



**CAMP LAWTON
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**



Welcome to Bear Country

Bears live here 52 weeks a year. You are now camping in their back yard and you will follow the rules. If the rules are not followed, you will be asked to leave camp. You could also be fined by the U.S. Forest Service; or worse yet, you or someone in your group could get hurt.

DEFINITION: "SMELLABLES" – Anything that could tempt Bears or other wild animals to invade your camp in search of a free meal. Food, deodorants and soaps, and even camera film can be considered smellables. Batteries should not attract bears, but when not in use it may be advisable to add to your smellables. All hygiene based smellables must be kept in the "Smellables Shed" (beside the youth shower house) in the green bins provided for your campsite at all times when not in use or directly supervised. Food must be kept out of the campsite **AT ALL TIMES** and may only be eaten in the Dining Hall area. If more room is needed, let the Camp Director know.

As a Group Leader I agree to follow these rules while at Camp Lawton:

1. All personal food and snacks will be put away in a designated storage location.
2. All garbage should be treated as smellables and must be placed in the "Bear Proof" garbage containers (the brown / green mailboxes). Garbage must be removed to vehicles or the dumpster at the end of each day.
3. No smellables should be stored in campsites or tents overnight or unsupervised.
4. Like all food, cooking is prohibited in campsites. Cooking must be done in or just outside of the dining hall kitchen.
5. Do not put anything in your tent but your sleeping gear, clothes, and you. If you spill food on you're clothes, those become smellables as well.
6. If you do see a bear, do not run. Stay in groups and make noise. Black bears are not generally aggressive, and will avoid groups of people. They will however chase an individual if it is seen as a threat or inferior creature.
7. **DO NOT CHALLENGE THE BEAR.** If the Bear has taken something from your camp, **LET IT GO.** The Bear is much stronger than you and will hurt you.
8. If you are attacked by a bear, aggressively fight back by any means including sticks, rocks, packs, and even fists. Get the attention of others in your group and they should throw rocks and yell until the bear leaves.
9. **REPORT ALL BEAR SIGHTINGS TO A CAMP RANGER AS SOON AS IT IS SAFE TO DO SO.**
10. There will be a brief orientation upon arrival in camp by the camp Ranger potentially including additional instructions.
11. If these rules are not followed you will be asked to leave camp and your actions will be reported to the Council Office.

Bears are opportunists and would rather take your food instead of going out and finding natural food. If a Bear gets food from one of our camp sites he might come back the next time he hears Scouts in camp and try to take food from the next group. If we follow the rules and respect the Bears, we will all have a good time at Camp Lawton.

Any intentional attempt to entice the Bears in to camp for any reason will cause your group to lose Council Camp Privileges for one year, and you will be asked to leave Camp Lawton immediately. You could also receive up to a \$1,000 fine or more by the Game and Fish Department or the Forest Service. Your behavior will be reported to the Council Office and further action will be considered.

Group (Unit) Leader: _____

Date: _____