



Leave No Trace

TRAINING OUTLINE



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Leave No Trace Training Outline

Introduction

Each year, use of wilderness and backcountry areas continues to increase dramatically. Use of designated wilderness areas increased from 4 million people in 1964, to 7 million people in 1974, to 15 million in 1984, and 21 million in 1994. Soaring use of the backcountry means that impact on ground cover, plants, wildlife, trails, and streams has become alarmingly severe. With accelerating use of backcountry areas continuing, reducing the impact of human presence has become increasingly important.

History

The National Outdoor Leadership School and the U.S. Forest Service created a partnership in 1991 to produce, develop, and distribute Leave No Trace educational 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.

In 1994, Leave No Trace Inc. was formed to serve as a clearinghouse and umbrella organization for the Leave No Trace program. Since then, Leave No Trace Inc. has forged partnerships with organizations from federal land agencies, corporate sponsors, and retail stores, to guide services, youth-serving organizations, and other audiences. In 1998, the Boy Scouts of America launched a Leave No Trace emphasis and distributed requirements for earning a colorful Leave No Trace patch.

Purpose

Leave No Trace 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. This is especially so because the principles of Leave No Trace are consistent with the mission of the Boy Scouts of America—to instill the values of the Scout Oath and Law in young people and to prepare them to make ethical and moral choices throughout their lifetimes. Leave No Trace reminds us to respect the rights of other users of the outdoors as well as future generations. Appreciation for our natural environment and knowledge of the interrelationships of nature bolster our respect and reverence toward the environment and nature. This training is designed to familiarize adult Scouters, older Boy Scouts, and Venturers with the principles of Leave No Trace.

Practicing Leave No Trace

The principles of Leave No Trace apply to backcountry and wilderness areas where visitors generally spend several days or more. The frontcountry guidelines apply to intensively used sites close to inhabited areas where visitors generally spend the day hiking, picnicking, or simply enjoying being outdoors.

Use your judgment and experience to tailor camping and hiking practices to the environment where the outing will occur. Forest, mountain, seashore, plains, freshwater, and wetland environments all require different minimum impact practices. Request information from the local land managing agency or landowner.

Teaching Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace applies to Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers, as well as adult leaders. Teaching should be appropriate to the age of participants and the locations where they hike, camp, or visit. Leave No Trace Frontcountry Guidelines, No. 13-032, apply to Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts, who can earn a colorful patch, No. 08797.

This training is intended for a roundtable, camporee, summer camp, unit campout, or other suitable occasion to acquaint leaders and youth with the principles of Leave No Trace. This can be accomplished in less than one hour. A weekend or longer training period is used to teach practical applications of Leave No Trace in the outdoors.

Masters of Leave No Trace have completed a five-day course on the principles and practices of Leave No Trace. They have also received training in methods of effectively teaching the Leave No Trace message to diverse audiences. Masters of Leave No Trace are empowered to conduct an overnight course to teach Trainers, who may teach adult leaders or youths. Ideally, a Master or Trainer of Leave No Trace should be recruited to teach and demonstrate practical applications. To locate a Master of Leave No Trace, contact Leave No Trace Inc. at 800-332-4100 or on the Internet at <http://www.LNT.org>.

Learning Objectives As a result of this training participants will be able to:

- Explain the importance of Leave No Trace.
- Describe what Leave No Trace is and where it applies.
- State the principles of Leave No Trace and the frontcountry guidelines.
- Agree to practice Leave No Trace.

Materials for Distribution

The Principles of Leave No Trace flier, No. 21-105 and Leave No Trace Frontcountry Guidelines, No. 13-032 (one per participant)

Review the Guidelines

Using the The Principles of Leave No Trace, review the principles of Leave No Trace:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare.
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces.
3. Dispose of Waste Properly (Pack It In; Pack It Out).
4. Leave What You Find.
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts.
6. Respect Wildlife.
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors.

For neighborhood parks and areas that are easily accessible by vehicle and mostly enjoyed by day-users, the frontcountry guidelines apply. These frontcountry guidelines apply to most Cub Scout outdoor activities.

1. **Plan Ahead.** Watch for hazards and follow all the rules of the park or outdoor facility. Remember proper clothing, sunscreen, hats, first-aid kits, and plenty of drinking water. Use the buddy system. Make sure you carry your family's name, phone number, and address.
2. **Stick to Trails.** Stay on marked trails whenever possible. Short-cutting trails causes the soil to wear away or to be packed, which eventually kills trees and other vegetation. Trampled wildflowers and vegetation take years to recover.

- 3. Manage Your Pet.** Managing your pet will keep people, dogs, livestock, and wildlife from feeling threatened. Make sure your pet is on a leash or controlled at all times. Do not let your pet approach or chase wildlife. When animals are chased or disturbed, they change eating patterns and use more energy, which may result in poor health or death.

Take care of your pet's waste. Take a small shovel or scoop and a pick-up bag to pick up your pet's waste—wherever it is left. Place the waste bags in a trash can for disposal.

- 4. Leave What You Find.** When visiting any outdoor area, try to leave it the same as you find it. The less impact we each make, the longer we will enjoy what we have. Even picking flowers denies others the opportunity to see them and reduces seeds, which means fewer plants next year.

Use established restrooms. Graffiti and vandalism have no place anywhere, and they spoil the experience for others. Leave your mark by doing an approved conservation project.

- 5. Respect Other Visitors.** Expect to meet other visitors. Be courteous and make room for others. Control your speed when biking or running. Pass with care and let others know before you pass. Avoid disturbing others by making noise or playing loud music.

Respect "No Trespassing" signs. If property boundaries are unclear, do not enter the area.

- 6. Trash Your Trash.** Make sure all trash is put in a bag or trash receptacle. Trash is unsightly and ruins everyone's outdoor experience. Your trash can kill wildlife. Even materials such as orange peels, apple cores, and food scraps take years to break down and may attract unwanted pests that could become a problem.

Recognition

The requirements for Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers to earn the Leave No Trace patch, No. 08630, may be found in the Principles of Leave No Trace, No. 21-105.

Other Resources

For copies of pamphlets pertinent to specific outdoor environments, contact Leave No Trace Inc., P.O. Box 997, Boulder, CO 80306; telephone 303-442-8222.

Conclusion

Close the session by restating the importance of setting the example by following the principles of Leave No Trace whenever you use the outdoors. Individual commitment helps spread awareness and respect for the out-of-doors. As Waite Phillips, who donated land for the Philmont Scout Ranch to the Boy Scouts of America, said, "We should all recognize that every right implies a responsibility, every opportunity an obligation, every position a duty, and that the most effective sermon is expressed in deeds instead of words."



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21-113
2007 Printing

