

A scenic sunset over a rocky coastline. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and purple. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the water. In the foreground, a stream flows through dark, jagged rocks on a sandy beach. The water in the stream is clear and reflects the colors of the sky. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

# Leave No Trace & The Outdoor Code

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# Leave No Trace



# *Leave No Trace*

## Introduction

- **The principles of Leave No Trace are not rules; they are guidelines to follow at all times.**
- **Leave no trace is a simple, easily followed set of guidelines that, when followed in the outdoors, can greatly preserve the outdoors**
- **The principles of leave no trace may seem unimportant, but if everyone follows these simple guidelines, nature will be preserved for much longer**
- **if you have not earned the camping merit badge, the following presentation will cover requirement 2.**
- **There will be a quiz at the end with candy as a reward for those who listen to the presentation**

## *Leave No Trace*

# Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Proper trip planning and preparation helps hikers and campers accomplish trip goals safely and enjoyably while minimizing damage to natural and cultural resources.
- Proper planning ensures:
  - Low-risk adventures because campers obtained information concerning geography and weather and prepared accordingly
  - Properly located campsites because campers allotted enough time to reach their destination
  - Appropriate campfires and minimal trash because of careful meal planning and food repackaging and proper equipment
  - Comfortable and fun camping and hiking experiences because the outing matches the skill level of the participants

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### **Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces**

- **Damage to land occurs when visitors trample vegetation or communities of organisms beyond recovery. The resulting barren areas develop into undesirable trails, campsites, and soil erosion.**

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# 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 trails and selecting designated or existing campsites.
- In more remote, less-traveled areas, campers should generally spread out.. When camping, disperse tents and cooking activities .Always choose the most durable surfaces available: rock, gravel, dry grasses, or snow.

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## **Pack It In, Pack It Out**

- This simple yet effective saying motivates backcountry visitors to take their trash home with them. It makes sense to carry out of the backcountry the extra materials taken there by your group or others. Minimize the need to pack out food scraps by carefully planning meals. Accept the challenge of packing out everything you bring.

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## **Sanitation**

- **Backcountry users create body waste and wastewater that require proper disposal.**
- **Wastewater: Help prevent contamination of natural water sources: After straining food particles, properly dispose of dishwater by dispersing at least 200 feet from springs, streams, and lakes**
- **Human Waste: Proper human waste disposal helps prevent the spread of disease and exposure to others. Catholes 6 to 8 inches deep and 200 feet from water, trails, and campsites are often the easiest and most practical way to dispose of waste**

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## Leave What You Find

- Allow others a sense of discovery: Leave rocks, plants, animals, archaeological artifacts, and other objects as you find them.
- It may be illegal to remove artifacts.
- If you think that what you have found is interesting, so will somebody else. Leave it for others to enjoy as well as you have

## *Leave No Trace*

# Minimize Site Alterations

- **Do not dig tent trenches or build lean-tos, tables, or chairs. Never hammer nails into trees, hack at trees with hatchets or saws, or damage bark and roots by tying horses to trees for extended periods. Replace surface rocks or twigs that you cleared from the campsite. On high-impact sites, clean the area and dismantle inappropriate user-built facilities such as multiple fire rings and log seats or tables.**
- **Good campsites are found, not made. Avoid altering a site, digging trenches, or building structures.**

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# Minimize Campfire Use

- Some people would not think of camping without a campfire. Yet the naturalness of 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.
- If you build a fire, the most important consideration is the potential for resource damage. Whenever possible, use an existing campfire ring in a well-placed campsite. Choose not to have a fire in areas where wood is scarce—at higher elevations, in heavily used areas with a limited wood supply, or in desert settings.
- True Leave No Trace fires are small. Use dead and downed wood no larger than an adult's wrist. When possible, burn all wood to ash and remove all unburned trash and food from the fire ring.

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## **Respect Wildlife**

- **Quick movements and loud noises are stressful to animals. Considerate campers practice these safety methods:**
    - **Observe wildlife from afar to avoid disturbing them.**
    - **Give animals a wide berth, especially during breeding, nesting, and birthing seasons.**
    - **Store food securely and keep garbage and food scraps away from animals so they will not acquire bad habits. Help keep wildlife wild.**
- You are too close if an animal alters its normal activities.**



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## **Respect Others**

- Thoughtful campers:
  - Travel and camp in small groups (no more than the group size prescribed by land managers).
  - Keep the noise down and leave their radios, tape players, 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.

## *Leave No Trace*

# Ways to Live Your Everyday Life Without A Trace

- Drive Hybrid Cars – This can save millions of pounds of greenhouse gas emissions and can save you thousands of dollars in gas bills
- Use Fluorescent Light Bulbs – Replacing one light bulb with a Fluorescent light bulb can save \$100 dollars over the lifetime of the bulb, including the higher cost of buying the bulb.
- Clean the lint screen in your dryer - increases the efficiency of air flow through the dryer and could reduce your energy use by up to 30%.
- Compost - Leaves, chopped stalks, flowers and grass all make great compost in a pile or bin. Vegetable scraps and coffee grounds can also be added to your bin. You can then spread your compost in garden beds, under shrubs, on your lawn, or use it as potting soil.
- Inflate tires to the higher end of the manufacturer's stated range - increase gas mileage and decrease tire wear. Under-inflation of just 10% can cause a 5% mpg loss and increased tire wear due to more friction and drag on the road surface.

A photograph of a snowy mountain landscape. In the foreground, a snow-covered slope leads up to two prominent evergreen trees heavily laden with snow, their branches drooping under the weight. The background shows more snow-covered mountains under a clear, bright blue sky. The overall scene is serene and wintry.

# The Outdoor Code

# The Outdoor Code:

As an American, I will do my best to – be clean in my outdoor manners, be careful with fire, be considerate in the outdoors, and be conservation minded



*The Outdoor Code*

# 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 a fire, I will make sure it is cold out.
- I will leave a clean fire ring, or remove all evidence of my fire.



*The Outdoor Code*

## Be Considerate In The Outdoors

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

A sunset over the ocean with palm tree silhouettes in the foreground. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, and the sun is a bright white circle on the horizon. The palm trees are dark silhouettes against the bright sky.

*The Outdoor Code*

## 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.

## *The Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace*

# Conclusion

- Leave No Trace and The Outdoor Code are incredibly important concepts for everybody to follow. There are many incredible sights to see around the world, and everyone should have the privilege of seeing them. If we follow these guidelines, these things will remain here for us to see for many years to come

# Sources

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