

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

“Close Encounters of the Unkind”

Audience: Ages 6 and up. Groups of any size.

Time: 30 to 45 minutes.

Materials: Some items that could be useful, but are not necessary are: a cell phone, small radio, brightly colored clothing.

Leave No Trace Objective: To explore how others actions can affect your outdoor experience.

Directions: This activity must be done outside. Before taking the group on a short hike the leader needs to recruit several people to play the role of less than considerate visitors. These visitors are placed along the trail that the group will soon be hiking on. As the group passes these visitors they will act their roles. Some less than considerate activities that they could participate in include:

- Taking a break in the middle of the trail with gear spread out that needs to be stepped over.
- Talking loudly on a cell phone.
- Screaming to other people in their party.
- Having a dog off leash.
- Listening to a loud radio.

Follow-up/Discussion: After the group is led on a hike past these visitors, you can debrief by asking the following questions:

- How did it feel to share the trail with these visitors?
- How did their behavior affect your trip?
- How could they have behaved in a more Leave No Trace manner?
- What could you say to these visitors to encourage them to alter their behavior?

The group is able to identify undesirable behavior in the outdoors. By doing so they will be able to reduce their social impact on others when recreating.

Variation: If more people are available you could place them along the trail as more considerate visitors. This could lead to a discussion about their behavior.



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