leave no trace™
CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS

# Leave No Trace Interpretive Trail Walk

***(v. World Scout Jamboree 1999) (Revised 8/13/01 AAC Showndo)***

The idea behind this trail outline is to provide a template for anybody who wishes to conduct their own Leave No Trace activity. This trail outline was created for a larger group (~40 people), so feel free to tailor the activities to meet the needs of your specific group. And if you come up with a really great idea- let us know!

The Leave No Trace Interpretive Trail is prefaced with an orientation meeting to watch slides of recreational impacts and the Soft Paths Video (15 min. version). After the orientation, the participants will be divided into six groups and handed cards designating the order in which they will follow the circuit: i.e. "1,2,3,4,5,6", "4,5,6,1,2,3". The participants will then be led to their respective stations. Each station's activities will take approximately 10 minutes to complete, although 14 minutes should be allotted for each to debrief and answer questions.

**Station 1: Plan Ahead and Prepare**
Equipment Needed: tent, stove, sleeping bag, ax, map, compass, wool/synthetic clothes, cotton clothes, canned food, bagged food
Disperse all equipment. Participants are asked to choose which gear should be used for a minimum-impact camping trip and why. (Also discuss which gear should be omitted)

**Station 2: Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces**Equipment Needed: 2 each of: tent (free-standing and pitched), backpack, food bags, stove, pots, water container
The group is split in half: one group is designated "high use area", the other "pristine environment". Each group is to organize their camp accordingly. The goal here is to have the high-use group concentrate their camp, while the pristine group should spread out their gear to minimize centralized impact. A brief discussion follows and the groups explain how and why they did what they did.

**Station 3A: Properly Dispose of What You Can't Pack Out**
Equipment Needed: orange peel, apple core, piece of oatmeal, coffee grounds, cigarette butt, written cards with the words: urine, fecal matter; three boxes: "bury", "disperse", and "pack it out"

Dig a cathole and cathole trench. The groups discuss when each method of human waste disposal is appropriate. Each group should place each prop or card in the corresponding

box and then discuss why they chose each one.

**Station 3B: Pack it in, Pack it out**
Equipment Needed: Both the actual item and one poster with all the words written on it of: airline tag off a backpack, piece of oatmeal, lint, twist tie, etc.
The actual pieces of garbage will be strewn about camp and the group will search for each one, thus demonstrating the ease in which small things can be overlooked when leaving a camp. A discussion about how garbage should not be buried because of animal habitation should be included.

**Station 4: Leave What You Find**
Equipment Needed: two posters: one with different actions Velcro-ed on it (traveling in small groups, bringing a radio, using binoculars, taking pictures, digging trenches, taking home artifacts, making lean-tos, chasing wildlife), the other poster with two columns: "right" and "wrong".
This activity will explore possible behaviors that influence ecology and allow other visitors to feel surrounded by nature. The group will be asked to categorize each behavior into the two columns and then discuss why they chose what they did.

**Station 5: Minimize Use and Impact of Fires**
Equipment Needed: Set up a platform fire. Velcro poster with two columns: "high use" and "pristine". Four more posters with factors Velcro onto them: "environmental conditions" (permitted, very dry, prohibited, windy, alpine zone, abundant fuel, raining, forested area); "site attributes" (fire ring, platform with mineral soil, sandy wash, fire pan, base of rock, in pasture, under tree); "fuel" (small wood, tree trunk, dry branches, propane, downed wood, thick wood, garbage, gasoline); "tools" (shovel, saw, adult present (youth only), water, lighter, sandy ground, ax, matches, nylon bag)
The participants are divided into two groups: one is designated "high-use", the other "pristine". (think about who was on each group for the Station 2/ Durable Surfaces activity). The groups will match factors to the use columns with respect to their designated use area and discuss why.

**Station 6: Respect Wild Life**

- Equipment Needed: Sturdy Rope (approximately 50Ft.)
- Back Pack
- Appropriate Tree Limb or Bear Cable if available.

Demonstrate how to properly hang a bear bag and then let participants practice hanging one. Have each participant share observations on what can be done to minimize disturbing wildlife and or wildlife habitat. Discuss the negative effects if these precautions with wildlife are not observed. Discuss ways to view wildlife without harming creatures. Encourage the group to observe wildlife from a distance (using binoculars) so the wildlife are not scared or forced to flee. Remind them how to prevent wildlife from obtaining any human food and the importance of such a guideline.

**Station 7: Be Considerate of Other Visitors**
Divide the participants into four small groups. Have group one sit down on the trail and group two move off the trail where an adjoining campsite is located.

Have both groups be somewhat loud and rowdy. Have group three sit quietly just off the trail on a hardened area (rock outcrop or area devoid of vegetation) and be very quiet. (This group may also want to try to "blend in," avoiding detection.)
Have group four pass along the trail where groups one and two are located. Once group four has walked by those on or near the trail and observed the actions of those at the campsite, have the entire group meet at the campsite.
Have the participants who passed by those sitting in the middle of the trail and at the camp express how they felt when they encountered these groups. Discuss how this event affected their outdoors experience. Ask what they feel would improve their experience on the trail and at the campsite. Ask if the loud and rowdy behavior would have had any additional impact on mountain bikers or those on horseback.

***IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO FINISH THE CIRCUIT BY BRINGING ALL THE GROUPS BACK TOGETHER AND HAVING A GROUP DEBRIEF--GOOD LUCK!!!***