

# The Scout Who Cried "BEAR"!

Adapted from  
An Old Fable by  
Aesop





This is a WEBELO Scout named Barry. Barry was a Scout with a knack for stirring up trouble.

One day, at a campout, no one was paying attention to him and he was bored, so he started yelling, “A BEAR! A BEAR IS COMING!”

The Scouts froze, grabbing sticks, rocks, and anything vaguely weapon-like. The leaders rushed over, looking both confused and unimpressed.



**“Where’s  
the Bear, Barry?”**  
a Scout leader  
asked.

Barry,  
barely holding  
back his laughter,  
grinned. “Gotcha!  
There’s no bear!”

The Scouts  
rolled their eyes,  
and the leaders  
shook their heads.





But Barry wasn't done. The next morning, he spotted a few squirrels, and with a dramatic gasp, yelled, **"A BEAR! IT'S HUGE! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!"**

The scouts barely blinked. One groaned, "Barry, if you keep crying wolf, everyone's going to think it's you who ate all the marshmallows."

Barry snickered, but his stomach growled loudly. "*I am* hungry, where did all the donuts go?" he asked. Unaware that his shouting made the Pack drop them all on the ground.





Just as Barry was sneaking off looking for more donuts, he heard rustling. Peeking around the corner—uh oh—a real bear.

The bear waddled in, sniffing for gourmet marshmallows.

Panicked, Barry ran to the campfire, screaming, **“A BEAR! A BEAR!”**

Unimpressed by the commotion, the bear sniffed the marshmallow, decided it wasn't worth the drama, and sauntered back into the woods.

Public Service Announcement:  
Bears don't really think like this.  
Make sure you are properly  
prepared for Bear encounters.  
See the back page.



A wise AOL Scout told Barry, “See? No one listens when you cry bear. Scouts are supposed to be trustworthy, and you haven’t been.”

“But it’s real this time!” Barry protested. Unmoved, the Scout added, “Also, don’t run and scream during a bear encounter. Back away slowly.”

When Barry turned to point at the bear, it was gone. Slightly embarrassed but still focused on food, he asked, “Fair enough. So, uh... where are the donuts?”





# What did Barry learn?

- Where the donuts are, hopefully!
- A Scout is Trustworthy: A Scout understands that lying leads to not being considered trustworthy by others, and even the most important truth won't be believed if that trust is broken.



# BEAR ENCOUNTERS

1. **Keep your distance.** If you hold out your thumb and the bear is bigger than your thumb, you're too close.
2. **Make Noise** – Talk, clap, or wear a bell to avoid surprising bears.
3. **Travel in Groups** – Bears are less likely to approach larger groups.
4. **Stay Alert** – Watch for signs of bears like tracks, scat, or overturned logs.
5. **Store Food Properly** – Use bear-proof containers and hang food away from camp.
6. **Keep a Clean Camp** – Wash dishes, seal trash, and avoid scented items.
7. **Avoid Dawn and Dusk** – Bears are more active during these times.
8. **Stick to Trails** – Stay on marked paths to reduce the chance of wandering into bear territory.
9. **Carry Bear Spray** – Have it accessible and know how to use it.
10. Most black bears only become aggressive if it is a female with cubs. Be especially cautious if you see cubs.

## Black Bear Encounter

1. **Stay Calm** – Don't panic.
2. **Stand Tall** – Make yourself look big.
3. **Speak Calmly** – Use a firm, calm voice.
4. **Back Away Slowly** – Don't run or turn your back.
5. **Spray bear spray** if bear is approaching
6. **Fight Back if Attacked** – Be loud and hit the bear's face or snout.

## Grizzly Bear Encounter

1. **Stay Calm** – Don't panic or run.
2. **Avoid Eye Contact** – Look down slightly to appear non-threatening.
3. **Back Away Slowly** – Move sideways if possible.
4. **Play Dead if Attacked** – Lie face down, hands over your neck, and stay still.
5. **Fight Back Only as a Last Resort** – If the attack continues, target the face

