

## Snakes are good neighbors!

*and are more helpful than harmful*

**More snakes = less disease!** Snakes eat vectors and carriers of many diseases, including Plague and Lyme disease.

**Snakes are effective, all-natural pest control.** Snakes won't raid your garden or chew up your wires, but they will eat the critters that do. And due to their non-competitive nature and ability to fast for long periods, Vipers (Rattlesnakes, Copperheads, Cottonmouths) are more effective at controlling prey populations than bird or mammal predators.



Snakes, like this Eastern Patch-nosed, are effective, all-natural pest control.

### **Still don't want Vipers for neighbors?**

Make friends with other snakes! Kingsnakes, Racers, and other non-venomous snakes eat venomous ones. Others, like Gophersnakes and Bullsnares, compete with venomous snakes for food.



*Won't you be my  
neighbor?*

Snakes, like this Sonoran Whipsnake, are timid animals that are an essential part of a vibrant, functioning planet.

### *Snakes Need Your Help*

Fear and misunderstanding impede snake conservation efforts and result in merciless persecution.

### *Advocates for Snake Preservation*

We envision a world where **snakes are respected & appreciated** instead of feared and hated.

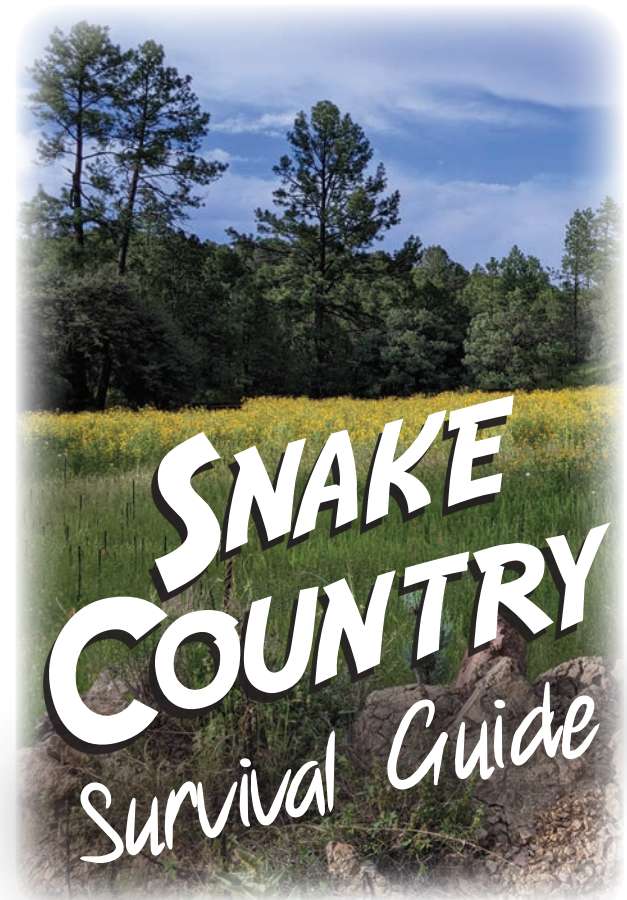
Your support enables us to:

**Tell stories** about wild snake behavior to counter prevailing myths and make snakes more familiar and less scary.

**Provide solutions** to human-snake conflicts that sometimes end badly for people and often prove fatal for snakes.

*We change how people view & treat snakes*

Learn more at:  
[LivingWithSnakes.org](http://LivingWithSnakes.org)  
[info@snakes.ngo](mailto:info@snakes.ngo)  
575-956-5231



## *Worried about snakes?*

Snakes can be scary, but you can learn to live safely with them.

**Understand why snakes  
are in your yard  
(and even appreciate  
your scaley neighbors!)**

## Create a safe, wildlife-friendly yard

Use lights when walking at night.

Create clear, wide paths for safe walking.

Look before placing your hands and feet.

If you can't see, use a long stick to disturb vegetation and hidden animals.

Don't use bird netting or glue traps (*they often kill trapped animals*).

Keep pets indoors or under control.



Sign courtesy of Central Coast Snake Services

## Make your yard less attractive to snakes

*Food, water, and shelter for snakes and their prey need to go.*

Don't feed or water pets or wildlife on the ground.

Eliminate debris piles and other shelters.

Reduce lush or overgrown vegetation.

👉 *Horse hair ropes, mothballs, and commercial repellants are not effective.*



A female Rock Rattlesnake resting in a yard

## Living with venomous snakes

If you find one in a high-traffic area (in your house, on the patio):

- Wait for him to move,
- Use a long-handled broom to gently encourage him to move, or
- Call a wildlife professional. Let them know you don't want him moved far because *this is his home too*.

Snakes are important predators *and prey*. Their presence indicates a healthy and productive ecosystem.

### Fence snakes out

The most effective fences to keep snakes out should:

- Be 4' high with buried footing.
- Be made of smooth, solid material or ¼" or finer hardware cloth or wire mesh.
- Have their drainages covered with ¼" or finer hardware cloth or wire mesh.

*All snakes can climb*, so trim trees and shrubs that give climbers a way in.

## Get to know your neighbors

Learn their habits and avoid their areas or observe from a safe distance

You could see snakes taking care of their kids, hunting, or babysitting their neighbors' kids.



A Gophersnake (Bullsnake) hunting around a house

## Killing or handling snakes is a good way to get bitten

Most bites happen to people who try to handle or kill snakes; the rest are due to people looking before placing their hands or feet.

Once you spot a snake, the risk of a bite is virtually zero since you can keep a safe distance.

Snakes presumed dead can bite.

Shooting snakes can result in people getting shot because their size and shape make them easy to miss.



A basking Black-necked Gartersnake

*If someone is bitten by a venomous snake seek medical attention immediately.*

The only effective treatment for snakebite is antivenom, so don't waste your time with snakebite kits or other home remedies.