



BearSmart Experiential Program



Livingstone
Range
SCHOOL DIVISION



BearSmart

Kiyááyo (traditional Blackfoot name for Bear) and cougars roam Treaty 7 Territory in which they live, eat, and survive across biomes such as the Grasslands, the Rocky Mountains, and the Foothills. These apex predators act differently in nature but are often both viewed as curious creatures that can be aggressive if startled or attacked. As outdoor stewards and recreationists, there is always a possibility that we will encounter a bear or cougar on hikes, the side of the road, fishing, or other outdoor recreation activities. Sometimes bears will eat the fruit of your fruit tree in the backyard. What should you do then? We must be prepared and know the fundamentals of bear and cougar encounter safety. Our job is to not only be aware of the dangers they present but also how to mitigate further trouble. What can we do as responsible community members to ensure we avoid or at least limit our interactions with bears and cougars in our communities? Join PEAKS for BearSmart programming and become more active environmental stewards of animal conservation.

- **Grades:** 4-12
- **Fee:** \$5/student and materials will be provided
- **Duration:** 2-hours
- **Dates:** Available during all seasons
- **Where:** PEAKS Campus, or another location per discussion

***If you have interest or have any questions about this program, please contact [PEAKS Campus](#)**

Post Experience Survey: <https://forms.gle/oDWrnqcKgv5uxwBU6>

*Must be completed by all teachers, supervisors and students.

Learning Outcomes

PEAKS Campus utilizes the following Alberta Education competencies as guiding principles to student education:

CRITICAL THINKING

COMMUNICATION

PROBLEM SOLVING

COLLABORATION

MANAGING INFORMATION

CULTURAL AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

PERSONAL GROWTH AND WELL-BEING

Competencies are combinations of attitudes, skills, and knowledge that students develop and apply for successful learning, living, and working. Our team building activities challenge students outside of their comfort zone by putting them in unfamiliar situations that help students draw and progress what they know, how they think and what they can do.

For more specific outcomes, click the following links below:

- [Division 2 Learning Outcomes](#)
- [Division 3 Learning Outcomes](#)
- [Division 4 Learning Outcomes](#)

What to Expect

With PEAKS facilitators, you and your class will explore the significance of bears and their impact in nature and our community. Students will have the opportunity to explore the following:

BearSmart Presentation and Jeopardy

- Grizzly and Black Bear Species characteristics and identification.
- Problems with food-conditioned bears and relocation.

BearSmart Program

- Locations of where bears are often found.
- How to prevent trouble with bears: Being BearSmart when hiking, camping, fishing or cycling.
- Bear/Cougar Behaviors and Encounters
- Bear Deterrents - what are they and how to use them.



Interactive Bear Encounter Simulations

- Using their prior knowledge, PEAKS facilitators will guide students through the steps of how to prevent or reduce the events if encountering a bear or cougar. Through role play simulations, students will begin building behaviours and muscle memory actions so that they will be prepared for when they go out to recreate next.

Bear Spray Training

- Students will get to experience what it is like to use bear spray and create good BearSmart habits when recreating in the outdoors. Students will use Inert Training Bear Spray and will develop an understanding of proper Bear Spray etiquette, technique, and first aid if administered improperly.

Bear Hangs

- Students will understand, build, and use bear hangs around the PEAKS site. A bear hang should meet the following criteria:
 - o A sealed bag (bearbag, tarped bag or dry bag)
 - o At least 3.5 metres off the ground.
 - o ~1.5 metres between the bag and the top branch.
 - o 100m away from tent.
 - o 100m away from the fire or cooking area.

