

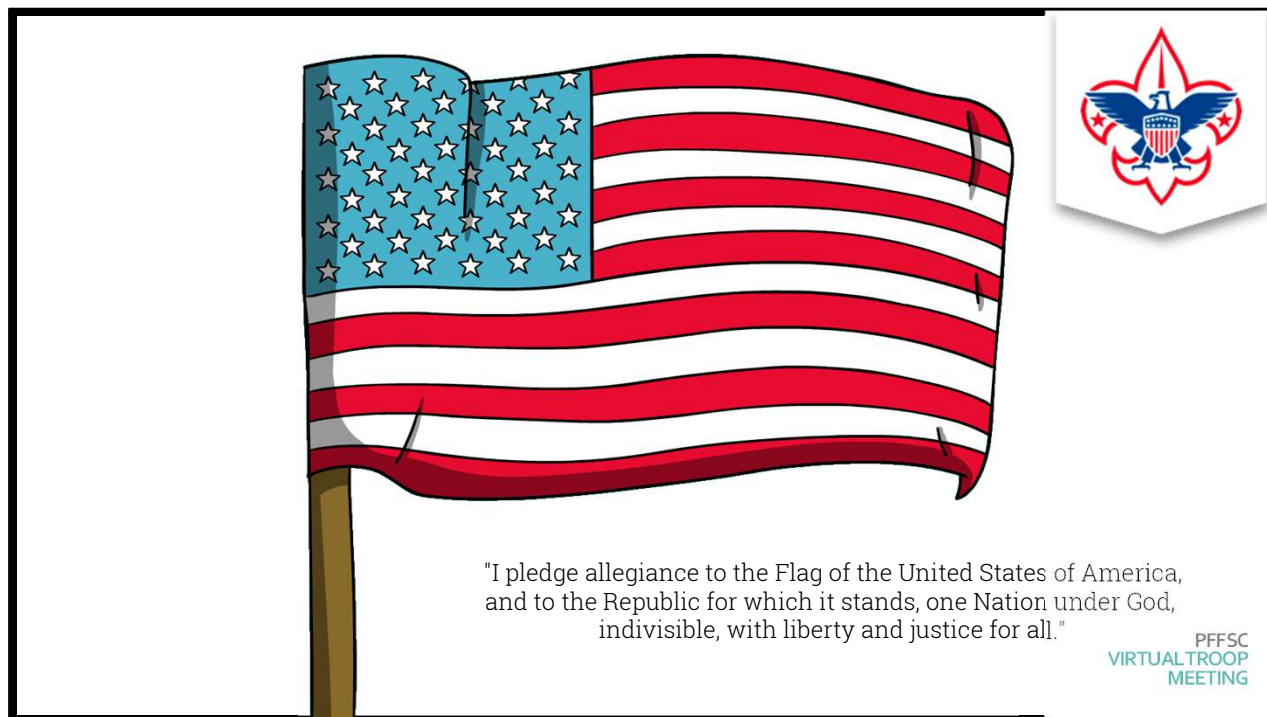
Thanks for Joining us today.

Our virtual Troop meeting is brought to you by the Michigan Crossroads Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Lets get started.

Could I get a Scout to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance?

(Scouts Name) Thanks



Scout Salute


"I pledge allegiance to the Flag
of the United States of America,
and to the Republic
for which it stands,
one Nation under God,
indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all."

Two

Thanks (Scouts Name)


Could I get a Scout to lead us in the Scout Oath?

(Scouts Name) Thanks



Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best,
To do my duty to God and my country,
and To obey the Scout Law,
To help other people at all times,
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.



PFSC
VIRTUAL TROOP
MEETING

On my honor
I will do my best,
To do my duty to god
And my country
And to obey the Scout Law,
To help other people at all times,
To keep myself physically strong,
Mentally awake,
And morally straight.

(Scout Name) Thank you

Could I get a Scout to lead us in the Scout Oath?

(Scouts Name) Thanks



Scout Law

A Scout is:

THANK YOU

Trustworthy.....Loyal.....Helpful

Friendly.....Courteous.....Kind

Obedient.....Cheerful.....Thrifty

Brave.....Clean.....Reverent

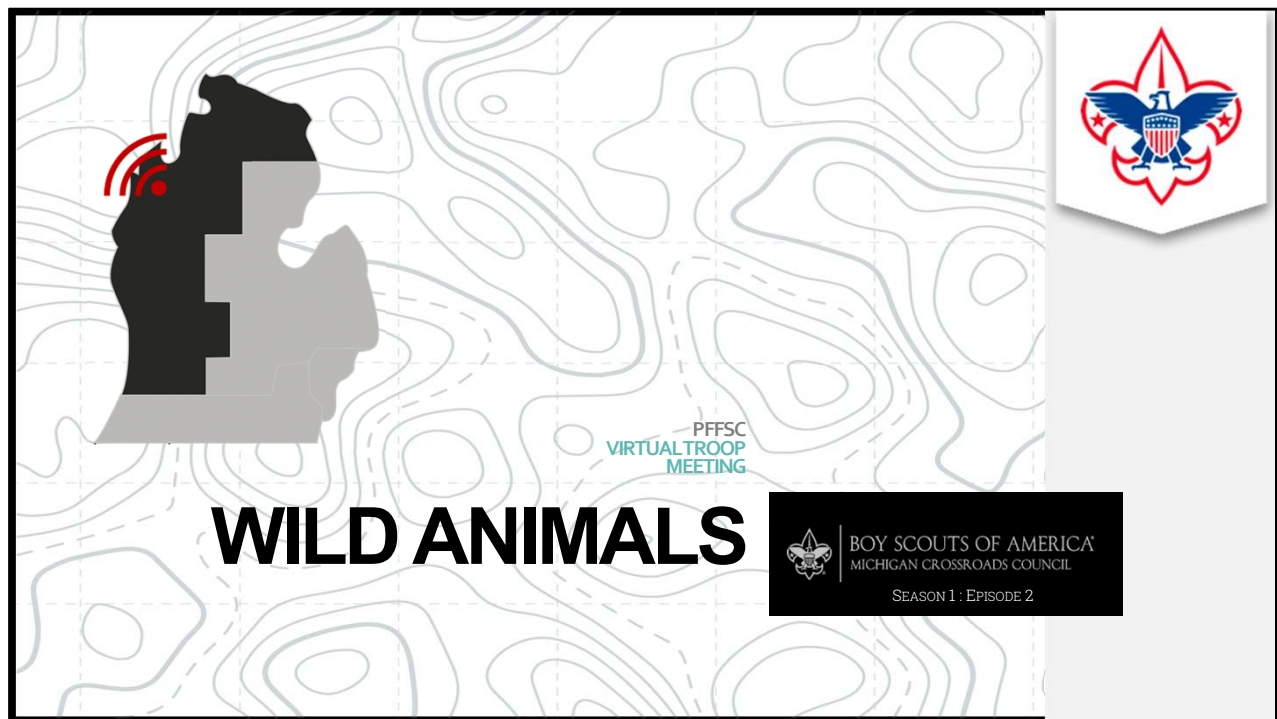


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MEETING

A Scout is:

Trustworthy
Loyal
Helpful
Friendly
Courteous
Kind
Obedient
Cheerful
Thrifty
Brave
Clean
And Reverent

(Scout Name) Thank you



Today we are going to talk a little about interacting with Wild Animals for when we adventure in the backcountry.

Lets watch a short video from the national parks service about what they suggest....



1:46 minutes

WILDLIFE

Viewing wildlife is one reason many people head outside. Seeing a large bird soaring overhead or a herd of bison grazing in a distant meadow can turn a simple outing into an adventure you'll never forget. But, up-close encounters, while certainly memorable, can be bothersome (think small mouse stealing food from your pack) or even dangerous (think giant grizzly bear in the middle of the trail) and are best avoided to keep both you and the wildlife safe.

Interacting and What to do

- Bears
- Snakes
- Insects
- Other Wildlife
- Food Storage
- Canisters
- First Aid in the Backcountry



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VIRTUALTROOP
MEETING

7

Viewing wildlife is one reason many of us head outside.

As you have heard from our friendly park ranger, there are many helpful tip and tricks to consider.

Today we will dive into each of these and hope we can share some insight to how to prepare yourself for any adventure in the wild.

WILDLIFE SAFETY TIPS



How to Reduce Wildlife Encounters

- Properly store food and other scented items
- Keep odors away from camp
- Give animals space
- Stay aware
- Make noise while you hike
- Avoid hiking at dawn or dusk
- Follow Leave No Trace principles
- Research the area you'll be traveling in



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/wildlife-safety-tips.html>

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VIRTUALTROOP
MEETING

8

There are many ways to reduce accidents in the wild.

First - Properly store food and other scented items

Second - Keep odors away from camp

Give animals space

Stay aware

Make noise while you hike

Avoid hiking at dawn or dusk

Follow Leave No Trace principles

And lastly - Research the area you'll be traveling in

WILDLIFE SAFETY TIPS



What to Do if You Encounter a Bear

- Never approach a bear.
- If you see cubs, be especially cautious and stay away. Mother bears can be very protective of their young.
- If you see the bear before it sees you, back away slowly, keeping your eyes on the bear.
- Retreat and/or reroute to give the bear a wide berth.
- If you have bear spray, get it ready.



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/wildlife-safety-tips.html>

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MEETING

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Never approach a bear.

If you see cubs,

be especially cautious and stay away.

Mother bears can be very protective of their young.

If you see the bear before it sees you,

back away slowly,

keeping your eyes on the bear.



BACKPACKING
WHAT TO DO IN A BEAR ENCOUNTER

**WHAT TO DO:
BEAR ENCOUNTER**





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VIRTUALTROOP
MEETING

10

Lets watch a short clip from REI on What to do for Bear Encounters



4:47 minutes

WILDLIFE SAFETY TIPS



How to Avoid Bears While Hiking

- Avoid hiking at dawn or dusk
- Hike in a group of four or more
- Make noise as you hike
- Carry bear spray

Warning: In camp, never preemptively spray your tent or pack with bear spray; it's NOT like mosquito repellent. It may actually attract bears.



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/backpacking-in-bear-country.html>

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MEETING

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Lets review:

Avoid hiking at dawn or dusk

Hike in a group of four or more

Make noise as you hike

Carry bear spray

And most important while in camp, never spray your tent or pack with bear spray; it's NOT like mosquito repellent. It may actually attract bears.

WILDLIFE SAFETY TIPS



How to Discourage Bears in Camp

Always follow these guidelines:

- Never leave food out and unattended
- Use proper food storage techniques
- Keep odors at a distance
- Strain dishwater
- Follow Leave No Trace principles

Bears that have tasted human food crave it and may become a problem; these bears are usually killed. So for the bears' welfare and your own safety, keep food from bears.



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/backpacking-in-bear-country.html>

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MEETING

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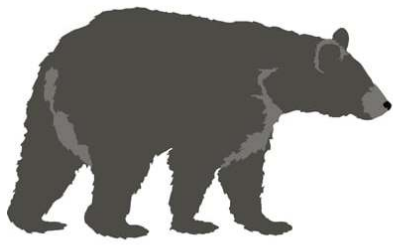
Never leave food out and unattended

Use proper food storage techniques

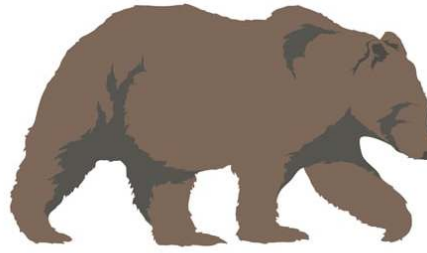
Keep odors at a distance

Strain dishwater

Follow Leave No Trace principles



BLACK BEAR



GRIZZLY BEAR



Most bears are wary of humans and will flee as soon as they smell, hear or see a person. However, bears are unpredictable and dangerous. Always give a bear a wide berth when possible.

How you respond to a bear encounter may be different depending on the type of bear. It can be hard to tell black bears from grizzlies because both can range from blonde to black (in the eastern U.S., however, black bears tend to be only black).

Black bears live throughout much of the country, so chances are you'll see one at some point. Black bears have no shoulder hump, ears that are taller, and a straight face profile.

Grizzlies, while widespread in Alaska and western Canada, live in only a few places in the lower 48, primarily Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and potentially the North Cascades in Washington. Grizzlies have distinctive characteristics to look for: a prominent shoulder hump, small rounded ears, and a "dished-in" or concave face profile.

Bears are unpredictable and dangerous.

Always give a bear a wide berth when possible.

Black bears have no shoulder hump, ears that are taller, and a straight face profile.

Grizzlies have distinctive characteristics to look for: a prominent shoulder hump, small rounded ears, and a "dished-in" or concave face profile.

WILDLIFE SAFETY TIPS



What to Do if You Encounter a Cougar

Here's what to do:

- Never approach a cougar.
- Stop and don't run. Running may trigger the animal's instinct to attack.
- Pick up small children or move them behind you.
- Face the cougar and don't take your eyes off it.
- Try to appear larger than the cougar by raising your arms or swinging a jacket around above your head. You can even stand on something to make yourself taller.
- Talk to it firmly while slowly backing away.
- If the cougar appears aggressive and moves toward you, shout and throw things to try to make the cougar realize you're a potential danger.



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/wildlife-safety-tips.html>

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MEETING

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Cougars do live in Michigan and are very dangerous.

Never approach a cougar.

Stop and don't run. Running may trigger the animal's instinct to attack.

Face the cougar and don't take your eyes off it.

Try to appear larger than the cougar

Talk to it firmly

If the cougar appears aggressive and moves toward you, shout and throw things to try to make the cougar realize you're a potential danger

WILDLIFE SAFETY TIPS



What to Do if You Encounter Bison

Here's what to do:

- Never approach bison. Always stay at least 25 yards away.
- Never try to scare or chase them away.
- Wait for bison to leave the area, walk around them leaving plenty of room or back away slowly.
- Look for warning signs that bison are upset. These include snorting, tossing their heads, raising their tails, pawing the ground, making eye contact and false charging.
- If you're in a car and bison are in the roadway, drive slowly and they will typically move.

Bison are the largest land-dwelling mammal in North America, weighing up to 2,000 pounds. In the wild, they can be found in western states such as Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. Bison may appear tame and docile, but they are unpredictable and incredibly fast—they can run up to 40 mph.



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/wildlife-safety-tips.html>

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MEETING

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Bison may appear tame and docile,

but they are unpredictable

and incredibly fast—

they can run up to 40 mph.

WILDLIFE SAFETY TIPS



Encountering a Mountain Goat

Attacks by mountain goats are very rare, but if you run into a mountain goat, here's what to do:

- Stay at least 50 yards away.
- If a mountain goat approaches you, slowly move away to keep a safe distance.
- If it continues to come toward you, try to chase it off by yelling, making loud noises, waving clothing or throwing rocks.

Mountain goats inhabit the mountain regions of northwest North America, including in Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia and Alberta, Canada. They primarily spend their time in alpine and subalpine environments. Mountain goats typically shy away from contact with humans, but they can learn to associate people as a source of minerals through sweat and urine and thus approach and follow people closely.



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/wildlife-safety-tips.html>

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VIRTUALTROOP
MEETING

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Mountain goats typically shy away from contact with humans, but they can learn to associate people as a source of minerals through sweat and urine and thus approach and follow people closely.

WILDLIFE SAFETY TIPS



What to Do if You Encounter a Moose

Here's what to do:

- If the moose doesn't see you, stay quiet and try to move away undetected.
- If it does see you, talk to it softly and move away slowly.
- Don't be aggressive.
- Look for signs that the moose is upset, such as ears laid back and raised hair on its back and shoulders. These things may indicate that the moose is ready to attack.

Moose are hulking animals found throughout much of northern North America, including in Canada, much of Alaska, upstate New York, northern New England, the Rocky Mountains and northern parts of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Moose aren't typically aggressive, but if they sense a threat they will defend themselves.



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/wildlife-safety-tips.html>

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MEETING

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Moose live in Michigan
found throughout much of northern North America,
including in Canada, much of Alaska,
upstate New York, northern New England,
the Rocky Mountains and northern parts of Minnesota, and Wisconsin

Moose aren't typically aggressive, but if they sense a threat they will defend themselves.

If the moose doesn't see you, stay quiet and try to move away undetected.

If it does see you, talk to it softly and move away slowly.

Don't be aggressive.

Look for signs that the moose is upset,
such as ears laid back and raised hair on its back and shoulders.
These things may indicate that the moose is ready to attack.

WILDLIFE SAFETY TIPS



What to Do if You Encounter Elk

Here's what to do:

- Keep your distance; aim to keep 50 yards between you and them.
- Never touch or move elk calves.
- If an elk approaches you, back away slowly. Give the animal space and allow it to pass.

Elk are big animals—females can weigh 500 pounds and males 700 pounds—and they can attack if they feel threatened. Elk can be particularly aggressive during mating season, which is generally in the fall. They are found primarily in western North America, in mountainous landscapes.



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/wildlife-safety-tips.html>

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MEETING

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Elk are big animals—
females can weigh 500 pounds
and males 700 pounds—
They can attack if they feel threatened.
Elk can be particularly aggressive during mating season,
which is generally in the fall.
They are found primarily in western North America, in mountainous landscapes.

Keep your distance; aim to keep 50 yards between you and them.

WILDLIFE SAFETY TIPS



What to Do if You Encounter a Snake

Here's what to do:

- Stop moving. Stay calm.
- Slowly back away.
- Look for an alternate route that gives the snake a wide berth.

Snakes are generally nonconfrontational when left undisturbed. And, in many cases, they are nonvenomous and therefore pose little risk. But, if you surprise a venomous snake, such as a rattlesnake, or one that you can't positively identify as nonvenomous, then you should proceed with caution.



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/wildlife-safety-tips.html>

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VIRTUAL TROOP
MEETING

20

Snakes are generally nonconfrontational when left undisturbed.
In many cases, they are nonvenomous.
But, if you surprise a venomous snake,
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then you should proceed with caution.

Stop moving. Stay calm.

Slowly back away.

Look for an alternate route that gives the snake a wide berth.

FOOD AND WILDLIFE



Food Storage and Handling

All kinds of animals can get into your food wherever you camp. Mice and other rodents, not to mention bears, will gnaw right through a tent or backpack to get at crumbs or goodies left inside.

It's our responsibility as campers to prevent wild animals from getting any human food. This disrupts their natural diet and makes them dependent on people and makes them a safety threat. Bears who become habituated to humans and a nuisance may end up being killed.



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/food-handling-storage.html>

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VIRTUALTROOP
MEETING

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Food Storage and Handling

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Bears who become habituated to humans and a nuisance may end up being killed.



**BACKPACKING:
FOOD STORAGE**





PFFSC
VIRTUALTROOP
MEETING

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Lets watch a short clip from REI on Backpacking and Food Storage...



4:33 minutes

FOOD AND WILDLIFE



Food Storage in a Campground

During the day, keep all your food secured in your cooler or car, even if you're sitting nearby or on a short jaunt to the outhouse, and especially if you're away on a hike.

At night, place any loose food, plus a cooler if you have one, inside your vehicle or into a metal bear box if there is one. Raccoons and bears are adept at opening some coolers. Some cooler manufacturers claim certain models are bear-proof, though padlocks might be required. You can also hang a bag of food from a high tree branch or use a bear canister, if bears are a known nuisance in the campground.



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/food-handling-storage.html>

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VIRTUAL TROOP
MEETING

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Food Storage and the Wildlife

What are some ways we currently store food on our outings?

(Discuss or Use the Chat group and type in "I have one," we will call on you)

What about during the night? What do we have to worry out?

(Discuss or Use the Chat group and type in "I have one," we will call on you)

FOOD AND WILDLIFE



Food Storage in the Backcountry

If you're backpacking in an area where there are no defined regulations, you can choose between three methods:

- Using a provided metal food locker
- Using a bear canister or bear bag
- Hanging your food on a tree or pole

Here are the pros and cons of the various bear-proof food-storage methods in the backcountry:



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/food-handling-storage.html>

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VIRTUALTROOP
MEETING

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If there are no regulations there are really only three methods to choose from;

1. Using a provided metal food locker
2. Using a bear canister or bear bag
3. Hanging your food on a tree or pole

Lets discuss each of these seperatly

FOOD AND WILDLIFE

These hard-shell plastic cylinders have lids that humans can screw on and off (some require a coin or screwdriver to lock and unlock). They are designed to fit into most backpacks and come in different sizes, so if you're traveling solo, you can choose a smaller one.

Bear Canisters – Pros / Cons:

Pros:

- Bears have rarely been known to open a canister.
- You can leave them on the ground instead of hanging them.
- With the lid on they make a good camp seat.
- Some are clear so you can see whether you remembered to put that chocolate bar in or not.
- Many bears have learned that canisters are not worth their effort and may move on from your camp once they see you have one.

Cons:

- Heavy and bulky (most weigh 2-3 pounds).



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Bear Canisters

These hard-shell plastic cylinders
with lids that screw on and off
Some require a coin or screwdriver to lock and unlock).
They typically are designed to fit into most backpacks
and come in many different sizes

(Pick someone to read the Pros & Cons)

(Scout Name) Thank you

FOOD AND WILDLIFE

These are made of a high-density polyethylene that a bear cannot tear open. An aluminum liner is available separately that fits inside the smaller model to keep a bear from crushing or puncturing the contents.

Odor-proof plastic bags (that are also waterproof, unlike the bear bag itself) are available separately to put your food and garbage into first to further add bear deterrence.

Some models are designed to deter marmots, mice and other rodents, but if you're in bear country, choose a bag model that is specifically for bears

Bear Bags – Pros / Cons:

Pros:

- They're lightweight and compact.

Cons:

- Some national parks don't accept bear bags as a bear-proof food-storage method.
- A bear could crush it (without the aluminum liner) or even carry the bag away, even if it can't get into the bag.



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VIRTUALTROOP
MEETING

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Bear Bags

These are made so that a bear cannot tear them open.
An aluminum liner is usually provided that fits inside
to keep a bear from crushing or puncturing the contents.

Odor-proof plastic bags
(that are also waterproof,
unlike the bear bag itself)
Can be found to put your food and garbage into
Some models are designed to deter
marmots, mice and other rodents,
but if you're in bear country,
choose a bag model that is specifically for bears

(Pick someone to read the Pros & Cons)

(Scout Name) Thank you

FOOD AND WILDLIFE

Here are the main methods for hanging food:

- You can suspend your food from a high, sturdy tree limb.
- At some backcountry campsites you'll find bear poles, a major improvement over tree branches. With this system, you'll find a tall metal pole with large hooks at the top from which you can hang your food bag or entire backpack. A long metal lifter pole is provided for hoisting your food bag up onto one of the hooks.
- Or you may find a high horizontal metal cable strung between two poles, which is usually easier to hang your food bag from.

Hanging Your Food – Pros / Cons:

Pros:

- You don't need to buy specialized equipment. Some rope and a sturdy bag are all you'll need.

Cons:

- If you're backpacking above tree line or in desert areas with low shrubs, hanging from a branch is not even an option.
- Hanging food in a tree can be difficult and time-consuming. Trying to maneuver a food bag with an unwieldy pole onto a hook atop a tall pole takes a lot of effort.
- Some bears have learned to pull on ropes to get at the bag.



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VIRTUALTROOP
MEETING

Hanging our Food

This is the most common practice.

We can easily suspend your food from a high, sturdy tree limb.

*At some backcountry campsites
we can find bear poles,
This is a major improvement over tree branches.*

*With bear poles,
They typically are a tall metal pole
with large hooks at the top
from which you can hang your food bag
or either our entire backpack.*

*Sometimes there is also a long metal lifter pole
provided for hoisting the food bag up onto one of the hooks.*

In some places there are

*high horizontal metal cable strung between two poles,
this is usually easier to hang our food bag from.*

(Pick someone to read the Pros & Cons)

(Scout Name) Thank you



**BACKPACKING
BEAR CANISTERS**

**BACKPACKING:
BEAR CANISTERS**





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VIRTUALTROOP
MEETING

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Let take a moment and see what REI has to share about Bear Canisters...take a look



3:36 minutes

WILDLIFE FIRST AID

How to Treat Insect Bites and Stings

Bugs, typically millions of them, are an integral part of an ecosystem. So it's not surprising that bites, and occasionally stings, are a rite of passage for those who live an outdoor life. That means that "bug first aid" will always come in handy, even if it's only to deal with itching and pain.

To deal with most bee stings and insect bites, follow these general steps:

- Use insect repellent
- Move to a safe spot
- Remove stingers or ticks
- Clean the wound
- Use a cold compress or ice



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/how-to-treat-insect-bites-and-stings.html>



PFFSC
VIRTUALTROOP
MEETING

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Now that we know a little more about animals and how to interact with them while in the wild
lets dive into a little about First Aid

One of the most common first aid items we deal with while in the backcountry is Insect bites and stings

Bugs are an integral part of an ecosystem.
bug first aid will always come in handy,
even if it's only to deal with itching and pain.

When dealing with most stings and bites,
we should follow these general steps:

- #1 - Use insect repellent
- #2 - Move to a safe spot
- #3 - Remove stingers or ticks

#4 - Clean the wound

#5 - Use a cold compress or ice

WILDLIFE FIRST AID

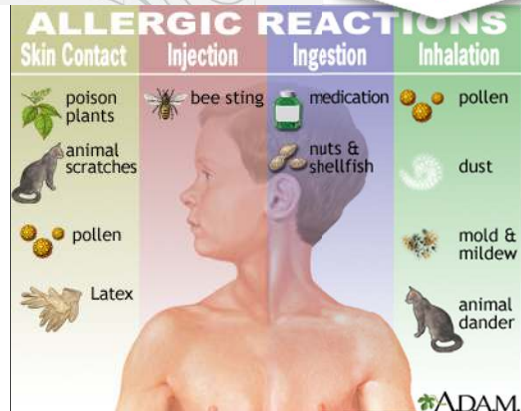


How to Treat Insect Bites and Stings

For more serious symptoms, follow these steps:

Treat allergic reactions: Symptoms range from welts and red, itchy skin to shock and breathing distress. Severe cases require an epinephrine injection; minor reactions can be treated with antihistamines or itch creams.

Evacuate for medical treatment: Any severe allergic reaction is cause for evacuation; black widow spider bites and Arizona bark scorpion stings require antivenom to be administered at a medical facility; brown recluse spider bites require closely monitored care from a medical professional.



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/how-to-treat-insect-bites-and-stings.html>

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MEETING

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Allergic reactions can be serious symptoms
To deal with while in the woods

This is why its always import to make sure you
Turn in a health form before any trip

Our health form help us to identify
Your allergic reactions to many different things
Skin Contact
Injection
Ingestion
Inhalation

Using the annotate feature
Highlight any allergic you know you have
On the picture shown

(take a moment for them to do that, then clear the screen)

In any case of a severe allergic reaction

that may be cause for evacuation;
black widow spider bites or allergic reaction
require closely monitored care from a medical professional

It is always better to err on the side of caution
then otherwise fall into a medical emergency

Lets take a look at other insects and how to deal with them

WILDLIFE FIRST AID



Dealing with Mosquito and Fly Bites

Though mosquito bites are annoyingly itchy and biting flies can inflict a sharp pain, neither is likely to produce a medical emergency in the backcountry.

How to prevent mosquito bites:

- Choose an effective insect repellent
- Apply insect repellent properly

How to treat a mosquito bite:

1. **Cleanse:** Wash the site with antiseptic soap.
2. **Ice:** Use a cold compress or ice to minimize swelling and pain or itching.
3. **Over-the-counter remedies:** Use topical anti-itch products for relief. It's a good idea to add these to your first-aid supplies.
4. **Avoid scratching:** Resist the urge to scratch because that can lead to infection.



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/how-to-treat-insect-bites-and-stings.html>

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VIRTUALTROOP
MEETING

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First is everyone's favorite
The Mosquito or Fly's

Though mosquito bites are annoyingly
itchy and biting flies can also inflict a sharp pain,
neither is likely to produce a medical emergency
But its always good to know how to prevent and treat.

Repellent is the number one way to prevent insect bites
if you get bit
resist thee urge to scratch the bite
if you continue to itch the bite
it does have the potential to get infected
while in remote areas

Make sure to clean the bite
If able ice it to reduce the swelling, pain, or itching
Lastly, apply any type of over-the-counter anti-ich products
These are always a good item to carry in our first-aid kits

WILDLIFE FIRST AID



How to Deal with Ticks

Ticks are similar to mosquitoes in that a bite won't create an urgent care scenario on a trip, but it does present the slim possibility of giving you a disease later.

How to prevent tick bites:

- Do some research
- Be wary in tick areas
- Wear proper clothing
- Use insect repellent
- Check your body and clothes

How to treat a tick bite:

1. Remove the tick promptly
2. Don't squeeze the body of the tick
3. Wash the site
4. Resist scratching the site



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/how-to-treat-insect-bites-and-stings.html>

PFFSC
VIRTUALTROOP
MEETING

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Ticks

Using the chat group

Can anyone identify the name of this tick?

(wait for answers)

(click and "Deer Tick" should come up)

Ticks are similar to mosquitoes
in that a bite won't create an urgent care scenario
but it does present the slim possibility
of giving you a disease later.

To prevent

Do your research

Know what a tick is and where they like to live

Use insect repellent

Wear proper clothing while on adventures

And always check yourself before going to bed

Or after returning from a hike

(Click for tick spoon photo)

Tick Spoons are a great item to carry in your pack

(Click for tick spoon example picture)

WILDLIFE FIRST AID



How to Deal with Bee & Wasp Stings

Bees, wasps and hornets (the vespidae family) all have stings that can be seriously painful. Honey bees leave stingers in people, while other types of bees, as well as wasps and hornets can sting multiple times. Wasps and hornets are slightly more venomous and aggressive than bees, with hornets being the worst actors of the bunch.

The good news is that most stings don't present a serious risk. The bad news is that more people have a severe allergic reaction to vespidae stings than to stings from any other type of insect.

How to prevent bee, wasp, and hornet stings:

- Avoid flowers
- Recognize nests
- Avoid attracting stinging insects
- Get to a safe spot

How to treat bee, wasp, and hornet stings:

1. **Remove the stinger**
2. **Cleanse and Ice** (Topical treatment- can be used to relieve pain or itching)



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/how-to-treat-insect-bites-and-stings.html>

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How to Deal with Bee & Wasp Stings

Bees, wasps and hornets
all have stings that can be seriously painful.
Honey bees leave stingers in people,
while other types of bees,
as well as wasps and hornets can sting multiple times.

Wasps and hornets are slightly more venomous and aggressive than bees.

The good news is that most stings don't present a serious risk.

The bad news is that some people have a severe
allergic reaction to hornet stings

Avoid flowers
Always keep an eye out for nests
If you end up getting stung by a honey bee
Try to get someone to help you remove the stinger
Clean, Ice, and apply a topical ointment to relieve pain or itching

WILDLIFE FIRST AID



How to Deal with Spider/Scorpion Stings

Spider bites can be painless or painful, depending on the species. Scorpion stings are about as painful as bee stings. Fortunately, only one type of scorpion and very few spider species in the U.S. are dangerous to humans—and bites and stings from this group are extremely rare.

How to treat spider or scorpion stings (Black Widow, Brown Recluse, or Arizona Bark Scorpion):

1. Identify the source of the sting
2. Cleanse and Ice
3. Watch for severe symptoms
4. Evacuate if severe symptoms are present



<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/how-to-treat-insect-bites-and-stings.html>

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Spiders and Scorpions

Fortunately,
only one type of spider species in Michigan
Is the brown Recluse

Some say that the state has the Northern Black widows,
1.5 inches long and .25 inch in diameter
About the same size as a paperclip
You may find them around window wells,
garages, pools, grills, or wood piles.
They tend to be most active between April and October

All you usually have to do to avoid Black widow bites
is avoiding antagonizing the spiders

The Brown Recluse is considered very shy.
They'll go out of their way to avoid humans
and would rather run away than act aggressively.

Most brown recluses spend daytime hiding,
and hunt for food at night.

The Arizona bark scorpion
is a small light brown scorpion
common to the Sonoran Desert in southwest United States
and northwestern Mexico.
An adult male can reach 3.14 inches in length,
while a female is slightly smaller, with a maximum length of 2.75 inches

Always
Identify the source of the sting
Clean and Ice
Watch for severe symptoms
And get professional medical help if severe symptoms present

WILDLIFE FIRST AID

Initial Patient Assessment

Once you've determined that it's safe for you to begin treating your patient, your next actions should be to identify any immediate threats to the patient's life. Before you begin a preliminary life-threat exam, begin with two quick steps:

1. Obtain consent to treat
2. Establish responsiveness
3. Airway check: Look in the mouth and check the airway for obstructions.
4. Breathing check: Look closely at the chest; listen and feel for signs of respiration.
5. Circulation check: Check for a pulse and for major wounds that are bleeding.
6. Disability decision: If you can't rule out a spine injury, continue to protect it.
7. Expose injuries: Without moving the patient, open up clothing covering serious injuries so you can fully evaluate and treat them.



We should always remember
That everything we do we always use the buddy system

While out in the backcountry
If something was to happen or we came upon
Someone that was injured

We should always make sure to
#1 depending on the situation
Send a friend for help or find an adult

Two
Once you've determined that
the environment surrounding you is safe
you can to begin learning more about the injured person

you should always make sure to identify
any immediate threats to the injured person life

And then go through your A, B, C's

Before you begin
make sure to ask them if you can help
Establish a response
Then "A" (Click)
Check Airway: Look in the mouth and check the airway for obstructions.
"B" (Click)
Check Breathing: Look closely at the chest; listen and feel for signs of respiration.
"C" (Click)
Check Circulation: Check for a pulse and for major wounds that are bleeding.
"D" (Click)
Discuss Disability: If you can't rule out a spine injury, continue to protect it.
"E" (Click)
Look for any Exposed injuries: Without moving the patient, open up clothing covering serious injuries so you can fully evaluate and treat them.

WILDLIFE FIRST AID

Do a Head-to-toe Exam: Start by ensuring your hands are clean, warm and gloved. Then explain to the patient what you're doing: methodically going over all areas of the body looking for clues about potential injuries or illness. Your analysis includes several methods of detection:

1. Look: for blood and other bodily fluids, discoloration or unusual shapes
2. Listen: for airway noises or unusual sounds when joints are moved
3. Feel: for wounds, deformities and unexpected hardness, softness or tenderness
4. Smell: for unusual odors
5. Ask: if anything hurts or feels odd or numb



- If possible, have someone of the same gender perform the head-to-toe exam
- Have someone help the examiner by writing down observations and vital signs
- Assign other tasks, like boiling water for drinks or setting up camp, so that the patient feels like care is orderly and all rescuers have a role
- Try to keep the patient clean, warm and comfortable at all times. If you are waiting for help to arrive, things like shelter, sustenance and general nursing care will be key to maintaining patient well-being.
- Fluids are more important than food; avoid caffeinated and sugary drinks
- Offer emotional support and empathy
- Inform the patient about all aspects of care and involve them in evacuation decisions
- Resupply and/or supplement your first-aid kit before each trip

Next

Do a Head-to-toe Exam

If you do this make sure to put on a pair of gloves

If you do not have gloves

Do not proceed with this step

1. Look: for blood and other bodily fluids, discoloration or unusual shapes
2. Listen: for airway noises or unusual sounds when joints are moved
3. Feel: for wounds, deformities and unexpected hardness, softness or tenderness
4. Smell: for unusual odors
5. Ask: if anything hurts or feels odd or numb

If possible,

have someone of the same gender perform the head-to-toe exam

Have someone help by writing down any observations

Assign other tasks, so all Scouts have a role

Try to keep the patient clean, warm and comfortable

If you are waiting for help to arrive,
things like shelter,
sustenance
and general nursing care will be key

Fluids are more important than food;
avoid caffeinated and sugary drinks

Offer emotional support

Inform the patient about all aspects of care
and make sure involve them in evacuation decisions

Always make sure to resupply
and/or supplement your first-aid kit before each trip

This concludes our discussion about Wildlife and the backcountry

Lets review with a short clip from Boys Life and there tips about what we discussed
today....check it out



1:34 minutes

Backpacking in Bear Country

Website: <https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/backpacking-in-bear-country.html>

Video: Backpacking in Bear Country: <https://youtu.be/SHZ-prhA7E0>

Wildlife Safety Tips

Website: <https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/wildlife-safety-tips.html>

Video: Backpacking in Bear Country: <https://youtu.be/SHZ-prhA7E0>

Food Storage and Handling for Campers and Backpackers

Website: <https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/food-handling-storage.html>

Video: Backpacking Food Storage: <https://youtu.be/TIF0JlwVYHo>

Bear Canister Basics

Website: <https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/bear-resistant-canisters.html>

Video: How to Choose Bear Canisters: <https://youtu.be/YWaVZS2CTbg>

How to Treat Insect Bites and Stings

Website: <https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/how-to-treat-insect-bites-and-stings.html>



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Here are some of the sites we used today for this information.

We encourage you to do look into these item on your own while at home.

Lets turn it over to our Scoutmaster for the Scoutmasters minute.

(Remember to stop sharing your presentation so the Scouts can watch the Scoutmaster during his Scoutmaster minute)



Box of Stuff Minute

This Minute is meant for Boy Scouts.

Required:

a small container of pins, screws, bolts, odds-n-ends

Script:

See this container?

This is my Box of Stuff that sits on my workbench. When I do a project, if there's a few screws left over, I dump them in here. If I have an extra nut or bolt or piece of wire or hinge, it goes in here.

Some of these things have been in here, never used, for almost 20 years. But, I know they are here. I know that because I will occasionally need a screw or bolt and I rummage through here until I find one. Every time I do that, I see what else is still here, ready to be used when needed.

How does this have anything to do with scouting?

Well, everything you're learning in Scouts goes into your Box of Stuff up here in

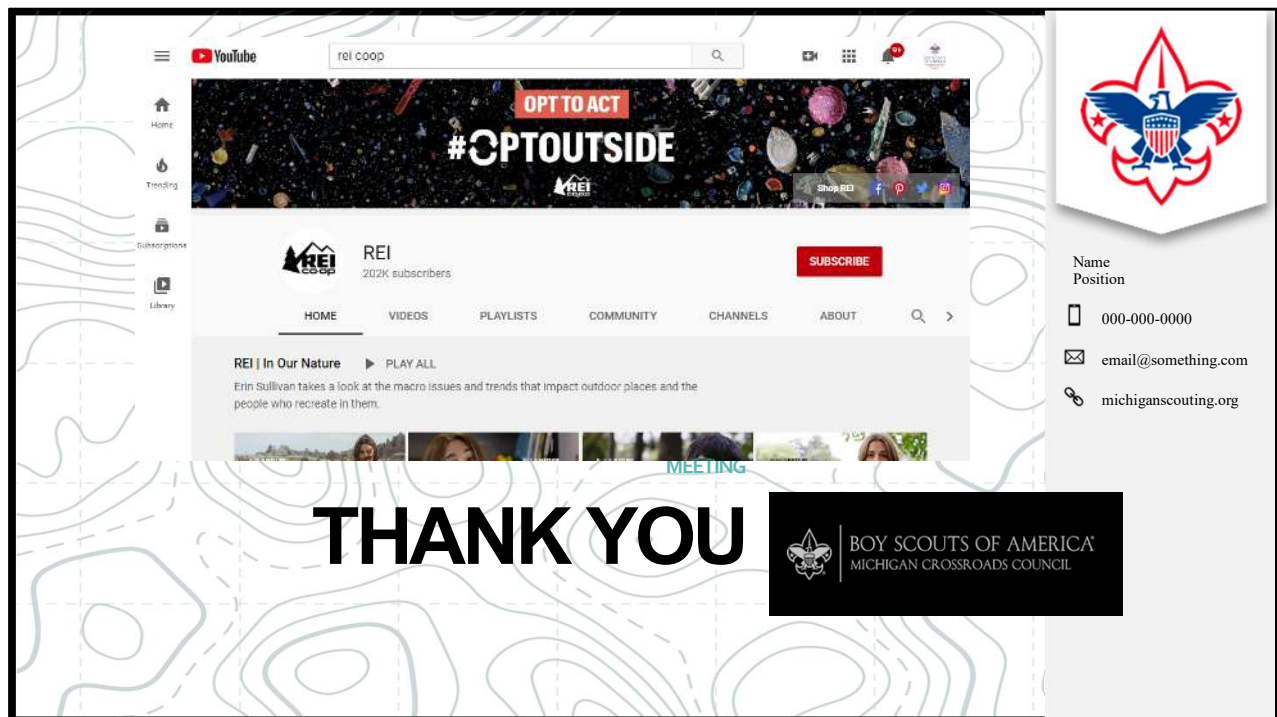
your brain. It's ready for that one day when it's needed.

You learned how to fuse the end of a rope. Do you do that every day? No. But, some day when you have a frayed rope, you'll reach into your Box of Stuff and know how to fuse that rope.

You know how to identify poisonous plants. Do you do that every day? No. But, on your next hike, you'll recognize and avoid those plants.

When you use something from your Box of Stuff, you should also check out all the other things you have in there. Take some time and refresh your skills so you remember you have them.

Like some of these pieces of hardware, some skills may sit there unused for years until you find yourself in an emergency when you need to dump out your whole Box and put all of it to use. That's when you'll be glad you have your Box of Stuff full to the brim.



(Resume Screen Share)

Please checkout REI on the YouTube channel.

There are many other great videos
and topics for you to watch
while you find yourself with nothing else to do.

(Click)

Thank you for joining us

and thanks for being a Scout!

Scoutmaster please help use by closing our meeting (Click)

