



Bear Awareness Week is an opportunity to educate the public about bears, their habitats, and the importance of coexisting with these magnificent creatures. Bears are important links in food webs and help to maintain populations of other species through predation. At one time, bears were widespread across the United States. However, threats such as habitat loss and unregulated hunting greatly reduce the areas where they can be found. With the use of conservation and bear management efforts, such as research, wildlife protection, and habitat restoration, we can ensure healthy and sustainable bear populations.

If you want to support bears during Bear Awareness Week or any time of the year, here are some ways you can get involved:

1. Be Bear Aware: Being outdoors means being with wildlife. Familiarize yourself with proper food storage, securing trash, and understanding how to behave if you encounter a bear. Check out the responsible outdoor practices that the [Forest Service](#) suggests to prevent human-bear conflicts.
2. Support Conservation Organizations: Contribute to organizations dedicated to bear conservation. Your support can fund research, habitat protection, and conservation initiatives. Some of the Little Rock Zoo's partners include the [International Association for Bear Research and Management \(IBA\)](#), [Wildlife SOS](#), [Wildlife & Conservation Biology Research Foundation \(WCB\)](#), and [Sloth Bear SAFE](#).
3. Advocate for Habitat Protection: Support and advocate for the protection of bear habitats. The [Arkansas Game and Fish Commission](#) plays an important role in keeping The Natural State true to its name and protecting Arkansas' wildlife.
4. Report Illegal Activities: Report any illegal activities that threaten bears, such as poaching, habitat destruction, or the illegal trade of bear parts.
5. Practice Responsible Outdoor Activities: If you enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, or fishing in bear country, follow [Leave No Trace](#) principles. Minimize your impact on the environment, and be aware of and respect bear habitats.

Schedule of Events (included in regular admission):

Sunday, May 19, 2024:

10:00-12:00: Teddy Bear check-ups with Vet Staff in front plaza

11:00: Keeper chat @ Bears

Saturday, May 25, 2024:

10:00-12:00: Awareness table with interactive activities and bear-themed exploration station in front plaza

11:00: Keeper chat @ Bears