

# AUDIENCE PARTICIPATIONS

**Bear:** Grrrr-Grrr-Grrr

**Fire:** Crackle-Crackle-Burn

**Ranger/Warden:** Howdy folks!

**Cub:** Do Your Best

**Smokey:** Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires!

One spring day, high in the Capitan Mountains of New Mexico, a brown **BEAR CUB** and his mother went for a stroll in the woods. The forest was warm and dry, but alive with the smells and sounds of the season. Blue jays and swallows sang high in the lush green tress. Rabbits and mice scampered through flowery meadows. Squirrels and chipmunks scurried straight up the trunks of fragrant pines. The **Cub** was just three months old and weighted only four pounds. But he was very clever. He had already learned where to find berries and honey to eat and fresh water to drink. He also knew what to do in case of danger: climb a tree. And that is what saved his life. The **Cub** and his mother had not walked far when panic broke out around them. Birds began screeching and flying in all directions. Rabbits rushed out into the open. Deer leapt left and right around the trees. The forest had caught **Fire**. And the **Fire** was coming their way. The **Bear** nudge her **Cub**, and both began to run. The smoke grew thicker and thicker. Fiery cinders filled the sky. The little **Cub** ran until he could run no more. Finally, he stopped to look for his mother. She was gone! In the confusion, she had lost sight of him. For the first time in his life, the little **Cub** was alone and scared. What should he do? Then he remembered what his mother had taught him: When in danger, climb a tree. So up he climbed into a tall tree. He wrapped his legs around the trunk. The frightened **Cub** closed his eyes and clung tightly. Below him, the **Fire** roared on. Meanwhile, forest **Rangers** fought the dreadful flames. The **Fire** was so big that foresters called in a special troop of **Fire** firefighting soldiers to help them. One of the **Fire** fighters noticed a small Bear Cub in a tree. Before the firefighters could reach the **Cub**, a blast of fire cut off their path. They hit the ground and covered their faces until the flames blew over. The **Fire** roared around the tree where the little **Bear** clung. It singed his fur and burned his paws, but he held on. Finally the **Fire** passed, and the **Cub** opened his eyes. he saw that the trees in his forest home were now black and leafless. The air felt dark and greasy. The birds and animals all had gone. Then the **Cub** heard a strange sound and saw a strange creature. Gently, the creature - a man - pulled him from the charred tree trunk. The **Bear Cub** had never seen a human before. "What's you name, little fella?" the man asked, as the smoke rose all around them. "I think **Smokey** is a very good name for you." The firefighter brought **Smokey** to a game **Warden** named Ray Bell. Mr. Bell took care of wounded animals. He knew just what to do. First, he took **Smokey** to see Dr. Smith, who bandaged the cub's burned leg and paws. Then Mr. Bell brought **Smokey** home to his family. Mrs. Bell, four-year old Judy, and even their cocker spaniel, Jet, welcomed the little **Cub**. **Smokey** had a new family - and a new home. Everyone in the family helped **Smokey** recover. Mrs. Bell fed him oatmeal and honey and nursed him back to health. Judy cheered him up with games and cuddles. And Jet let **Smokey** curl up beside him and eat from his dish. In a few short weeks, **Smokey** was strong and healthy. The little **Bear** who had lost his home and family was going to be all right. The Bell family and the other game **Wardens** knew that **Smokey's** experience could serve as an important lesson to others. They story of what had happened to **Smokey's** home in the Capitan Mountains could help

teach children how to prevent forest **Fires**. But the job meant moving **Smokey** to the National Zoo in Washington D.C. So the Bells said good-bye to their special friend, and **Smokey** boarded an airplane with his name on it. By the time **Smokey** got to Washington, people all over the country had heard the story of the forest **Fire** and the rescue of the little **Bear**. His picture appeared in newspapers nationwide. **Smokey Bear** was a national hero.