



Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

METRO PARKS TACOMA

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POPULAR BEAR CAMP OFFERS INSIGHTS INTO AMAZING ANIMALS THIS WEEKEND AT NORTHWEST TREK WILDLIFE PARK

Learn how to bear-proof a campsite and share the outdoors with some of the most powerful mammals in North America

EATONVILLE, Wash. – One of the most popular events of the year is scheduled this weekend at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park.

Bear Camp is set for Saturday, May 20.



The event entertains and educates visitors with up-close views of Northwest Trek's two black bears, Benton and Fern. Guests can watch the pair explore and tear apart an "unsafe" campsite in a demonstration intended to show visitors how to best share the outdoors with these native Northwest animals.

The bears' keeper will speak about Benton and Fern, talk about bears in general and answer questions from visitors.

A "bear safe" campsite will be set up on the wildlife park grounds to show people how to stow gear and food to keep them safe from hungry or curious bears in the forest. It's a lot of useful information just as the camping season gets underway.

The campsite demonstration is scheduled for 11:30 a.m.; the keeper talk and question-and-answer session is set for 2:30 p.m.

In addition to those Bear Camp events, other special activities are scheduled throughout the day.

They include:

- Making bear paws and bear ears to take home as well as other crafts;
- Teddy bear checkups for kids who want to make certain their stuffed friends are "healthy"
- Bear-themed activities that include a chance to learn about powerful grizzly bears

All Bear Camp activities are free with admission or membership to Northwest Trek. Hours on Saturday are 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The annual event is part of Northwest Trek's bear conservation activities that help protect bears in the wild and educate visitors about these magnificent land mammals.

Plus, all visitors to Northwest Trek get a ticket for the 50-minute, naturalist-narrated tour through the wildlife park's 435-acre Free-Roaming area, which is home to moose, bison, Roosevelt elk, bighorn sheep, deer and other animals. Visitors can view the animals in the forests and meadows from the comfort of a heated tram.

Elsewhere in the wildlife park, visitors walk paved trails to see bobcats, beavers, otters and other animals in natural Northwest habitats. A kid-size crawlspace in the Baker Research Cabin provides a glimpse of gray wolves at play. Smaller animals like skunks, beavers and opossums can be seen up close up during daily Trailside Encounters at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

And the half-acre, \$1.9 million Kids' Trek is a nature-themed playground that delights children from toddlers to tweens. Hands-on adventures range from building forts to playing in mini log cabins to clambering up and down ladder nets. Native plants, a replica beaver lodge and statues of river otters and cougars create a true Northwest environment.

For more information, visit www.nwtrek.org.

Contact: Kris Sherman, 253-404-3800; 253-226-6718 or kris.sherman@pdza.org