



Leave No Trace

AWARENESS

Leave No Trace



As long as I'll live, I'll hear the waterfalls and birds and winds sing.

I'll interpret the rocks, learn the language of flood, storm, and the avalanche.

I'll acquaint myself with the glaciers and wild gardens, and get as near the heart of the world as I can.

- John Muir

Why Leave No Trace?



- 📄 **Use of designated wilderness areas has increased from 4 million people in 1964, to nearly 30 million users today.**
- 📄 **Cities and populations continue to grow, encroaching upon wild lands and recreation areas.**
- 📄 **Most people lack outdoor ethics education.**

History of Leave No Trace

- 📄 **The National Outdoor Leadership School and the U.S. Forest Service created a partnership in 1991 to produce, develop, and distribute Leave No Trace education materials and training curricula.**
- 📄 **Soon afterward, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service joined together to endorse and support Leave No Trace.**
- 📄 **Leave No Trace Inc. was formed in 1994 to serve as a clearinghouse and umbrella organization for the Leave No Trace program.**

Purpose of Leave No Trace

- 📄 The Leave No Trace program is dedicated to promoting and inspiring responsible outdoor behavior through education, research, and partnerships.
- 📄 The Boy Scouts of America is a proud supporter of Leave No Trace because the principles of Leave No Trace are consistent with the mission of the Boy Scouts of America as stated in the Scout Oath and Law.

BSA Outdoor Code

As an American, I will

Be clean in my outdoor manners,

I will treat the outdoors as a heritage. I will take care of it for myself and others. I will keep my trash and garbage out of lakes, streams, fields, woods, and roadways.

Be careful with fire,

I will prevent wildfire. I will build my fires only where they are appropriate. When I have finished using fire, I will make sure it is cold out. I will leave a clean fire ring, or remove all evidence of my fire.

Be considerate in the outdoors,

I will treat public and private property with respect. I will use low impact methods of hiking and camping.

Be conservation-minded.

I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, wildlife, and energy. I will urge others to do the same.

Practicing Leave No Trace

- ☞ **The principles of Leave No Trace apply to backcountry and wilderness areas where visitors generally spend several days or more.**
- ☞ **There are also front country guidelines that apply to intensively used sites close to inhabited areas where visitors generally spend the day hiking, picnicking, or simply enjoying being outdoors.**
- ☞ **Use your judgement and experience to tailor camping and hiking practices to the environment where the outing will occur.**

Teaching Leave No Trace



- 📄 **Leave No Trace applies Scouts of all ages and their adult leaders.**
- 📄 **Teaching should be appropriate to the age of participants and the locations they hike, camp, or visit.**

Seven Principles of Leave No Trace



- 📖 **Plan Ahead and Prepare.**
- 📖 **Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces.**
- 📖 **Dispose of Waste Properly (Pack It In; Pack It Out)**
- 📖 **Leave What You Find.**
- 📖 **Minimize Campfire Impacts.**
- 📖 **Respect Wildlife.**
- 📖 **Be Considerate of Other Visitors.**

Plan Ahead and Prepare



- ☞ **Proper trip planning and preparation helps backcountry travelers accomplish trip goals safely while minimizing damage to the land.**
- ☞ **Poor planning often results in miserable campers and damage to natural and cultural resources.**

Plan Ahead and Prepare



8 Elements to Consider when Planning a Trip

- ☞ Identify and record the goals of your trip.
- ☞ Identify the skills and abilities of the participants.
- ☞ Select destinations that match the goals and skills.
- ☞ Seek information about the area your group plans to visit.
- ☞ Prepare for the weather.
- ☞ Choose gear/clothing for comfort, safety, and to follow LNT.
- ☞ Axes and saws are not needed.
- ☞ Plan trip activities to match the abilities of the group.
- ☞ Evaluate your trip upon return; note changes for next time.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces



☞ **Concentrate activities in heavily used areas.**

☞ **Spread use and impact in pristine areas.**

Durability refers to the ability of surfaces or vegetation to withstand wear or remain in a stable condition.

Frequency of use increases the likelihood that a large area will be trampled or that a small area will be trampled multiple times.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces



Surface Durability

- Rock, Sand, and Gravel
- Ice and Snow
- Vegetation
- Cryptobiotic Crust
- Desert Puddles and Mud Holes

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces



Camp on Durable Surfaces -- High-Use Areas

- Avoid camping close to water and trails
- Select a site that is not visible to others
- Camp on highly impacted sites
- Concentrate tents, traffic routes, and kitchen areas in the center of already impacted areas.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces



Camp on Durable Surfaces – Pristine Areas

- Disburse tents and kitchen on durable sites.
- Plan ahead to wear soft shoes around camp to minimize the impact on vegetation and compaction of the of the soil, which may stifle roots.
- Minimize activity around the kitchen and places where packs are stashed.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces



📄 **When Breaking Camp, take time to naturalize the site.**

- **Cover scuffed areas with native materials.**
- **Brush out footprints.**
- **Rake matted grassy areas with a stick.**

Dispose of Waste Properly



- ❏ **Pack it in - Pack it out. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.**
- ❏ **Dispose of solid human waste in cat holes at least 200 feet from water, camp and trails.**
- ❏ **Toilet paper should be either thoroughly buried in a cat hole or placed in plastic bags and packed out.**
- ❏ **To wash yourself or your dishes carry water 200 feet away from streams lakes and use small amount of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.**

Leave What you Find



- 📄 **Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.**
- 📄 **Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts**
- 📄 **Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.**
- 📄 **Do not build structures, furniture or dig trenches.**

Minimize Campfire Impact



- 📄 **Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a light-weight stove for cooking.**
- 📄 **Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans or mound fires.**
- 📄 **Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.**
- 📄 **Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.**

Respect Wildlife



- 📄 **Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.**
- 📄 **Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to dangers.**
- 📄 **Protect wildlife from your food by storing food and trash properly.**
- 📄 **Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: nesting, raising young, during winter.**

Be Considerate of Other Visitors



- ☞ **Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.**
- ☞ **Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.**
- ☞ **Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.**
- ☞ **Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.**
- ☞ **Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.**

LEAVE NO TRACE - SUMMARY



**Leave No Trace is an attitude,
not just a set of rules.**

- **Make Leave No Trace a habit.
Practice it wherever you go.**
- **Teach Leave No Trace by example
and look for teachable moments.**

References



- 📖 **Scouts BSA Handbook**
- 📖 **Boy Scout Field Book**
- 📖 **The principles of Leave No Trace**
- 📖 **www.Int.org**
- 📖 **www.scouting.org**

Leave No Trace



Wilderness is a necessity... a fountain of life... thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people who are beginning to find out that going to the mountain is going home; that wilderness is a necessity; that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life.

-John Muir

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**CLICK TO
RECORD COMPLETION
OF THIS TRAINING**