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## South Carolina State Parks

at 12:00:00 on 7/29/2014 UTC

TIDBIT! What do you do if you encounter a snake? First, realize that all snakes are beneficial for controlling pests, have no desire to attack people and only strike as a last resort when disturbed. When approached, they prefer to lie motionless or flee for cover. Trying to catch or touch a snake will trigger defensive behavior. Most snakes are not venomous but it's good to give all snakes their space and not bother them. The only mountain venomous snakes are Timber Rattlesnakes and Copperheads and knowing their markings is very helpful. Late summer is when rattlers are on the move seeking out mates. Stay on trails when hiking, and always look behind a log or rock before stepping over it to make sure a snake is not lying there. Be extra alert this time of year and give snakes your admiration and respect.



**Spring Slagle** Thank you for posting this! This is worth a share! Trail rules we try to teach our kiddos. 1. Stay on the trail. 2. Always hike with a friend. 3. Look, don't touch.

at 12:10:27 on 7/29/2014 UTC



**Dottie Austin Hammond** Great information. Some folks think that killing all snakes is the answer. It isn't.

at 12:17:38 on 7/29/2014 UTC



**Dani Toussaint** It bothers me that the first reaction of too many people is , "Kill it!" There is no reason to kill any snake, poisonous or not, in the wild. If not for them we would be overrun with disease ridden rats! They are so important.

at 12:18:04 on 7/29/2014 UTC



**Derral Linder** Come to Barnwell State on Labor Day weekend for an information filled class on local snakes.

at 12:26:08 on 7/29/2014 UTC



**Gretchen Whitesell** South Carolina State Parks can you post a pic of a copperhead too?

at 12:48:51 on 7/29/2014 UTC



**Mike Owens** Check out this little gem my sons and I found up near Ceasars Head. We were about 3' away when my son noticed him. He never moved while I took pics.



at 12:55:17 on 7/29/2014 UTC



**Lisa Soenen** Katy Ewing- I know how much you love snakes

at 13:20:29 on 7/29/2014 UTC



**Susan Smith Inman** Scream ! And run like heck :-) just saying , I would :-/

at 13:29:23 on 7/29/2014 UTC



**Faith Castillo** What about cotton mouths? Aren't they venomous?

at 13:40:26 on 7/29/2014 UTC



**Charley Foster** Ruthie Foster Luke Boyette Heads up on your hikes !!!

at 14:00:31 on 7/29/2014 UTC



**Nicole Wise** Cotton mouths are venomous

at 14:51:23 on 7/29/2014 UTC



**Faith Castillo** Aren't they here in the mountain region too?

at 15:05:15 on 7/29/2014 UTC



**Andy Dorski** This was taken last Monday at yellow branch falls in Walhalla. Never moved when I walked past or for a picture



at 15:43:01 on 7/29/2014 UTC



**John Kneece** Good snake = dead snake

at 21:19:59 on 7/29/2014 UTC

**Marilyn Green** No cotton mouths in the mountains

at 21:27:47 on 7/29/2014 UTC



**Kathleen Johnson** Tom Johnson Peggy Beisser Karan Sadler Maxson Vinnie Bucci Legge  
at 23:09:59 on 7/29/2014 UTC



**Mildred Alexander** I'm scared to death if any snake I don't care what kind it is ,I would run like crazy if I saw one ,they're all dangerous to me ! I would even be to scared to kill a snake because I'm not going to be that close to one !  
at 1:00:32 on 7/30/2014 UTC



**Karan Sadler Maxson** Thanks Kathleen. However we were grateful that Tom pitched the copperhead with his pole so we didn't have to creep past it.  
at 1:20:37 on 7/30/2014 UTC



**Caroline Nelson Ham** Randy Deaton, I am smarter 4 knowing you. But I'm w John Kneece. If I saw that I'd probably wet my pants.  
at 18:09:14 on 7/30/2014 UTC



**Laura McLaughlin R** Although I am not going to go hunting for a snake (unless it is in my yard) nor will I stand around and try to take pictures of one...the whole "they kill rodents " argument is not enough to convince me of their importance, sorry... If they don't bother me, I won't bother them- no matter where I am.  
at 18:43:42 on 7/30/2014 UTC



**Darrin Hamlin** Just saw 2 rattlers on the edge of the trail Sunday afternoon.  
at 1:33:28 on 7/31/2014 UTC



**Gene Crocker** Reading the comments...I tend to agree with everyone who says to run like heck and I agree with john kneece. My initial reactions has always to holler and jump back about 10 ft. And knock over whoever is beside me..then run...then have nightmares that night.  
at 14:08:18 on 7/31/2014 UTC



**Rick Norred** This Rat Snake was reprieved from execution when my children removed him from a neighbors barn. He now peacefully resides behind my house earning his keep my keeping the rodent population at bay.



at 20:56:00 on 7/31/2014 UTC



**Michael Oliver** I take a picture of it  
at 21:45:14 on 7/31/2014 UTC



**Cathy Robbins** I was always taught that when hiking, NEVER step over a log, rock, etc- step ON it to cross it. That way if there is a snake hidden on the other side, your foot should come down far enough away from the snake to avoid being bitten. Do I need to add if the log is rotten, walk around it, don't take a chance on falling through it...  
at 1:38:22 on 8/01/2014 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Looks like a beautiful northern water snake! :)

at 15:16:46 on 8/12/2014 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Nice looking copperhead!

at 15:17:16 on 8/12/2014 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** There are no cottonmouths in the northeastern half of SC. They are strictly a lowlands species. The majority of the snakes seen around water in the mountains are northern water snakes, a non-venomous species.

at 15:21:36 on 8/12/2014 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** And for those of you who still think cottonmouths occur in the mountains, check out the range maps on this page. <http://srelherp.uga.edu/snakes/agkps.htm>



at 15:23:09 on 8/12/2014 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** If you understood snake behavior and their vital role in the ecosystem you'd realize how far from the truth that statement is...

at 15:24:32 on 8/12/2014 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** By consuming rodents, they also keep tick populations in check, curbing the spread of lyme disease and rocky mtn spotted fever. Fish eating species keep fish populations at a healthy size and disease free. Snakes are also important food sources for many other animals, including bobcat, skunks, raccoons, hawks, owls, frogs, turtles, fish, etc. And finally, the venoms of many snakes are being used to treat human illnesses. For example, copperhead venom is used in the treatment of certain cancers. Other venoms are used to treat heart attack and stroke victims, high blood pressure, MS, blood clots, infections, intense pain, etc. Snakes actually saved millions of human lives every year. I think that's more than a valid argument to protect them.

at 15:40:40 on 8/12/2014 UTC