

## ***Rayado Ridge Health and Safety - 2015***

### **Bear Facts**

- Only kind of bear at Philmont, Black Bear
- Color – Black, brown, cinnamon, blond
- Curious by nature
- Opportunistic feeders – take advantage of an easy meal
- Smell of food or any other odor (except human) may attract bears
- Omnivorous – Plants, fruits, nuts, insects, small mammals & carrion
- Bears are territorial
- Bears may wander in a 15-80 mile home range
- Mate late May through early July
- Hibernate Mid-November through Mid-March
- Before hibernation, bears consume 15-20K calories
- Cubs are born Jan-Feb and weight around 10 oz when born
- Can be anywhere from 1 -6 cubs, but 2 cubs are normal
- Stay with mother for a year and a half
- Males don't help with cub raising
- Good memories
- They are tolerant that we are in their habitat
- Usually not aggressive or predatory

### **Bear Safety**

- **Our Goal = DO NOT REWARD BEARS WITH FOOD**
- Use the buddy system – always walk with a buddy, especially at night (make your presence known)
- Watch for bear signs – scat, claw marks, diggings, logs or stumps torn apart, overturned rocks
- Always keep a clean camp.
- Always bring your trash to the lodge – never leave trash in or around the campsite.

## Smellables

- Smellables – food, candy, treats, garbage, soaps, shampoos, deodorants, lotions of any kind, toothbrushes and toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, sunscreen, chap stick, lip balm, insect repellent, film and cameras, foot powder, water bottles – Any that have ever had any drink mix or were once soda or beverage bottles, clothes that have ever had food spilled on them, first aid kits, vomit - vomit is a powerful smellable. Please don't vomit in your campsite! If you do, it must be cleaned up and placed in a trash bag and disposed of. Let the staff know if this happens.
- If you take medication at night, keep in a sock in your boot or shoe
- Place smellables in bear boxes by latrines
- Use sump to dispose of dirty dishwater and cooking liquids. Strain food particles from dishwater and place in trashbag.
- Bring trash to the commissary after each meal – do not leave trash in your campsite – EVER!!
- Wash and shower early in the day so residual smells will dissipate before night. No showering after 5:00 pm.
- Towels can be hung while in camp, otherwise place in bear box. Use appropriate way of hanging lines.
- Avoid using hair tonic, perfume and deodorants.
- If you have cooked or washed dishes, be sure to rinse thoroughly your hands and arms with clean rinse water.
- Backpacks – check carefully for smellables, leave under campsite pavilion, with pack cover. They should never be in a tent.
- Only items that should be in a tent are:
  - Sleeping bag
  - Sleep clothes
  - Flashlight, notebook, eyeglasses
  - Rain jacket or sweater
  - Boots and socks
  - Camp shoes
  - Emergency medication – wrapped in sock, placed in boots.

- Brushing teeth – The only places to dispose of the toothpaste after brushing are at the sumps, or use the outdoor sinks at the lodge. Please do not spit out your used toothpaste on the ground.

### **Additional Information**

- Nuisance bear is hard to chase away and returns to your site
- At night, if you suspect a nuisance bear, gather the crew together with flashlights and make noise.
- Notify the camp director of any bear sightings, note size, color, ear tags, and markings and whether or not it has cubs.
- **DO NOT STORE DAY CLOTHES IN THE TENT.** Sleep in a set of clothes that are only used for sleeping.

### **Bear Encounters**

- Never provoke a bear to act aggressively
- Don't throw rocks, use flash bulbs, approach, or go close to a bear.
- Mother with cubs very protective and easily provoked.
- If bear approaches your area, make loud noises to discourage it from coming closer.
- Stand upright. Do not kneel or bend over. Make yourself larger.
- Don't attempt to save food or gear.
- If a bear enters your campsite, gather your crew and quickly leave until bear is gone. Let me know about the bear.
- If awoken by bear, don't play dead or strike the bear. Talk in a calm voice.
- **DO NOT RUN!**
- If attacked, don't play dead, but fight with everything you have using rocks, sticks, etc.
- Never approach or corner a bear.
- **NEVER OFFER FOOD TO A BEAR.**

## **Mountain Lion Encounter**

- Always use the buddy system.
- Don't approach a lion, especially if feeding or with young.
- Most lions will avoid confrontation. Give them a way to escape.
- Stay calm and face the lion.
- Don't run!
- Try to appear larger
- Don't bend over or crouch.
- If lion acts aggressively, throw rocks, branches, or whatever can be obtained without turning your back or bending over.
- Fight back if attacked
- Let me know if you see a mountain lion.

## **Personal Hygiene**

- Take showers
- Water conservation – Rinse off then turn the water off. Lather up, and once finished with that, turn the water off and rinse off. We have a lot of people using the showers, so don't take too long in the shower.
- Wash your hands
- Don't share water bottles

## **Miscellaneous Safety Items**

- If you need first aid, please let the staff or myself know.
- NOTE: *Identify any staff with medical background.*
- Evacuation route. Assemble at the pavilion, and we will hike out by the road. Alternate route will be the trail down to the east/west road.
- If lightening is in the area, the the lodge are the safest place.
- If lightening happens at night, gather your crew and head to the lodge. During the day, the staff will gather everyone to head for the lodge.

- Stay away from metal fences and high places in a thunderstorm.
- ***Have someone demonstrate the lightening position.***

### **Bearmuda Triangle**

- Sump, fire ring, bear boxes, and wash station
- Cooking in the fire ring
- Eating at the picnic tables in the campsites.
- Leave clean dishes at the sump (Note: modified that to leave dishes at wash station).
- Leave stove and fuel at fire ring.

### **For the Staff**

- Infirmary – The Infirmary phone number is on the white board in the main office. Keep me informed about any health issues.
- (To the staff) – The Infirmary protocol:
  - Do not use the radio to call the Infirmary – again, the Infirmary number is on the white board in the staff office – call the Infirmary by cell phone.
  - We will not be taking people to the Infirmary. If someone needs to go to the Infirmary, the Infirmary will send someone for pickup.
- Fire Issues and Training
- Keep the kitchen clean – put away your dishes after washing them
- Radio procedures – Limited use of the radio, but necessary in an emergency
- Make a duty roster
  - Latrines and showers must be cleaned daily
  - Disinfect the shower floors with bleach water
  - Make sure participants do the same (trust but verify!)
- Do not leave food in the porches.
- Think safety in everything you do
- Risk management plan posted on bulletin boards