

Treading Lightly on the Land

Have you ever arrived at a campsite only to find that the people who used it before left it trashed? On a hike, have you ever come across trees that have been defaced by carvings, or meadows that have been trampled by careless campers?

Scouts know better than to do those things. We know to take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints. But we can do more. As cities grow and populations encroach upon our wild lands and recreation areas, we must do more than just pick up litter and extinguish campfires. We must learn how to help maintain the integrity and character of the outdoors for all living things and other visitors, and we must set the example and teach other people to do the same.

Scouting has a long and distinguished tradition of conservation leadership and environmental protection, beliefs preserved in the Outdoor Code and Scouting's Wilderness Use Policy. The Outdoor Code guides our conduct in the outdoors, establishing our goals of a clean environment unaffected by our passage—and our goal of environmental stewardship. The BSA's outdoor ethics builds on that foundation by utilizing the seven principles of Leave No Trace and the five principles of Tread Lightly! Scouts and Scout leaders have a principled framework that helps them make proper, ethical decisions while enjoying the outdoors.

Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! are not simply programs for camping. They are at the cutting edge of Scouting values. This month, you will learn how the BSA's outdoor ethics let you enjoy the outdoors while ensuring future generations can do the same.

Objectives

This month's activities should:

- Demonstrate the need for outdoor ethics
- Lead to greater appreciation for the outdoors and a strong determination to follow the Outdoor Code
- Teach the seven principles of Leave No Trace
- Introduce the principles of Tread Lightly!
- Help Scouts develop outdoor skills that minimize impacts
- Help Scouts grow in skill and confidence in their ability to enjoy the outdoors responsibly

RELATED ADVANCEMENT AND AWARDS

- Scout Badge requirement 7
- Second Class requirement 2
- First Class requirement 3
- *Backpacking, Camping, Climbing, Fishing, Fly-Fishing, Hiking, and Sustainability* merit badges
- Backpacking, Fishing, and Snow Camping Varsity Scout activity pins
- Ranger: Leave No Trace core requirement 6



Leadership Planning

As a leadership team, you may want to discuss the following items when choosing outdoor ethics as your program feature during your planning meetings.

1. What is our unit's current skill level?
2. Which members of our unit have taken Leave No Trace or Tread Lightly! training?
3. Who in our unit has been on a backcountry adventure and practiced Leave No Trace?
4. Do we know any experts in outdoor ethics?
5. What will we do for our main event to practice outdoor ethics?
6. Has our unit experienced problems in the past related to outdoor ethics?
7. Where will we do our main event?
8. How can we involve the parents?
9. What should be changed on the sample meeting plans to meet our needs?

PARENTS CAN HELP WITH THE OUTDOOR ETHICS PROGRAM FEATURE BY:

1. Preparing materials for this month's games
2. Becoming Leave No Trace trainers or master educators
3. Becoming Tread Trainers or Tread Masters
4. Providing transportation for the main event
5. Assisting onsite with the main event

OUTDOOR ETHICS

Scouting provides many opportunities to plan and participate in rugged outdoor adventures. For more than 60 years, the Outdoor Code has served as an aspirational statement of everything that a Scout or Venturer seeks to achieve while in the outdoors.

The Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to:

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 when and where they are permitted and 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 follow the principles of Leave No Trace for all outdoors activities.

Be conservation-minded. I will learn about and practice good conservation of soils, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, wildlife, and energy. I will urge others to do the same.

The Outdoor Code served as the roots of a more comprehensive wilderness ethic called Leave No Trace, which was developed by the National Park Service, the United States Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. Leave No Trace is an awareness and an attitude rather than a set of rules. We should all practice Leave No Trace in our thinking and actions—wherever we go. 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.



The Principles of Leave No Trace:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare.

Proper trip planning and preparation help hikers and campers accomplish trip goals safely and enjoyably while minimizing damage to natural and cultural resources. Campers who plan ahead can minimize their impact by following area regulations such as observing limitations on group size. Schedule your trek to avoid times of high use. Obtain permits or permission to use the area for your trek. Proper planning helps ensure:



- Low-risk adventures because campers obtained sufficient information to prepare for a safe visit
- Properly sized and located campsites because enough time was allotted to reach the destination
- Appropriate campfires and minimal trash because of careful meal planning and food repackaging
- Comfortable and fun camping and hiking experiences because the outing matches the skill level of participants

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces.

Damage to land occurs when visitors repeatedly trample vegetation and soils off-trail or near campsites. This can create undesirable informal trails, expand campsites, or erode soils.



"When you leave (camp), leave nothing but your thanks and a good name."

—Lord Baden-Powell

Should you concentrate activity or spread out?

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

In more remote, less-traveled areas, campers should generally spread out and disperse trampling. Avoid creating new trails, which can cause erosion. When camping, disperse tents and cooking activities—and move camp daily to avoid creating permanent campsites. Avoid places where impacts are just beginning to show. Choose the most durable surfaces available: rock, gravel, sand, compacted soil, dry grasses, or snow. Practices vary by environment and activity, so learn and apply the ones most applicable to Leave No Trace for your group. Check with land managers for more specific guidance.

- ### 3. Dispose of Waste Properly (Pack It In, Pack It Out).
- Inspect and clean your lunch site or campsite of trash and spilled foods and carry them out. Accept the challenge of packing out all trash and leftover food, including any left by others.

Use toilets when available, or be prepared to dig a cathole 6 to 8 inches deep and at least 200 feet (80 steps) from water, campsites, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole with dead leaves, pine needles, or other ground cover. Pack out all hygiene products. Walk at least 100 feet (40 steps) away from water sources and campsites to dispose of urine, toothpaste, cooking water, and strained dishwater and to wash bodies, dishes, or clothing. (Dispose of soapy water at least 200 feet away.) Minimize the use of soap, or use hand sanitizer.

- ### 4. Leave What You Find.
- Allow others a sense of discovery and preserve the past. Leave rocks, plants, animals, archaeological artifacts, and other objects as you find them. Examine but do not touch cultural or historical structures and artifacts. It's illegal to damage or remove artifacts.



Minimize site alterations—good campsites are found, not made. Do not dig tent trenches or build lean-tos, tables, or chairs. Refrain from damaging trees with nails, axes, saws, or knives. On established campsites, dismantle user-built structures such as log seats or tables. On dispersed “pristine” sites, camouflage the site with rocks, organic litter, and branches to discourage others from reusing it.

5. **Minimize Campfire Impacts.** Some people would not think of camping without a campfire. Yet nature in many areas has been degraded by overuse of fires and increasing demand for firewood. Lightweight camp stoves make low-impact camping possible by encouraging a shift away from fires. Stoves are fast, eliminate the need for firewood, and make cleanup after meals easier. After dinner, enjoy a candle lantern instead of a fire.

Choose not to have a fire in areas where wood is scarce—at higher elevations, in heavily used areas with limited wood, or in desert settings. If you build a fire, use an existing campfire ring, and conserve wood for others by keeping it small and burning it for a short time.

Leave woods tools at home, and collect only dead and downed wood no bigger than your wrist that can be broken by hand. Refrain from burning trash or food, as these attract wildlife and can produce toxic fumes and ashes. When possible, burn all wood to ash, and be certain all wood and crushed coals are wet and dead out before cleaning the fire pit of trash and scattering the coals and ashes in offsite areas. Don't forget to clean out the fire ring of debris (paper, foil, etc.), which should be packed out with the rest of your trash.

6. **Respect Wildlife.** Quick movements and loud noises are stressful to animals. You are too close if an animal alters its normal activities. Considerate campers:
- Observe wildlife from a distance to avoid disturbing it.
 - Store food securely and keep all garbage and food scraps away from animals so they will not acquire bad habits. Never feed wildlife; keep wildlife wild.
 - In bear country, store all food, trash, and scented articles out of reach of animals using approved food storage devices, or hang 12 feet from the ground and 6 feet out from a limb or trunk.
7. **Be Considerate of Other Visitors.** Thoughtful campers respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Travel and camp in small groups (no more than the group size prescribed by land managers).
 - Let nature's sounds prevail. Keep the noise down and leave radios, electronic devices, and pets at home.



- Select campsites away from other groups to help preserve their solitude.
- Always travel and camp quietly to avoid disturbing other visitors.
- Avoid “taking over” vistas, attraction features, or camping areas; inconsiderate behaviors degrade the experiences of other visitors.
- Respect private property and leave gates (open or closed) as they were found.
- Take breaks off-trail on durable surfaces.



Did you know that Leave No Trace applies to frontcountry camping, too, such as a camping trip to a troop family's pasture? Imagine what would happen if it rained while your troop trailer was parked in the pasture far from a road. Removing it would tear up the pasture, causing damage that would take months to repair. It would be better to camp closer to the road, haul your gear in by hand, or drop off your gear and remove the trailer before rain sets in.

TREAD LIGHTLY!

Outdoor ethics draws guidance for many specialized outdoor activities from Tread Lightly! This organization's mission is to promote responsible outdoor recreation through ethics education and stewardship programs.

- T** Travel responsibly.
- R** Respect the rights of others.
- E** Educate yourself.
- A** Avoid sensitive areas.
- D** Do your part.





OUTDOOR ETHICS GAMES

What Bothers You the Most?

Equipment: Set of 27 index cards; each card shows a negative impact often found when camping and hiking (trash on the trail, half-burned firewood, initials carved into a tree, etc.)

How to play: Lay out three cards and ask, "What bothers you the most?" Instruct players to stand next to that card. Each group should then defend its choice. Put the card with the most support in a winners' pile. Continue until all 27 cards have been used, then conduct subsequent rounds with the remaining cards. Play a final runoff round with the three remaining cards. Ask everyone which impact bothered them the most and why.

Surface Hopscotch

Equipment: A set of surface hopscotch cards per patrol (durable surfaces in bold), large enough to land on—**rock**, cryptobiotic soil, tree roots, **snow**, moss, **sand**, lichen, **dry grass**, **gravel**, leafy vegetation, **ice**, wetlands, wildflowers, **impacted trail**

How to play: Patrols line up facing away from the hopscotch course. Lay out the surface cards in a pattern for each patrol, with one durable and one nondurable surface card in each row. On the leader's signal, the players turn around one at a time and race through the hopscotch course, stepping only on durable surfaces. If a player correctly negotiates the course, the next player takes a turn. If a player incorrectly steps on a nondurable surface, he or she is sent to the end of the team's line. Continue until all members successfully complete the course.

Scoring: The first team to finish the course wins.

Trash Timeline

Equipment: As many items of trash as you can collect from the biodegradation chart (see box), sticky notes for each patrol

How to play: Line up the trash items in random order. Have each team place a sticky note next to each item that includes the team name and an estimate of the time (a couple of days to a million years) it takes for the item to biodegrade if left behind during an outing. Have each team defend its estimates. Lead a short discussion and reveal the actual biodegradation rates.

Biodegradation Rates

Glass bottle: 1 million years	Monofilament fishing line: 600 years
Plastic beverage bottles: 450 years	Disposable diapers: 450 years
Aluminum can: 80–200 years	Styrofoam cup: 50 years
Tin can: 50 years	Leather: 50 years
Nylon fabric: 30–40 years	Plastic film canister: 20–30 years
Plastic bag: 10–20 years	Cigarette filter: 1–5 years
Wool sock: 1–5 years	Plywood: 1–3 years
Waxed juice carton: 3 months	Apple core: 2 months
Newspaper: 6 weeks	Orange or banana peel: 2–5 weeks
Paper towel: 2–4 weeks	

Source: U.S. National Park Service; Mote Marine Lab, Sarasota, Florida.

Web of Life

This group activity demonstrates the interconnectedness of various components of the natural world as well as the part that humans can play in adding stress to the balance of the system.

Equipment: A large ball of string; a series of 3-by-5 "web of life" index cards showing a variety of plants, animals, and natural features found at a favorite outdoor recreational area



OUTDOOR ETHICS GAMES

The web of life resource cards can include any variety of plants, animals, and natural features. Here are some examples: soil, downed log, standing dead tree (or “nurse log”), pine tree, oak tree, pond or stream, grass, wildflowers, fish, frog, snake, robin, blue jay, woodpecker, coyote, turtle, hawk, raccoon, ground squirrel, deer, dam, field mouse, lizard, cricket, butterfly, mosquito, ants, bees



How to play: One leader/moderator is needed to manage the activity as well as to assist in passing the string ball back and forth in the group. Arrange the group into a circle and hand a 3 x 5 card to each participant. Make certain to include the soil, a water feature, and at least one dead component in the cards that you hand out.

Begin the activity by starting with the soil, as that is the foundation for all forms of vegetation. Have the “soil person” hold one end of the string and then look at all of the available cards and determine who has a *direct* connection to the soil. A direct connection is defined as needing or using that particular organism or feature for food, shelter, habitat, support, or some other lifecycle need. As each of these persons (cards) is named, run the string ball to that person and back again. Repeat this for every direct connection as you work your way through all the participants/cards.

Then choose another person/card and repeat the process, again using only direct connections. Try to work up the food chain with the activity to help illustrate that a lot of the smaller or less glamor-

ous creatures and organisms play a key role in the balance of the natural ecosystem and that those creatures/organisms at the higher end of the food chain have fewer, but more direct connections into the system balance.

Utilize the dead system components (dead logs, standing dead trees, etc.) relatively early on in the process to establish that the ecosystem’s foundation is composed of both living and nonliving components.



Once the web has been woven and those creatures/organisms that reside at the top of the food chain have been incorporated, ask the group to evaluate who has the most connections (done by counting the number of strings in their hands) and who has the fewest connections. See if the group can generate any discussion about why that number of connections exists.

Start to walk into the middle of the string web, gently creating a tension on several of the string connections. The resulting pressure can be related to the presence of humankind’s impact on the ecosystem. Ask the group who is feeling the stress or harder pull on their string from the action of the leader, and discuss why that part of the natural world might feel the stress.

Randomly select a member of the circle to leave, signifying the death or removal of that species/organism from the natural system; make note of how many direct linkages or connections are severed. Discuss the effects of this action from both a direct-effects viewpoint as well as an indirect-effects viewpoint.

Finally, relate the interconnectedness of the natural world to the principles of Leave No Trace as a foundation for further exploring each principle.



E.D.G.E. Ideas

Explain how it is done—Tell them.

Demonstrate the steps—Show them.

Guide learners as they practice—Watch them do it.

Enable them to succeed on their own—Have them practice/teach it.

EXPLAIN

- Explain how to dig a cathole. Explain why and when they are used.
- Explain low-impact techniques for building campfires.
- Explain why bear bags or boxes are necessary; show an Internet video of a bear destroying a cooler or tent.
- Show videos from the Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! websites.

DEMONSTRATE

- Demonstrate how to dig a cathole.
- Demonstrate a mound fire and a pan fire using twigs.
- Demonstrate how to hang a bear bag.
- During planning meetings, walk through planning required for Leave No Trace camping.
- Set up a model campsite showing proper location of sleeping, cooking, and cleaning areas.

GUIDE

- Have Scouts practice pacing off 200 feet (the distance catholes should be from water, camp, and trails).
- Have Scouts practice digging a cathole.
- Have Scouts practice building a mound fire.
- Have Scouts practice hanging bear bags.
- Take a practice hike and discuss how to minimize trail impacts.
- On a campout, challenge groups to identify the most appropriate campsites.

ENABLE

- Provide patrols with trowels to dig catholes when needed.
- Provide patrols with materials to build a pan fire or a mound fire.
- Provide patrols with bear bag ropes for the next camping outing.
- Challenge Scouts to erase all traces of their campsites.
- Plan a trash cleanup service project during an outing.

MAIN EVENT SUMMARIES

● ESSENTIAL	■ CHALLENGING	◆ ADVANCED
Day Activity	Overnight Activity	Weekend Activity
BSA Leave No Trace 101 Course: Complete the BSA Leave No Trace 101 Course. (Note: This course is a general introduction to the Leave No Trace ethics and skills for those with little prior exposure to them. The course is designed to help youth and adults at all program levels understand the general principles of Leave No Trace and how to apply them in the general BSA outdoor program.)	Leave No Trace camping trip: Take an overnight camping trip where your unit practices the principles of Leave No Trace.	BSA Leave No Trace Trainer Course: As a group, complete the BSA Leave No Trace Trainer Course. (Note: Successful completion of this course entitles the participant to recognition as a Leave No Trace trainer. Trainers are specially commissioned to teach the BSA Leave No Trace 101 course and to qualify individuals for the BSA Leave No Trace Awareness Card. Completion of this course or another recognized Leave No Trace trainer course is required for a youth to hold the Boy Scout/Varsity Scout Leave No Trace trainer position of responsibility in his unit.)






OUTDOOR ETHICS

Meeting Plan: Outdoor Code



Week 1 Date _____

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	RUN BY	TIME*
Preopening 15 minutes before meeting	Play Circle Ball. The players form a circle with the Scout who is "It" in the middle. A basketball is thrown from one to the other around the circle, and the Scout in the center tries to touch it. If he succeeds, the last Scout to touch the ball is now "It."		6:45 p.m.
Opening Ceremony 10 minutes	Flag presentation Oath and Law Uniform inspection		7 p.m.
Group Instruction 5 minutes	<p>A youth leader recites the Outdoor Code. After each principle is stated, one of the other youth leaders reads the explanation of that principle:</p> <p>As an American, I will do my best to 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 when and where they are permitted and appropriate. When I have finished using fire, I will make sure it is cold-out. I will leave a clean ring fire, or remove all evidence of my fire. Be considerate in the outdoors. I will treat public and private property with respect. I will follow the principles of Leave No Trace for all outdoors activities. Be conservation-minded. I will learn about and practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, wildlife, and energy. I will urge others to do the same.</p>		7:10 p.m.
Skills Instruction 45 minutes	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan a hiking activity• Identify the impacts the group might cause while on this activity. Try to organize these impacts into general categories.		7:15 p.m.
	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan a camping activity.• Identify the impacts the group might cause while on this activity. Try to organize these impacts into general categories.		
	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan a backpacking activity• Identify the impacts the group might cause while on this activity. Try to organize these impacts into general categories.		
Breakout Groups 15 minutes	Create breakout groups that include participants from each skill level, and have them compare the impact categories they identified.		8 p.m.
Game 10 minutes	Play What Bothers You Most? (described earlier).		8:15 p.m.
Closing 5 minutes	Announcements Leader's minute Closing		8:25 p.m.
Total 90 minutes of meeting			
After the Meeting 15 minutes	Leadership team reviews plans for the next meeting and for the big event.		

*All times are suggested.






OUTDOOR ETHICS

Meeting Plan: Leave No Trace



Week 2 Date _____

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	RUN BY	TIME*
Preopening 15 minutes before meeting	Try group juggling. Groups of six to 10 form a circle and establish a tossing pattern that includes everyone in the circle. Additional items can be added as the group's success increases. Vary the shape and size of the objects to increase difficulty.		6:45 p.m.
Opening Ceremony 10 minutes	Flag presentation Oath and Law		7 p.m.
Group Instruction 10 minutes	Play the National Park Service Leave No Trace video (available in DVD format at http://lnt.org or online from the National Park Service at www.nps.gov/features/wilderness/leavenotrace/popup.html).		7:10 p.m.
Skills Instruction 35 minutes   	Continue planning a hiking activity. Doing the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make a list of what planning is needed for your activity.• Make a list of what preparations are needed.• Make a list of what personal equipment is needed.• Make a list of what group equipment is needed.• Discuss how the video should affect your planning.		7:20 p.m.
	Continue planning a camping activity. Do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make a list of what planning is needed for your activity.• Make a list of what preparations are needed.• Make a list of what personal equipment is needed.• Make a list of what group equipment is needed.• Discuss how the video should affect your planning.		
	Continue planning a hiking activity. Do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make a list of what planning is needed for your activity.• Make a list of what preparations are needed.• Make a list of what personal equipment is needed.• Make a list of what group equipment is needed.• Discuss how the video should affect your planning.		
Breakout Groups 15 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create breakout groups that include participants from each skill level.• Create breakout groups that include participants from each skill level.• Have them compare what is needed to plan ahead and prepare for each activity.		7:55 p.m.
Game 15 minutes	Play Surface Hopscotch (described earlier).		8:10 p.m.
Closing 5 minutes	Announcements Leader's minute Closing		8:25 p.m.
Total 90 minutes of meeting			
After the Meeting 15 minutes	Leadership team reviews plans for the next meeting and for the big event.		

*All times are suggested.






OUTDOOR ETHICS

Meeting Plan: Leave No Trace Skills



Week 3 Date _____

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	RUN BY	TIME*
Preopening 15 minutes before meeting	Play Last Piece of Trash. Place a pile of trash (roughly five pieces per Scout) in the middle of the room. Form two teams. Teams alternate sending one Scout forward to remove one, two, or three pieces of trash (whichever number he chooses). The goal is for your team to remove the last piece of trash, so strategy is required.		6:45 p.m.
Opening Ceremony 10 minutes	Flag presentation Oath and Law		7 p.m.
Group Instruction 5 minutes	Teach the Leave No Trace principle related to proper waste disposal.		7:10 p.m.
Skills Instruction 40 minutes   	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lay out a 200-foot course to demonstrate how far catholes should be from water, camp, and trails.• Have Scouts walk the course counting their steps.• Demonstrate how to dig a cathole.• Have Scouts practice digging catholes.		7:15 p.m.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teach backcountry kitchen cleanup techniques.• Discuss how to wash and sterilize food service items.• Demonstrate filtering gray water with a nylon screen.• Demonstrate how to create a natural sump for filtering.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teach techniques for backcountry laundry and bathing for long treks.• Demonstrate how to make and use a plastic garbage bag bathtub.• Discuss pack-it-out techniques for human waste (and hygiene products for female Venturers).		
Breakout Groups 15 minutes	Create breakout groups that include participants from each skill level. Have them compare their waste management lessons.		7:55 p.m.
Game 15 minutes	Play Trash Timeline (described earlier).		8:10 p.m.
Closing 5 minutes	Announcements Leader's minute Closing		8:25 p.m.
Total 90 minutes of meeting			
After the Meeting 15 minutes	Leadership team reviews plans for the next meeting and for the big event.		

*All times are suggested.



OUTDOOR ETHICS

Meeting Plan: Tread Lightly!



Week 4 Date _____

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	RUN BY	TIME*
Preopening 15 minutes before meeting	Play Leave No Trace Beach Ball. Prior to the meeting, write true/false or fill-in-the-blank statements about Leave No Trace principles all over a beach ball. Have the group form a circle and toss the ball around the circle. When a player catches the ball, he or she must answer the question closest to his or her right index finger.		6:45 p.m.
Opening Ceremony 10 minutes	Flag presentation Oath and Law		7 p.m.
Group Instruction 5 minutes	Review the principles of Tread Lightly!		7:10 p.m.
Skills Instruction 30 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a list of approved Scouting activities that apply to Tread Lightly! principles. • Review what the <i>Guide to Safe Scouting</i> says about these activities, who can participate in them, and what rules apply 		7:15 p.m.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how the Tread Lightly! principles apply to motorboats, snowmobiles, personal watercraft (e.g., Jet Skis) and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). • List any recent unit activities involving these devices, and discuss how well Tread Lightly! principles were followed. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the Tread Lightly! principles for shooting sports. • Discuss how the principles of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! compare. 		
Breakout Groups 15 minutes	Have groups finalize plans for the main event		7:45 p.m.
Game 25 minutes	Play Web of Life (described earlier).		8 p.m.
Closing 5 minutes	Announcements Leader's minute Closing		8:25 p.m.
Total 90 minutes of meeting			
After the Meeting 15 minutes	Leadership team reviews plans for the next meeting and for the big event.		

*All times are suggested.



OUTDOOR ETHICS

Main Event: BSA Leave No Trace
101 Course



Date(s) _____

Logistics

Location: _____

Departure time: _____

Return time: _____

Duration of activity: 3+ hours

Budget: Completed _____ Approved _____

Camping: Duty roster _____ Menu _____

Transportation: Group _____ Self _____

Tour and activity plan: Completed _____ Submitted _____

Essential (Tier I)

Complete the BSA Leave No Trace 101 Course. (Note: This course is a general introduction to Leave No Trace ethics and skills for those with little previous exposure to it. The course is designed to help youth and adults at all program levels understand the general principles of Leave No Trace and how to apply them in the general BSA outdoors program.)

Equipment List

- BSA Leave No Trace 101 Course guide
- Teaching materials as outlined in the syllabus
- BSA Leave No Trace Awareness card for each participant
- Food
- Water
- Scout Basic Essentials (Review the list and take what you need.)
- Other program materials as needed

Activity

- Recruit a Leave No Trace trainer or master educator to teach the course.
- Plan a fun activity such as a day hike, mountain bike ride, or short canoe trip.
- Plug the training into the activity.

Safety

Always use the buddy system, and have cell phone numbers of leaders in case you are separated. Have a first-aid kit on hand. Take other precautions as indicated for the activity type.

Notes



OUTDOOR ETHICS

Main Event: Leave No Trace Camping Trip



Date(s) _____

Logistics

Location: _____

Departure time: _____

Return time: _____

Duration of activity: Overnight

Budget: Completed _____ Approved _____

Camping: Duty roster _____ Menu _____

Transportation: Group _____ Self _____

Tour and activity plan: Completed _____ Submitted _____

Challenging (Tier II)

An overnight camping trip where your unit practices the principles of Leave No Trace.

Equipment List

- Hiking gear
- Camping gear (individual and group)
- Food
- Water
- Scout Basic Essentials (Review the list and take what you need.)

Activity

- Plan a typical weekend campout for your group.
- Incorporate these principles in the weekend:
- Plan ahead and prepare. Fully develop your plan, know the rules and regulations, test all equipment, repackaging all food.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces: Use an established campsite. Before setting up camp, have the group select the best options for tenting, cooking, and cleaning.
- Dispose of waste properly. Have a plan to carry out trash and garbage. Discuss human waste disposal and practice digging catholes. After cleaning food service items, properly filter and dispose of gray water.
- Minimize campfire impacts: Discuss the need for a campfire. Try a night gathering under the stars.
- Develop plans that implement the other Leave No Trace principles.

Safety

Always use the buddy system, and have cell phone numbers of leaders in case you are separated. Bring a first-aid kit. Take other precautions as indicated for the activity type.

Notes



OUTDOOR ETHICS

Main Event: Leave No Trace Trainer Course



Date(s) _____

Logistics

Location: _____

Departure time: _____

Return time: _____

Duration of activity: Weekend

Budget: Completed _____ Approved _____

Camping: Duty roster _____ Menu _____

Transportation: Group _____ Self _____

Tour and activity plan: Completed _____ Submitted _____



Advanced (Tier III)

As a group, complete the BSA Leave No Trace Trainer course. (Note: Successful completion of this course entitles the participant to recognition as a Leave No Trace trainer. Trainers are specially commissioned to teach the BSA Leave No Trace 101 course and to qualify individuals for the BSA Leave No Trace Awareness card. Completion of this course or another recognized Leave No Trace trainer course is required for a youth to hold the Boy Scout/Varsity Scout Leave No Trace trainer position of responsibility in his unit.)

Equipment List

- BSA Leave No Trace Trainer course manual
- Teaching materials as outlined in the syllabus
- BSA Leave No Trace Trainer card for each participant
- Leave No Trace Trainer Certificate for each participant
- Food
- Water
- Scout Basic Essentials (Review the list and take what you need.)
- Other program materials as needed

Activity

- Recruit a Leave No Trace master educator to teach the course.
- Plan a backpacking or canoe trip that includes at least one overnight.
- Plan for a morning educational session followed by a short backpacking or canoe trip to your wilderness campsite.

Safety

Always use the buddy system, and have cell phone numbers as appropriate. Have a first-aid kit. Take other precautions as indicated for the activity type.

Notes



RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

Books

Backpacking, Camping, Hiking, and Sustainability merit badge pamphlets

Cole, David. *NOLS Soft Paths: How to Enjoy the Wilderness Without Harming It*. NOLS, 2003.

Kaye, Cathryn Berger, and Philippe Cousteau. *Going Blue: A Teen Guide to Saving Our Oceans, Lakes, Rivers, & Wetlands*. Free Spirit Publishing, 2010.

Kosseff, Alex. *AMC Guide to Outdoor Leadership*. Appalachian Mountain Club Books, 2010.

Petronis, Lexi. *47 Things You Can Do for the Environment*. Zest Books. 2012.

Savedge, Jenn. *The Green Teen: The Eco-Friendly Teen's Guide to Saving the Planet*. New Society Publishers, 2009.

Sivertsen, Linda, and Tosh Sivertsen. *Generation Green: The Ultimate Teen Guide to Living an Eco-Friendly Life*. Simon Pulse, 2008.

Websites

BSA Outdoor Ethics

Website: <http://www.scouting.org/outdoorprogram/outdoorethics/training.aspx>

Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics

Website: <http://lnt.org>

Tread Lightly!

Website: <http://treadlightly.org>

BSA Leave No Trace 101 Course

Website: <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/Outdoor%20Program/OutdoorEthics/pdf/BSALeaveNOTrace101CourseGuide.pdf>

BSA Leave No Trace Trainer Course

Website: <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/Outdoor%20Program/OutdoorEthics/pdf/BSALNTTrainerCourseManual.pdf>

Related Program Features

Backpacking, Camping, Ethics, Hiking, Nature and Environment, Sustainability, and Wildlife Management