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## *11. Are the bears dangerous?*

Bears can be dangerous but if you follow some guidelines, you can stay safe.

- Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Hike in a group, and keep children close at hand.
- Make your presence known (call out) or sing
- Hike during daylight hours & stay on the trail.
- Watch for bear signs: scat, claw marks, diggings, logs or stumps torn apart, etc.
- Do not leave food or garbage out in the open.

**Stay alert!**

### **Black Bear Encounters**

Black bears should always be considered unpredictable and potentially dangerous. A black bear will usually detect your presence and flee the area before you notice unless the bear has been conditioned to people and their foods.

If a black bear is **visible, but not close**, alter your route so that you will move away from its area.

If a black bear approaches, do not run. Remain calm, continue facing the bear and slowly back away. If the bear continues to approach, try to group together and pick up small children. Try to scare the bear away by shouting and acting aggressively.

If a black bear **attacks**, it is suggested to fight back using everything in your power fists, sticks, rocks.