

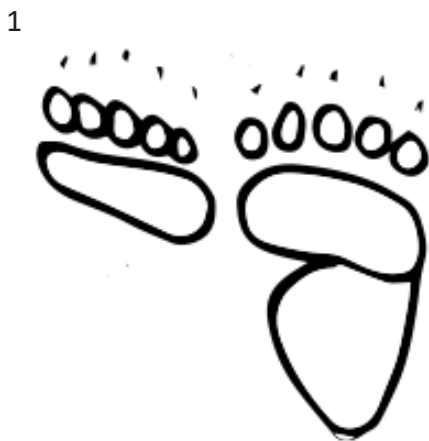
Mount Rainier National Park

Activity Page for the Young at Heart



When we choose to recreate in the wilderness, we are choosing to share space with all creatures big and small. While close animal encounters are uncommon, and attacks are even more rare, it's important to know how to identify the creatures you are sharing space with. This can be done by being able to differentiate animal droppings, tracks, and other signs.

How well can you identify animals based on their tracks? Test yourself by matching the tracks below with the predator they come from. Answers are on the bottom of the page.



Coyote
NPS Photo / Robbie Hannawacker



Black Bear
NPS Photo



Mountain Lion
NPS Photo

Tips for viewing viewing wildlife safely:

Don't get too close. Hold your hand all the way out and put your thumb up. If the animal is bigger than your thumb, keep backing up.

Do admire from a distance.

Don't feed the wildlife.

Do keep a clean camp! Ensure all food is properly secured and never leave trash behind.

Do make noise while traveling in the backcountry. This will prevent you from startling wildlife.