

Casey Turbyfill  
**Police Chief**  
chief@seesugar.com  
(828) 898-4349  
www.seesugar.com



**THE VILLAGE OF SUGAR MOUNTAIN POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**251 Dick Trundy Lane**  
**Sugar Mountain, NC 28604**

**REPORT TO VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**May 18, 2025**

All Police Department operations are operating as normal. Officer Sanchez is participating in the field training program and, once completed, will be assigned to the night shift. Officer Kiefer will then begin working the split shift. Officer Clark is expected to begin maternity leave during the first week of June.

Officers have been working to slow traffic throughout the Village. Several motorists have received warnings for speeding infractions, and State citations are also being issued. I would like to remind all motorists to drive safely on Village streets, as many pedestrians are out enjoying the beauty of the Village. The speed limit on Grouse Moor Drive and Sugar Mountain Drive is 25 MPH and 15 MPH on all other side streets.

Firearms annual in-service training will be completed on June 11 and June 18 for all full-time officers.

The summer concert series begins on Memorial Day. Officers will be conducting foot patrols during these events to help ensure traffic operations run smoothly and to maintain the general safety of visitors.

Officer Brown and I will be attending RADAR Recertification training on May 28. The class that was originally scheduled for April was cancelled. Officer Kiefer has completed RADAR Operator Certification, along with the mandatory field operation time, and received his General RADAR Operator Certification a few weeks ago.

Black bears have become more active with the warmer weather. Bears are capable of opening unlocked vehicle doors and entering vehicles. I ask that everyone be mindful of what is left inside their vehicles and remember to lock their doors. Bears are also attracted to bird feeders; if feeders are left out overnight, bears will find them. We currently have a yearling bear with an injured front right leg. Multiple sightings of this bear have been reported. We have contacted the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission officer for guidance. At this time, it is believed the bear will recover from the injury.

Coyote sightings have also been reported. While seeing coyotes during the daytime is not uncommon, there is a common misconception that coyotes are strictly nocturnal. Coyotes are primarily crepuscular, meaning they are most active during the twilight hours of dawn and dusk. A coyote passing through the area is not uncommon due to our geographic location. However, if you observe bold or aggressive behavior, please contact the Police Department. Bold behavior would include approaching humans or not running away when shouted at. Generally, coyotes will scare away easily with shouting or other loud noises.

### Incident Summaries

- **02/17/2026 – Child Neglect:** A report of child neglect was received back in February, and charges have been filed against the child’s father for misdemeanor child abuse. I would like to thank the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, Avery County Child Protective Services, and Watauga County Child Protective Services for their assistance.
- **04/30/2026 – Vehicle Crash:** Chief Turbyfill and Officer Brown responded to a motor vehicle collision on NC 184. It was determined that a vehicle traveling north crossed the center line, causing a head-on collision. The roadway was closed for a short period of time due to the entire roadway being blocked. One person was transported to the hospital by ambulance.
- **05/06/2026 – Found Person:** Officer Kiefer responded to the Grouse Moor area regarding a teenager walking along the roadway during the early morning hours. The teenager was found to be non-verbal and autistic, and officers were unable to communicate effectively with him. Chief Turbyfill responded to assist Officer Kiefer. After several hours, Officer Buchanan discovered that the teenager had been reported missing from Sugar Top. The teenager was safely reunited with his mother, and her contact information was obtained in the event a similar situation occurs in the future.
- **05/11/2026 – Warrant Service:** Chief Turbyfill served warrants on a female subject for stalking and cyberstalking.

Patrol Miles: 3,680

Business Checks: 369

Residence Checks: 318

Included with this report, are our monthly calls for service for your review.

Respectfully,



Casey Turbyfill, Chief

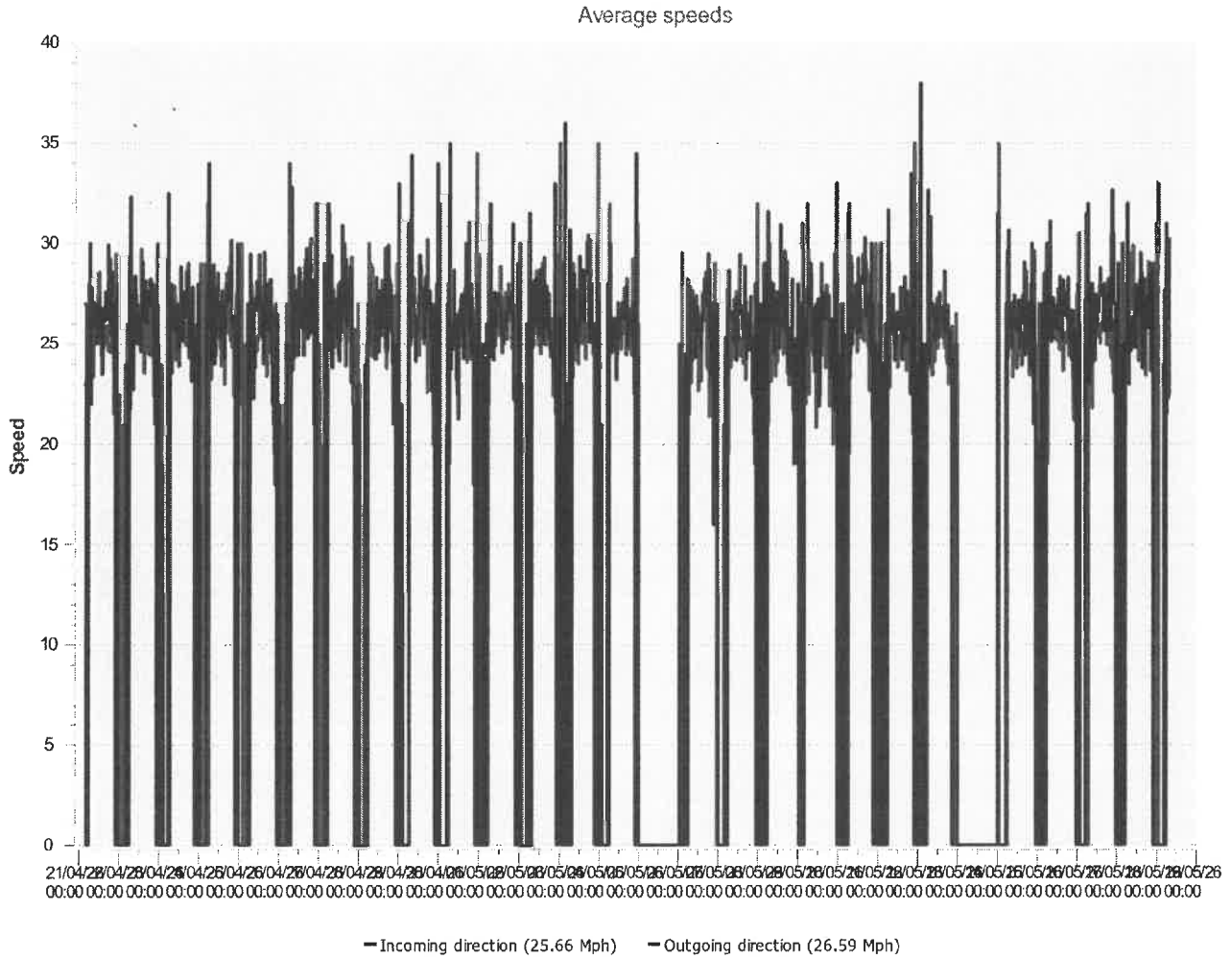
# Activity Log Event Summary (Totals)

## Sugar Mountain Police Department

(04/16/2026 - 05/18/2026)

<No Event Type Specified>	1	911 Hangup	2
ABC Closing	28	Accident	1
Administrative Duty	22	Alarm Activation	2
Animal Complaint	10	Assist County Officer	2
Assist Home Owner	2	Assist Medical	5
Assist Motorist	8	Assist Other Department	3
Assist Other Officer	6	Business Check	369
Calibrate Alco- Sensor	2	Citation	9
Civil Dispute	1	Civil Disturbance	1
Communicating Threats	1	Community Police Contact	16
Continue Investigation	2	Court	2
Deliver Letter	1	Deliver Town Council Packets	1
Direct Traffic	1	Drug Related Call	2
Escort	3	Foot Patrol	90
Fraud	2	Intoxicated Person	1
Investigation	4	Medical Call	1
Mental Subject	1	Misdemeanor Arrest	1
Missing Person	1	Noise Complaint	2
Object in Road	5	Open Door	1
Other	7	Parking Citation	1
Prowler	1	Residence Check	318
See Officer	8	Stationary Patrol	15
Stationary Radar	16	Suspicious Activity	3
Suspicious Vehicle	5	Training	51
Trash	1	Trespassing	2
Unwanted Person	1	Vehicle Maintenance	4
Vehicle Stop	36	Verbal Warning	12
Warning Citation	14	Wash/Clean Patrol Vehicle	1
Welfare Check	1		

**Total Number Of Events: 1,109**



**Start date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026 3:30 AM  
**End date:** Monday, May 18, 2026 8:30 AM

**Location:**

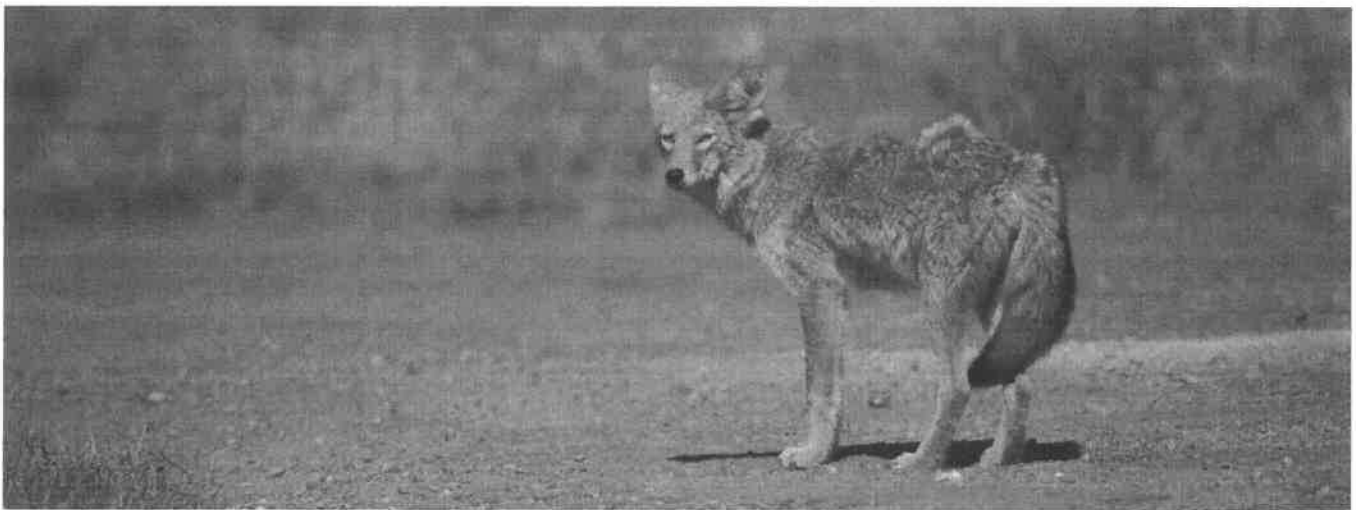
**Comments:**



RON JAMES/FLICKR

# COEXIST WITH *Coyotes*

If you live in North Carolina, you've probably seen a coyote, or know someone who has. The animal's unique ability to adapt to a wide range of habitats, including suburban environments, along with rapid human population growth across the state, has led to an increase in sightings. While in most cases coyotes are harmless, people can take steps to prevent conflicts with these animals.



MATT KNOTH/FLICKR

## **Coyote Quick Facts:**

### **Where did coyotes come from?**

Coyotes were once found only in the mid-western portion of North America. But as Europeans settled across the country, subsequent landscape changes, coupled with elimination of wolves, allowed the coyote to expand its range toward the eastern United States. By the 1980s coyotes started to appear in western North Carolina as a result of natural range expansion from our neighboring states. Coyotes are now established in all 100 counties of North Carolina and live in many towns.

### **What do coyotes look like?**

Often described as a "mangy-looking dog," coyotes weigh 20–45 pounds (similar to a mid-sized dog) with, typically, reddish to dark gray thick fur. They have long slender snouts, a bushy tail, and pointed ears.

### **Do they make noise?**

Yes, coyotes howl. While some find it unnerving, this howl serves many purposes, none of which are malicious. If you

hear a family of coyotes howling, it is easy to think that the area is overflowing with coyotes. In reality, there are usually only 2–6 coyotes, including the pups.

### **Will coyotes attack me or my child?**

Attacks on people, including children, are extremely rare. Normal coyote behavior is to be curious, but wary, when close to humans. Like other wildlife, they will become bold and habituated if people feed them, either purposely or inadvertently, such as with garbage or outdoor pet food. They rarely contract rabies.

### **Will coyotes attack my pet?**

Possibly. Coyotes view outdoor cats and small unleashed dogs as prey, while larger dogs are viewed as threats to their territory and/or their pups. Coyotes are most likely to confront larger dogs during the mating and pup birthing period, January through June.

### **What should I do if I see a coyote?**

Simply seeing a coyote is not cause for alarm. If you see a coyote frequently, you and your neighbors should take steps to prevent conflicts with it and other wildlife.



BYNCF BRADWORTH/FLICKR

## Preventing Conflicts with Coyotes

- Secure garbage in containers with tight-fitting lids, and take them out in the morning or pick up, not the night before. Coyotes and other wildlife will scavenge trash.
- Don't feed or try to pet coyotes. Feeding a coyote rewards that animal for coming in close proximity to people. Once a coyote becomes habituated, it loses its natural wariness of people and may become bold and aggressive.
- Protect your pets by keeping them inside, leashed, or inside a fenced area.
- Install coyote-proof fencing around your home to protect unsupervised pets.
- Feed pets indoors or remove food when your pet is finished eating outside. Coyotes and other wildlife are attracted to pet food left outdoors.
- Keep bird-feeder areas clean. Use bird feeders that keep seed off the ground. Coyotes are attracted to small animals congregating on the ground. If coyotes are frequently seen, remove all feeders.
- Close off crawl spaces under sheds and porches. Coyotes and other wildlife may use these spaces for resting and raising young.
- Cut back brushy edges in your yard, which provide cover for coyotes.
- Don't be intimidated by a coyote. Maintain its wariness by throwing a small object, such as a tennis ball, at it, making a loud noise, or spraying it with a hose. Let it know it is unwelcome near your home.
- Clear fallen fruit from around fruit trees. Coyotes are omnivorous and regularly consume fruit as part of their diet.
- Educate your neighbors. Your efforts to prevent coyote conflicts will be less effective if some neighbors are still providing foods.
- Allow hunters or trappers access to your property, so the local coyote population can be managed. Coyotes avoid areas in which threats are perceived.

### *If you already have a problem with a coyote:*

- Contact a Wildlife Damage Control Agent, a private individual who charges for his/her services. A list is available at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) under "Have a Wildlife Problem."
- Contact a licensed trapper during the regulated trapping season. See the list at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) under "Have a Wildlife Problem."
- Coyotes can be hunted year-round using firearms and archery equipment. However, check to see if local ordinances restrict the discharge of firearms. A landowner can shoot a coyote in the act of causing damage.

For answers to questions and technical guidance on addressing coyote concerns on your property call 866-318-2401 or 919-707-4011.



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission  
1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27606



JDM CULP/FLICKR



Mike Curraway/N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

# COEXIST WITH BLACK BEARS

The largest wild mammal in North Carolina, the black bear awes and fascinates residents with its glossy coat, powerful limbs and barrel-shaped body. The animal also contributes to the state’s heritage. Residents have hunted the animal since colonial times, when they relied on its meat for food and its hide for clothes. Today, with the state’s increasing human population, interactions with bears are rising across North Carolina. While sighting a bear from a distance can be entertaining and educational, you can take some simple steps to avoid interactions that might become dangerous.



Chris Bainbridge/flickr.com

## Black Bear Quick Facts:

### If I call the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, will someone trap and relocate a bear?

No—that would simply move the problem, rather than solve it, and there are no remote places to move bears where they won’t come into contact with people. The long-term solution is to modify your habits to prevent problems or resolve an existing conflict.

### Do grizzly bears live in North Carolina?

No. North Carolina has black bears, which are 5-6 feet long and 2-3 feet tall when on all fours. Females usually weigh between 100 and 300 pounds; males can weigh between 200 and 500 pounds. A grizzly bear is larger, more aggressive and lives in the western United States.

### What should I do if I see a bear?

Try to stay calm. Bears are usually wary of people unless humans feed or provoke them. Never feed, approach, surround or corner the bear. If it changes its natural behavior because of your presence, you are too close. Back away slowly and once you are a safe distance away from the bear, make lots of noise to frighten the bear away.

### Where in North Carolina do bears live?

The vast majority of bears live in the mountain and coastal regions of the state. However, black bears occasionally wander into the Piedmont region. While they live in the woods, bears occasionally wander into residential areas or towns in search of food. If left alone and not fed, these wandering bears will eventually leave the area.

### Will a black bear attack me?

Probably not. Black bears tend to be shy and non-aggressive toward humans. There has not been an unprovoked bear attack in North Carolina. However, if frequently fed, bears may become dependent on human foods, which may lead to increased interaction with people. Frequent human-bear contact can cause bears to become more bold and visible around humans.

Learn more about black bears in North Carolina. Visit [ncwildlife.org/bear](http://ncwildlife.org/bear)

## Live Responsibly with Black Bears. Be BearWise

### Follow the six BEARWISE Basics:

#### 1. NEVER FEED OR APPROACH BEARS

Feeding bears (intentionally or unintentionally) trains them to approach homes and people for more food. Bears will defend themselves if a person gets too close, so don't risk your safety and theirs!

#### 2. SECURE FOOD, GARBAGE AND RECYCLING

Food and food odors attract bears so don't reward them with easily available food or garbage.

#### 3. REMOVE BIRD FEEDERS WHEN BEARS ARE ACTIVE

Birdseed and other grains have a high calorie content making them very attractive to bears. The best way to avoid conflicts with bears is to remove feeders.

#### 4. NEVER LEAVE PET FOOD OUT

Feed outdoor pets portion sizes that will be completely eaten during each meal and remove leftover food and food bowl. Securely store these foods so nothing is available to bears.

#### 5. CLEAN AND STORE GRILLS

After you use an outdoor grill, clean it thoroughly and make sure that all grease and fat is removed. Store cleaned grills and smokers in a secure area that keeps bears out.

#### 6. LET NEIGHBORS KNOW

Share news with your friends and neighbors about recent bear activity and how to avoid bear conflicts. Bears have adapted to living near people; are you willing to adapt to living near bears?



[bearwise.org](http://bearwise.org)

## If you think you have a problem with a black bear:

- **Implement the 6 BearWise Basics**, as these will help resolve conflicts and prevent future conflicts. There are solutions and tips at [bearwise.org](http://bearwise.org).
- **Consider using a bear-resistant trash container.** More information: [bearwise.org/six-bearwise-basics/food-garbage/](http://bearwise.org/six-bearwise-basics/food-garbage/)
- **From a safe distance, frighten the bear.** Shouting, clapping, blasting a car horn or banging pots and pans together may scare off a bear temporarily.
- **Install electric fencing.** It protects beehives, dumpsters, gardens, compost piles, or other potential food sources. More information: [bearwise.org/bear-safety-tips/livestock-crops/](http://bearwise.org/bear-safety-tips/livestock-crops/)
- Black bears can be hunted during the regulated hunting season. However, check to see if local ordinances restrict the discharge of firearms and visit [ncwildlife.org/hunting](http://ncwildlife.org/hunting) for hunting season dates, license requirements, and other restrictions.
- If a black bear has caused property damage, contact the Wildlife Resources Commission at 866-318-2401. The agency may issue you a depredation permit after conducting a site visit, which would allow you to shoot the bear causing damage.