

YELLOWSTONE BACKCOUNTRY SAFETY VIDEO:
SIGNPOSTS TO ROAD'S END^[k1]

by

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FADE IN:

1. EXT. — DAWN/MORNING: YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Time-lapse: Sun rises over Yellowstone Lake.
Birds can be seen rising from its surface.
A Montage of shots follow from around the park, with
V.O, showing a variety of the parks geothermal
features and wildlife in the morning light, ending
with hikers on the backcountry trails.

(V.O.)

It is an area of incredible
natural beauty, sprawling
across more than 2.2 million
acres of temperate pine forest
and volcanic plateaus.

With iridescent hot springs
welling up from beneath the
ground, crystalline lakes fed
by icy mountain streams, and
plunging canyons flowing into
dizzying waterfalls, nowhere
else will you find such
astonishing scenery gathered
together in one place.

Welcome to Yellowstone, the
World's first National Park,
home to a remarkable diversity
of mammals, birds and fish,
and one of the world's
foremost wildlife
sanctuaries. [k2]

With over 1000 miles of
trails, stretching throughout
the park, you have the
opportunity to fully explore
one of the world's greatest
natural landscapes, and
discover the park's remarkable
backcountry.

Visiting these beautiful and
challenging areas of the park
requires knowledge of
backcountry safety, planning

for unexpected events, and being fully aware of inherent risks of backcountry travel.

There is NO GUARANTEE FOR YOUR SAFETY, but by planning ahead you can make your trip safer and more enjoyable, and minimize your impact on park resources so that future generations can continue to enjoy them as you have.

2. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "BACKCOUNTRY TRAVEL: TRAILS"

Animated hikers walk across sign, singing.

3. EXT. — DAY: YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

A mixed group of hikers make their way through various different backcountry environments, stopping to look for markers and posts.

(V.O)

As you venture throughout the park, through the deep pine forests and broad grasslands, you will see that some of Yellowstone's backcountry trails are marked with orange metal tags on trees or posts.

4. EXT. — DAY: YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

A (female) park ranger stands^[k3] by a post adorned with a blaze, and addresses the camera directly.

(Park Ranger)

These signs are here both for your guidance and to protect this unique natural resource.

If you happen to loose the trail look for cut logs or old

trail markers on trees, until
you find the trail again.[k4]

4B. EXT. — DAY: YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

CABLE DOLLY SHOT
OVER GROUP OF
HIKERS WALKING
ALONG TRAILS

(Park Ranger)

In order to prevent erosion
and other harmful impacts on
vegetation please stay on the
trail, hike single file, and
don't be tempted to cut
corners on switchbacks.

5. EXT. — DAY: YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Park Ranger kneels in a grass patch as hikers cut
across the meadow behind her.

(Park Ranger)

If for some reason you have to
hike off trail, like these
guys, then spread out in order
to prevent repeated trampling
of fragile plants. Trampling
on delicate species will kill
them and can lead to erosion.

Hiking on resilient surfaces
such as rock, snow, gravel, or
dry grasses can reduce impacts
on vegetation.

However, we don't recommend
off trail travel due to the
increased personal risk, and
the potential dangers of
surprising a bear, or other
wildlife, at close range.

6. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "ENCOUNTERS: ANIMAL INTERACTIONS".

Animated figure runs across the sign, obviously scared. After a short pause a small, animated, rabbit hops on after him. It stops and looks puzzled.

7. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park

Hikers, stop to look at wildlife, photograph them.

(V.O)

Observing wildlife can be a great thrill when you are in the backcountry. But, remember animals in the park are not pets, they are wild, and should be treated with due caution and respect.

8. EXT. - DAY: YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

A park ranger stands in the backcountry, herbivores are seen grazing behind her.

(Park Ranger)

When you are out on the trail please refrain from feeding or harassing the wildlife, no matter how docile, or cute, they appear. Even normally calm animals, such as these bison, can act unpredictably and aggressively. For your safety you are required to stay at least 100 yards, about the length of a football field, away from bears, and at least 25 yards from all other large animals such as deer, moose, bison and elk.

9. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "ENCOUNTERS: BEARS".

Animated bear walks across sign, followed by cubs rolling around and fighting with each other.

10. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park

Series of shots of black and grizzly bears, looking for food, eating berries_[k5] and scavenging.

(V.O)

Because Yellowstone is one of the largest intact temperate ecosystems remaining on the planet; it provides the perfect habitat for some of the rarest, and most exciting of animals.

The park is home to both Black and Grizzly bears, who provide a crucial part of a healthy ecosystem as both predator and scavenger. Bears may look playful, and docile, but they are wild, and can be dangerous. Although most backcountry hikers will never see a bear, visitors have been injured, and killed, by bears in the past.

11. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "ENCOUNTERS: BEAR SAFETY".

Animated bear growls and huffs on the sign, before turning away.

12. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park

Series of shots of hikers walking along trails, making noise, clapping hands ect.

(V.O)

Most bear-caused injuries happen when hikers surprise a

bear. To avoid such unwelcome encounters try to always hike in groups, more people in the group means more eyes looking for bears and [k6]the increased noise of a larger group may allow bears to avoid your group. Solo hiking is not advised.

Make noise while hiking; clap, talk, or sing, especially when encountering blind spots on the trail such as thick vegetation, or cresting a hill.

Try to avoid hiking at dawn, dusk or at night; bears are more active at these times and your visibility is greatly reduced.

13. EXT. — DAY: YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Park Ranger squatting on a trail, showing features which indicate the presence of bears.

(Park Ranger)

One of the most important things you can do, is to stay alert! While you are on the trails look for signs of recent bear activity, such as scat, or tracks. You should also watch out for diggings or overturned rocks and logs, which could indicate that a bear has recently been searching for food. Be especially aware for carcasses, and [k7]in the transition zone from meadow and forest where bears could be near by.

14. EXT. — DAY: YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Hikers entering Bear Frequenting areas, shots of signs.

(V.O)

Trails marked with 'Bear
Frequenting Area' signs
usually mean we've had
numerous sightings or reports
of bear activity in the area.
Be extra vigilant in these
locations, but remember
wildlife such as bears can be
anywhere at any time, so
always be alert.

15. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "HOW TO REACT: BEAR ENCOUNTERS".

Animated hikers walk onto the sign, a Bear enters
from other side; the hikers see it and back away
slowly out of the sign.

16. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park

Series of shots of bears feeding, mothering cubs, &
posturing, cut with hiking party on a trail. Re-
enactments of defensive procedures.

(V.O)

Even if you do everything in
your power to avoid surprising
a bear it can happen. If it
does, there are a number of
things that you should take
into consideration when you
encounter a bear:

17. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park

Re-enactments of defensive procedures, as described
by park ranger.

(Park Ranger)

Check how far away the bear
is, whether the bear is a
mother with cubs, or if it is

feeding. Be aware of whether the bear has noticed you, and if it has whether it is acting defensively.

Remember, a Bear's behaviour is not always predictable and often depends on your reaction to the bear. The best thing you can do is to remain calm and keep the following things in mind:

If the bear is at a distance from you, do not be tempted to approach it for a better look. Assess what the bear is doing, wait for the bear to move on, detour around it or turn around and leave the area.

If you encounter a bear at close range, try to appear non-threatening. Most attacks by bears are thought to be due to bears perceiving hikers as a threat. So stay calm and talk softly to the bear in a calm voice.

Slowly back away and increase the distance between you and the bear. NEVER RUN – bears can reach speeds over 30 miles an hour, and running may provoke a bear to chase.

If you are carrying bear pepper spray, be prepared to use it.

(V.0)

Even if you follow these steps you may still aggravate a bear or the bear may charge; especially a mother with cubs or bears guarding their food.

18. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "BEAR ENCOUNTERS: SIGNS OF AGITATION".

Animated bear highlighting the signs of agitation.

(V.O)

Woofing, huffing, clacking
teeth, jaw popping, head down,
neck stretched out, and ears
laid back are all signs of a
nervous, distressed bear,
reacting defensively.

AGITATED BEARS MAY CHARGE

19. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "HOW TO REACT: BEAR CHARGES".

A Bear charges from one side of the sign side, stops
and walks away.

20. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park

Re-enactments of defensive procedures, described by
ranger, a hiker performs them behind her.

(Park Ranger)

If a Bear charges you, stand
your ground. Do not run. Most
bear charges are bluff
charges, which means the bear
will stop or veer off before
reaching you. Again, try to
remain calm, and use your
pepper spray if you have it.

In the unlikely event that a
bear makes contact - keep your
pack on. Drop to the ground,
and play dead. Lay flat on
your belly with your arms
protecting neck/head, like
this. Remain still, and stay
silent to convince the bear
that you are not a threat.
Wait for the bear to leave
before attempting to get up.

21. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park
Shots of bears at dusk/night hunting/scavenging.

(V.O)

In exceptionally rare
circumstances a bear may come
to view humans as prey. This
is often hikers biggest fear,
but this type of encounter is
extremely rare.

21. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park
Re enactments of procedures described.

21.A If you feel that a bear
has been following you, be
firm & aggressive, look big,
yell, throw rocks/sticks, and
use bear spray.

21.B Any bear entering your
tent at night doesn't have
good intentions and if it
attacks fight back with any
resource you have available to
show that you are not easy
prey.

22. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "ENCOUNTERS: ANIMAL
ATTRACTIONS".

Animated bear, with a love heart above its head
follows a scent across the sign.

23. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park

(23A) Backcountry campsite, hikers carrying out
daily hygiene routines, and Park Ranger showing
items as mentioned (23B).

(Park Ranger)

Remember most Bear encounters
can be avoided if your party

makes an effort not to surprise bears.

You can also avoid bear encounters by not attracting bears to you and your camp.

Bears may be attracted to food and products with strong odours such as toothpaste, deodorant and other scented toiletries. A stronger attractant for bears is the smell of food and trash.

24. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park

Park Ranger leans on a tree in a campsite, as hikers use food poles behind her.

(Park Ranger)

All of Yellowstone's backcountry campsites have food poles like the ones behind me.

Preventing bears from associating people with food is crucial to reducing bear-inflicted human injuries and bear-caused property damage; therefore it is very important that you hang all your food, trash, utensils, cooking gear and all odorous items that might attract bears. Hang them at least ten feet above the ground and about four feet out from the trunk or side supports.

You should bring a minimum of 30 feet of rope and be prepared to hang your food via another method in case food pole is broken.

25. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park

CABLE DOLLY SHOT
POV OF FOOD BAG
BEING PULLED UP

26. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park

Hikers use fire pit and store food, ranger explains what they are doing.

(Park Ranger)

You should hang your food at any time you're not carrying it or directly using it.

Remember; never leave your food unattended in camp or on the trail, even if it's in your backpack.

Make sure you prepare your food by the fire pit, or by the designated food storage area.

You can also minimize odours in the campsite by not burning trash/food scraps, and disposing of waste water well away from sleeping areas.

27. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "TRIP PLANNING AND PREPARATION".

Animated hand is seen drawing on a map on the sign.

28. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park

Hikers checking routes on the trail.

(V.O)

While in the backcountry there is no substitute for proper planning. Even minor problems can become major ones when you're miles from help.

29. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park

Hikers checking routes, and planning trip at the back country permit office.

(V.O)

Always plan your itinerary with the ability of all group members in mind, and know your limitations. Be sure to pay attention to daily hiking distances and elevation changes.

While you are at the backcountry permit office, review topo maps, check for potential hazards such as stream crossings, and reports of trail conditions. Ask about bear activity and any information which might help you prepare for your trip.

30. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park

Park Ranger standing on mountain trails, hikers seen preparing themselves against bad weather (if possible).

(Park Ranger)

The high mountain climate in Yellowstone can be very unpredictable.

Summer storms can occur at any time and are often accompanied by lightning. If you are caught out in a storm descend from ridge tops and seek a safe location to wait out the storm.

Cold and wet weather is not uncommon, and snow may fall at any time of year

It is very important to stay dry and warm to prevent

hypothermia, which can be life threatening. Having adequate rain and wind gear, carrying extra clothes, and drinking plenty of liquids to stay hydrated will all help.

31. CG: GRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTING ESSENTIAL ITEMS AS THEY ARE MENTIONED

(V.O)

To help make your backcountry adventure safer and more enjoyable we suggest that you take along the following essential items:

Extra food and clothing; water purification; first aid kit; rain gear; matches; a minimum of 30 feet of rope; bags for trash; water containers; and headlamp or flashlight

32. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "BACKCOUNTRY TRAVEL: STREAM CROSSINGS".

Animated river flows from top of the sign and over the edge of the sign.

33. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park

Hikers seen crossing stream in proper manner, as described by voice over.

(V.O)

In addition to the possibility of wet weather, during the spring runoff high volumes of water can create dangerous river and stream conditions.

Crossing streams with swift currents and deep water can be dangerous. Even slow currents can be overpowering.

Before you attempt to cross a river scout for the easiest route, and don't cross if it the river looks unsafe.

Unbuckle the waist strap on your backpack before entering the water. Always wear shoes or sandals for stability, and link arms for added support.

34. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "BACKCOUNTRY TRAVEL: THERMAL AREAS".

Animated Geyser erupting, shoots water off the sign.

35. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park

(35 A) B-ROLL: Hikers seen walking through Geothermal areas. (35 B) Park Ranger explaining geothermal features.

(Park Ranger)

Yellowstone is known for its beautiful and unique thermal features. However, hiking through these areas can be very dangerous.

Always stay on marked trails, like these. Although the ground around them may seem safe, thin crusts may hide scalding mud and water underneath.

People have died by falling into thermal features.

36. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "BACKCOUNTRY TRAVEL: STOCK PARTIES".

Animated horses (pack string) are lead across the sign by a rider on horseback.

37. EXT. - AFTERNOON: Yellowstone National Park

Hikers seen walking giving way to stock party.

(V.O)

While you are in the back country you may encounter parties with stock. If you do, step quietly off the trail, preferable to the downhill side and allow the stock party to pass.

If you are travelling with stock you will receive additional information from backcountry office staff.

38. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "BACKCOUNTRY CAMPSITES: CAMPSITE SETUP".

Animated hikers attempt to put up a tent. When it erects it is upside down.

39. EXT. - AFTERNOON: Yellowstone National Park

(39 A) B-Roll: Hikers seen walking to campsite and setting up camp. (39 B) Park Ranger identifies areas of the camp.

(Park Ranger)

Within the park small signs bearing the campsite number, like this one, identify backcountry campsites.

Upon arriving at your designated campsite, locate the food storage and preparation area, and pit toilet if provided.

Check your backcountry permit to make sure you're at the correct campsite and be sure to check any special restrictions for the site.

Sleeping locations are not designated at backcountry campsites. But we recommend that you select an area at least 200 feet (and preferably 100 yards) from the food storage and cooking area. Try to locate your camp up wind if possible and avoid setting up your tent directly next to trails, lakes, streams and ridges as these are common wildlife travel corridors.

Food poles are provided at backcountry campsites making it easier for you to properly hang your food, garbage, cookware, and any odorous substances when they're not being used.

A few campsites have food storage boxes – keep them latched and keep them clean.

40. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "BACKCOUNTRY CAMPSITES: CAMP FIRES"

Animated campfire burns on the sign. A marshmallow on a stick enters from right.

41. EXT. – LATE AFTERNOON: Yellowstone National Park

Hikers seen making a fire and cooking.

(V.O)

Campfires are not allowed at all backcountry campsites. Check your permit and the backcountry trip planner to see if your site allows fires.

If fires are allowed at your site a fire pit will be located near the food pole.

All food preparation and cooking should be done in this area, in order to keep odours to a minimum.

Please keep your fires small, and within the fire ring. Use only down and dead wood, broken to a burnable size, wrist size or smaller.

Don't burn garbage or food scraps in the fire as their odour may act as a bear attractant.

Before leaving your campsite please remember to completely extinguish your fire, and if necessary remove any trash from the cold ashes.

42. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "BACKCOUNTRY CAMPSITES: WATER TREATMENT"

Animated kettle of water boiling, on stove, starts to whistle as it boils.

43. EXT. — LATE AFTERNOON: Yellowstone National Park

(43A) Hikers are seen drawing water, and purifying it. (43B) Park Ranger runs hand through stream water while talking to camera.

(Park Ranger)

Although it may look crystal clear, the water in Yellowstone's cold mountain streams may contain giardia, other bacteria, or viruses which could cause severe intestinal problems. All water from park lakes or streams should be treated before drinking.

Purify water by boiling, using iodine tablets, or other chemical purification, or by using a filter that has a pore size of one micron or less.

44. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "BACKCOUNTRY CAMPSITES: CLEANING UP"

Animated hiker, in pinafore and rubber gloves, washes dishes on sign.

45. EXT. - LATE AFTERNOON: Yellowstone National Park

Hikers seen tidying up the campsite.

(V.O)

(45A) After you have finished cooking be sure to wash dishes on land, not in lakes in streams.

(45B) While bathing use soap sparingly or not at all, and again do so on land.

(45C) Strain and broadcast waste-water well away from your sleeping area. And any strained food scraps should be placed in your trash.

(45D) Before leaving your campsite be sure to check for, and pack out, all trash.

(45E) Don't throw food or trash into pit toilets. It doesn't decompose and may cause wildlife, such as bears, to dig into or destroy pit toilets.

46. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "BACKCOUNTRY CAMPSITES: HUMAN WASTE DISPOSAL"

Animated bush shakes a little, then a hiker stands up from behind it, a toilet flush is heard.

47. EXT. - LATE AFTERNOON: Yellowstone National Park

(47 A) Hikers are seen digging a cat hole, water seen on rock surface, hiker does up flies (47 B).

(V.O)

If a pit toilet is not available, bury waste in a cat hole 6-8 inches deep and 200 feet away from campsites, trails, and water sources.

Urinate on rocks or hard surfaces so animals won't dig or eat vegetation trying to get the salts and minerals found in urine.

If you use toilet paper dispose of it in a pit toilet or pack it out.

48. CG: PARK SIGN READING: "PARK GUIDELINES"

A very long animated paper list unrolls on the sign, it carries on going off the side of sign

49. EXT. - DAY: Yellowstone National Park

Cut scenes of tourists seen enjoying the park.

(V.O)

In addition to our backcountry guidelines we would like to remind all hikers that pets, firearms, weapons, or wheeled vehicles are not allowed within the backcountry.

If you, or someone in your party is disabled, please discuss using wheelchairs or service animals in the backcountry with the staff at the backcountry permit office.

50. EXT. - DUSK: Yellowstone National Park

Park Ranger stands by a sign, near the head of a trail, the sun is setting behind her. Inter cut with scenic shots of the park and hikers enjoying it.

(Park Ranger)

Thank you for watching, we hope that you found the information in this film helpful, further details on any of the topics covered can be found in this booklet "Beyond Road's End".^[k8]

Please help us to keep Yellowstone National Park the beautiful and exhilarating place it is by treading lightly on the land, and by respecting all wildlife and visitors.

Most of all I hope to see you soon, exploring, enjoying and preserving your heritage here in Yellowstone National Park.

FADE OUT

FILM END