

# ADVISORY

## Poison Ivy

**Identification:** Poison ivy grows as shrubs and vines with alternating clusters of three leaves. These leaves are reddish-green to green in spring and summer and turn bright red in early fall. Vines have many small hairs on them. The plant secretes an oil, often making its leaves appear shiny. This oil may cause itching, rash, or blisters after contact.

**What to Do:** Avoid contact with this plant; take caution with any other surface which has been exposed to it (e.g., fur, clothing). Long-sleeved clothing can protect your skin, but if you think you have come into contact with the oil, wash thoroughly with plenty of soap and water as soon as possible.



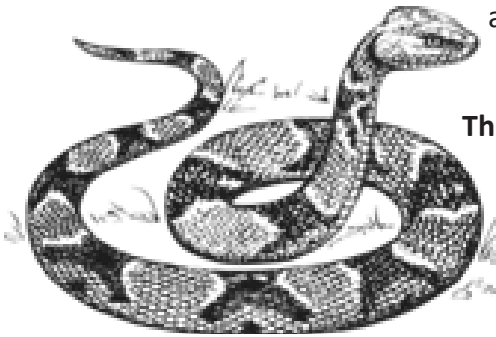
## Copperhead Snake

**Identification:** Copperheads belong to the family of pit vipers, and are poisonous.

They can be identified by their pattern of alternating brown (hourglass shaped) and tan bands and a solid copper-colored triangular head. Adolescent copperheads appear lighter in color.

**These animals are important members of the natural community and are protected by law! They do not attack but will defend themselves if disturbed or cornered.**

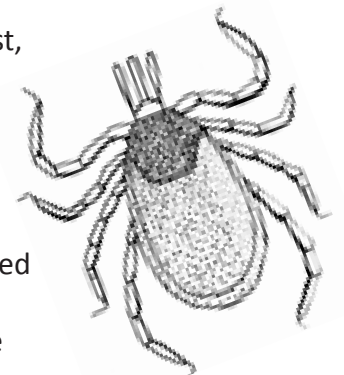
**What to Do:** If you encounter one refrain from touching or otherwise provoking it. Copperheads can often be found in holes, crevasses, or sunbathing upon rocks; refrain from reaching into obscured areas. Keep dogs leashed at all times (this is a park rule!) to prevent confrontation with the snake. The bite of the copperhead is poisonous but treatable; seek medical attention immediately if bitten. Call Park Police for medical attention: 201 768-6001.



## Ticks

**Identification:** Two species of tick are common in the park—the dog tick and the deer tick. Both have eight legs and are brown in color. Dog ticks are the larger of the two species (about the size of a watermelon seed). Deer ticks are much smaller (about the size of the period at the end of this sentence) and can carry Lyme disease. Ticks are found on bushes and tall grasses (you pick them up by brushing up against these plants). They are more prevalent in warm weather months, but can be found year-round. After the tick has climbed onto its host, it will attach and feed on blood.

**What to Do:** Wear protective clothing (i.e. long sleeves and socks) when in woods or grassy areas. Many insect repellants work against ticks and can be applied to clothing. Stay on maintained trails. Hikers may not notice that they have picked up a tick: check yourself and companions, including dogs. If a tick is found on clothing, dispose of it. If the tick has attached itself to skin, grasp it with tweezers, as close to the skin as possible, and gently pull it out. Wash the affected area thoroughly. If you suspect you have been bitten by a deer tick, Lyme disease can be avoided by prompt removal of the tick (you may also wish to visit a doctor—bring the removed tick with you if possible).



**Cliffs and steep slopes are dangerous!  
Stay on marked trails. Do not go beyond barriers.**