of your surroundings.
- Keep your campsite clean. Remove garbage/trash daily.
- Keep snacks/food and scented items such as shampoo and soap out of your tent.
- Leave wild animals alone. Observe them from a safe distance.
- Do not feed wild animals.
- An animal being passive is not a sign of safety
- Never tease or harass wildlife. Chasing animals, or throwing rocks / sticks harms them.
- Wildlife should not be picked up or handled, even if they appear sick or abandoned.
- Leave young animals alone. A protective mother is likely to be nearby.
- Stay away from animal carcasses or berry patches, which are an important food source for bears.
- Avoid displaying aggressive behavior. This includes:
 - Direct eye contact, even through a camera.
 - Walking towards an animal.
 - Following an animal that has chosen to leave
 - Circling, cornering, or standing around an animal
- Notify the Camp Ranger or Camp Director of any large predators, such as bears, coyotes, or wolves.

For additional information, or assistance, contact the Camp Director or Camp Ranger.
Your safe camp experience is our commitment and priority!