

Leave No Trace

Featured Website of the Month

Leave No Trace

<http://archive.Int.org/LNTPublications/LNTstandardtag.php>

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the rules and learn about the area you'll be visiting.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Using hard surfaces prevents damage to soil and plants. Hard surfaces are established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses, and snow.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Use trashcans for your garbage. If you are visiting an area where there are no trashcans, then take all trash away with you, including leftover food, litter, and toilet paper, in a sealed plastic bag. Human waste should be buried in a small hole 15-20cm (6-8inches) deep and at least 60 meters (200 feet) from water, camp, and trails.

Leave What You Find

- Leave rocks, plants, arrowheads, and other objects so that others can enjoy them, too. Do not build structures or dig trenches.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light. Where fires are allowed, use fire rings that are already there and keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand. Be sure to burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, and then scatter cool ashes. (And remember: Adults should always be involved in building, burning, and putting out campfires.)

Respect Wildlife

- Watch wildlife from a distance and don't follow or approach animals. Never feed animals. Control pets at all times, or better yet, leave them at home.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and remember that they want to enjoy the outdoors, too. Take breaks and make camps away from trails and other visitors. Let nature's sounds – not radios or music players – be the ones heard. Avoid loud voices and noises.



High-Use Areas

In high-use areas, campers should concentrate their activities where vegetation is already absent. Minimize resource damage by using existing trails and selecting designated or existing campsites. Keep campsites small by arranging tents in close proximity.

Pristine Areas

In more remote, less-traveled areas, campers should generally spread out. When hiking, take different paths to avoid creating new trails that cause erosion. When camping, disperse tents and cooking activities—and move camp daily to avoid creating permanent-looking campsites. Avoid places where impacts are just beginning to show. Always choose the most durable surfaces available: rock, gravel, sand, compacted soil, dry grasses, or snow.

The LNT Song

From Scouting Ahead

(Sung to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

*Sack, sack, sack your trash,
Put it in a bag.
Pack it out on your back,
Cause leaving it's a drag.*

*Sniff, sniff, sniff the flowers,
Leave them where they grow.
Endangered plants you pick today
Your kids may never know.*

*Camp, camp far away
From the fragile shore,
And when you do you'll save the lake.
It's clean water we're working for.*

*Cook, cook, cook your food
On a backpack stove.
Save the snags and save the trees
Cause wilderness is gold.*

*Dig, dig, dig a hole
About six inches down;
When nature calls, bury your waste
And leave it underground.*

*Leave, leave, leave no trace
With your camping gear,
Cause no one, no one in the woods
Wants to see you've been here.*

*Think, plan, and be aware
In nature's fragile place.
In wilderness we're visitors;
Protect this unspoiled space.*