

LEAVE NO TRACE FOR EVERY KID™

LEAVE NO TRACE

CAMP MAP

STAFF TRAINING



OUTCOME

Participants demonstrate an awareness that the Leave No Trace Seven Principles are relevant to various areas on camp property and camp programming.

OBJECTIVES

- Participants use the provided materials to identify all of the locations and programs where the Leave No Trace Seven Principles are relevant.
- The group will discuss the opportunities and challenges of bringing Leave No Trace into these areas as part of daily camp activities.

MATERIALS

- A large, printed or drawn map of camp (think 4'x5'). A PowerPoint slide with the map, projected onto a wall or screen can work well for this if a print map is not available.
- Seven 8.5 x 11" laminated copies of the camp map
- Each of the seven principles and their bullet points printed on a half sheet of paper (laminated for longevity)
- Seven dry erase markers
- Seven stacks of different colored post-it notes (could be all the same color if necessary)



The map activity helps to highlight the areas where Leave No Trace is relevant at your camp program.

TIME

30-45 minutes

OVERVIEW

This is a great training activity to help get staff members thinking about Leave No Trace's applications in virtually all areas of your program! By the end of this training, staff members will be better prepared to engage youth participants in what it means to Leave No Trace and practice responsibility for the outdoors in all or many program areas on camp—ensuring that youth participants continue to practice these values beyond their time in your program.



YOUTH PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

This resource comes from the Leave No Trace Youth Program Accreditation, which provides directors, managers, teachers, and other youth program staff leaders with essential tools and best practices for the administration of Leave No Trace programming. For more information visit: lnt.org/accreditation.

It does not matter if Leave No Trace is currently practiced or taught in these areas— the goal of this exercise is to help participants become more aware that Leave No Trace is not just for the wilderness. This exercise is ideal for participants who have already been introduced to the idea of Leave No Trace (e.g., by taking the free Leave No Trace Online Awareness Course or an in-person Awareness Course).

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE

This exercise can be useful for educating a large (or small) number of your seasonal staff members. If your staff is a mix of new hires and veteran returners, the discussions and considerations about where and why Leave No Trace is important at camp will be enhanced even more by diverse perspectives. Staff members who are in-charge of specific activity areas on camp should definitely attend this training. This exercise can also be great for a group of full-time, administrative staff members in the off-season, as a mechanism to generate programmatic and operational action items for the future.

SETUP

This activity relies on using a large map of your camp property— see photo for reference. If large paper printing is not possible, most PDF readers allow you to print in “poster” mode. This will print out sections of the map onto 8.5” x 11” pieces of paper that can be trimmed and joined together with tape. If you don’t have access to a printed camp map, a drawing on butcher paper, poster board or something similar will also work. If none of these options

work, a PowerPoint slide with a copy of the map, projected onto a wall or screen, is a good substitute. If using Power Point, make sure to use a black and white version of the camp map so that the colored post-it notes will be visible to the entire room.

Using laminated 8.5” x 11” sized copies of the camp map and the Leave No Trace Seven Principles, combined with dry erase markers, will allow you to reuse the materials again for future trainings.

To set up, affix the large map to a wall in a location large enough for your group to view and approach the map. Have the seven laminated maps, laminated principle cards, markers, and post-it notes at the front of the room ready to be distributed to participants.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

1. Review the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace with participants— what are they and why do they exist? Tell the group they are going to work together to answer the question of where the seven principles belong on camp— 5 minutes.
2. Divide the participants into seven groups. Distribute one of the seven principles cards, a laminated map, a dry erase marker, and a stack of post-it notes to each group. If less than 14 total participants, divide the participants into three relatively equal sized groups. Distribute two principles to each group and take Principle 7 yourself— you become a participant! If less than 6 participants, consider each person being in charge of one of the principles (also



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including yourself as a participant!)

3. In small groups, instruct participants to decide on up to 10 areas at camp where their Leave No Trace principle belongs (e.g., activity areas on land, near water, around cabins, dining facilities, green spaces, remote locations, etc.). Instruct group members to circle or mark these areas on their small laminated map with the dry erase marker — 8 to 10 minutes.
4. After the groups have decided on 10 areas where their principle is applicable, have them send up one representative with the stack of post-it notes. That representative will transfer their group's 10 areas on to the larger map of camp — 5-8 minutes
5. After each group has put up their post-it notes, ask each group why they chose those particular places for their principle. Segue into debrief (see below).

DEBRIEF

One of the most important components of the Leave No Trace Camp Map exercise is debriefing the activity. Because participants may have been sitting down during the first part, consider debriefing the group in a standing circle near or around the big map. If your participants have given this activity some thought, your camp map should be filled with post-it notes. Think about some of the following questions to begin the debrief:

- Was anyone surprised by how the map looks? Did you think that Leave No Trace applied to so many areas on camp?
- We've identified that Leave No Trace means something in all of these areas at camp—

as a camp do we actually practice and demonstrate Leave No Trace best practices in these areas? Why or why not?

- What would it look like if we practiced Leave No Trace in these areas?
- What are some of the challenges with trying to bring Leave No Trace into these areas where they don't currently exist on camp?

Some of the themes that come out of the debrief might be worth writing down on butcher paper or a whiteboard for the group to further consider.

EVALUATION

- What are the areas at camp that give us the opportunity to talk about Leave No Trace with campers?
- Is the Leave No Trace messaging the same in every area of camp, or are they different?

ADAPTATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Day Camp Programs

A day camp program may not have a "map" of their program like that of a residential camp program. Some day camps take place mostly inside with some outdoor experiences peppered into the schedule. Remember, even indoor areas can include some level of engagement with the Leave No Trace Seven Principles. This is an opportunity to get creative and create a visualization of the areas where the camp program takes place— both indoors and outdoors.

Non-Camp Programs

This activity is written for camp programs, but can certainly apply to and be used by school



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or out-of-school time programs. Use the considerations for a day camp program above to help craft the map of your program's various locations.

Teenage Youth Participants (e.g., Counselor-In-Training, Crew Leads)

Consider this exercise as an excellent way to engage your program's oldest youth participants in Leave No Trace! Make sure to frame the discussion around the role that they have at camp (or a non-camp program) to make sure that Leave No Trace is practiced and taught in all of these areas.



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