

## Outdoor Safety and Wildlife



**Theme:** Knowing how to stay safe in the outdoors is vital if you are going to have a good time.

**Universal themes inherent in program or explicitly written in theme statement:** life, death, connection, fear, safety, survival

**A. Animals to cover:** Bear, mt lion, bee, rattlesnake, tick (can use variation on “Who am I?”)

- 1) Mountain Lion and bear: props: prints and skins
  - Avoid encounters
    - make noise
    - stay in group
    - watch for wildlife and move away if you see bear or lion
  - What to do during encounter
    - back off slowly, talk calmly, never run
    - For lion, look big
    - fight back if attacked in either case
- 2) bee puppet, rattlesnake picture and puppet
  - avoid encounter, don't swat at insects
  - sound of rattlesnake, compare to picture of bull snake
- 3) Binoculars, Leash (props)
  - respect safety of animals – keep distance

**B. How to behave and why (rules and reasons):**

Eagle egg – closure areas

Flower –don't take things

Smokey Bear – Smokey's message, know the rules about fires (none in OSMP), talk about prescribed burns

“Ouch” plant picture - stay on trail

bear poop with trash or duck wrapped in fishing line, pet pick up bag

- dog poop is ugly, yucky, remains a long time
- trash can harm animals and plants

**C. Be Prepared for the elements:**

Water bottle, extra clothes (especially raincoat), food, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses

**D. What to do in a lightning storm**

- get down from high mountain tops and exposed places
- stay out of caves
- don't be the tallest thing around, don't get under isolated tall objects
- being in a grove of trees is safer than under a single tree in a meadow
- if hair is standing on end, lightning strike may be imminent
- crouch down, hands on knees or over ears (not on the ground) and wait it out, have group separate a bit, because lightning strikes travel through the ground

**E. Stay found** (bring a map and stay on named, designated trails):

If you get lost, whistle, hug a tree, stay put so rescue dogs and people can find you

**Conclusion:** have them review what they can do to help