

# **Black Bears at** **Savage Gulf**

All park visitors be advised to use caution when in contact with **BEARS**, respect the bears need for space. Never approach a bear, not even for a photo.

Campers must use ‘bear bag’\* technique and hang ALL food and scented items away from campsite. Never have food stored in tent. Carry all trash out, do not burn and leave garbage in fire ring, this will attract bears to campgrounds.

(\*hang food in bag at least 100ft away from campsite & other campers. Hang on sturdy limb, that will be able to hold weight of bag, at least 10ft away from trunk of tree and hoist bag at least 15ft above the ground.)

Thank you and have a safe hike through  
Savage Gulf Natural Area.

Population of black bear is increasing substantially in many areas of the Northern Cumberland Plateau within Tennessee.

The park staff at South Cumberland State Park are taking a proactive approach in black bear management to the small population of black bears at Savage Gulf to prevent negative interaction between humans and bears.

Wild bears are afraid of people and will not regularly visit 'human' areas during the day.

Feeding bears human food or allowing them to obtain garbage indirectly kills them.

Bears conditioned to human presence, food and garbage, lose their fear of humans, which creates a **very dangerous** situation for both people and the bears.

Visitors could be seriously injured if they do not maintain a safe distance from bears.

Nuisance/beggar bears are not part of natural scene.

Everyone has a responsibility to ensure that wild bears remain wild.

Visitors please report 'bear' incidents to Park Ranger or Visitor Center so that a proper record of incident can be recorded. Bear tracks, scat, or '*hearing a bear*' is not necessary to report. Observations of bears in campgrounds, developed areas, roadsides, or bears '*seen*' foraging/traveling are significant observations.

Visitors obey park rules and regulations, utilize 'bear bags' and correct garbage disposal/sanitation, stay on designated trails, and educate yourself on black bear before visiting our park . In this way, the park visitor to Savage Gulf SNA will help allow these wild black bears to thrive in a natural environment, and provide a safe environment for all park visitors.