

# LEAVE NO TRACE MASTER EDUCATOR COURSE

## Camp Speers YMCA – May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>

### COURSE REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in participating in a Leave No Trace Master Educator course with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and The Pocono Outdoor Leadership Academy at Camp Speers YMCA. Please read over the contents of this information packet carefully and promptly complete and return the following forms to the e-mail address listed below (keep the rest for your files):

- Leave No Trace Master Educator Course Application
- Acknowledgement of Risk, Release of Liability & Photo Release
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Confidential Medical & Health History Form
- The Leave No Trace Center's Course Participant Acknowledgement, Assumption of Risk, Release and Indemnity Agreement

Payment will be required in full at time of registration to secure your place on the course. We accept credit cards through our online registration at <http://campspeersymca.org/fall-spring/pocono-outdoor-leadership-academy/> or a check in the mail. If you have already submitted payment, just return the forms to complete your registration. If you have not yet enrolled in the course, send forms to the address below and contact to arrange payment.

Send forms and contact for questions:

Michelle Gargurevich  
Camp Speers YMCA  
143 Nichecronk Road  
Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328

Phone: 570-828-2329  
Email: [campspeers@philaymca.org](mailto:campspeers@philaymca.org)  
Website: [campspeersymca.org](http://campspeersymca.org)

**Cost:** The Master Educator Course is \$500. Course fee includes instruction, curriculum and teaching materials, a subscription to the Leave No Trace Center's newsletter and a 6-month Leave No Trace Membership. Overnight lodging at Camp Speers on the evening prior to the course and evening of Day 1, meals on Day 1 lunch through Day 5 lunch, group equipment, and transportation during the course are also included.

Partial scholarships are available through Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics - we encourage you to apply. Call 1-800-332-4100 or find the scholarship application on-line at [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org). You must first be registered in a course to apply for a scholarship.

**REFUND POLICY:** Reservations canceled more than 30 days in advance will receive a full refund. For reservations canceled within 14-30 days of the workshop or program, the refund is less 30 percent of the workshop fee. Reservations canceled less than 14 days in advance will forfeit the full amount. After the start of the program, no refund will be given to a participant leaving the program for any reason. In the event that the Appalachian Trail Conservancy must cancel a workshop, registrants will be notified and all course fees and deposits will be refunded.

### Course Information

**BEGINS:** May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, 9am, Camp Speers YMCA

**ENDS:** May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 3pm, Camp Speers YMCA

**DESCRIPTION:** This five-day course is designed for individuals who are actively teaching others backcountry skills or providing recreation information to the public. The overall goal of the course is to train educators and others in ways to practice and teach Leave No Trace skills and ethics. Through classroom discussions, lectures and a four-day camping trip, this course will cover the seven Leave No Trace principles and discuss wildland ethics, as well as give the participants the tools and techniques for disseminating these low-impact skills to other users of backcountry lands. Participants could include a mixture of federal agency partners, educators, outdoor retailers, youth group and outing club leaders, and other individuals. Upon completion of the course, you will be qualified to teach Leave No Trace Trainer courses. The Leave No Trace master Educator qualification is recognized and valued throughout the outdoor industry.

We'll be backpacking for four days, three nights. We will be hiking only a couple of miles each day on moderate terrain to allow plenty of time to cover course material, which we will do both during the day and into the evenings. The terrain around Camp Speers varies greatly, so participants should be prepared for rocky, rugged and sometimes steep conditions. Participants must be 18 years or older and should be in good physical condition and be able to hike with a full pack (about 40-50 pounds) for 3-5 miles per day. We will camp at designated campsites, managed campsites, impacted campsites and explore the possibility of a pristine site.

**CURRICULUM:** A Leave No Trace Master Educator course emphasizes the skills and techniques essential to Leave No Trace minimum impact outdoor ethics and education. As stated in the Leave No Trace Disclaimer of liability, Leave No Trace courses do not teach basic travel, camping, or other outdoor skills, nor do they provide outdoor instructor certification. A Leave No Trace Master Educator course includes a minimum of four eight-hour days and at least three nights camping in the field.

#### Core Components for Master Educator course Curriculum

1. Review of the role of Leave no Trace Master Educator.
2. Discussion and practice of the principles and ethics of Leave No Trace.
3. Discussion of the Leave No Trace Trainer concept and Training Guidelines.
4. Overview of recreation ecology and types of resource and social impacts.
5. Discussion of leave no Trace teaching skills and techniques, student learning styles, and development of lesson plans.
6. Development of a Leave No Trace action plan.
7. At least on student led teaching exercise by each participant.
8. Focus on interactive and hands-on field experiences.
9. Review of the mission and need for the Leave No Trace program.
10. A historical overview of the Leave No Trace program.
11. Discussion of the role, function, and administrative structure of the federal land management agencies' Leave No Trace programs.
12. Overview of the role, function, and administrative structure of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics.

**TEACHING SESSION:** The Leave No Trace Master Educator Course is the foundation of the national Leave No Trace education model. Graduates of the Master Educator course are expected to teach others, including agency personnel and the public, the principles of Leave No Trace. In order to better equip Master Educators to meet this expectation, each participant will teach at least on class in the field during their Master Educator Course. These classes provide hands-on learning experiences and the chance to practice Leave No Trace teaching strategies in a supportive, educational environment.

Upon completion of registration participants will receive the *Teaching Session Information* page; Please read and respond accordingly.

**SAFETY:** As participant safety is high priority for all Appalachian Trail Conservancy-sponsored events, procedures and policies have been developed in order to limit participant risk. Participants are expected to work with staff to reduce risks and make the experience successful for all. In case of an emergency, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy staff are trained in wilderness first aid, carry first aid kits, and follow a comprehensive Emergency Action Plan. Despite such steps, participants should be aware that there are risks associated with outdoor adventure activities, including but not limited to cooking and camping chores, adverse weather and environmental conditions, remote locations of our trips, and transportation in vehicles or on foot. Please carefully read and sign both of the *Acknowledgement of Risk and Release of Liability* forms and call if you have any questions. Participants' understanding of these risks and adherence to our policies and procedures can contribute to making this experience extremely rewarding.

**SCHEDULE OVERVIEW:** Upon Arrival to Camp Speers YMCA, please check in at the administrative office to sign a waiver and received directions to the parking area, cabins and Speers Lodge (dining hall). Please note breakfast will not be provided before we meet on Day 1. On Day 1, we will meet at 9:00 am at the Speers Lodge (dining hall) for a day in the classroom. Lunch will be provided. That night (Day1), after dinner, participants will stay in Speers Cabins 1 and 2 (included in the cost of your course). Breakfast Day 2 will be served at 8:00 am and we will depart for our hiking trip shortly thereafter.

**FACILITY:** Our Master Educator course will take place at Camp Speers YMCA, 143 Nichecronk Road, Dingmans Ferry, PA. Accommodations on Night 1 will be rustic style cabins so participants must bring their own personal sleeping bag or bed linens. Please see personal equipment list for a full list of items that participants should bring on the course.

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:**

A message can be left for you at...

Day Time Phone (8am-5pm): 570-828-2329

Emergency Afterhours Phone: 570-493-2220

**Equipment Information**

Always prepare for the worst weather and, more than likely, you'll be quite comfortable. When packing clothing for the course, think in terms of a layering system which includes moisture-wicking skin layers, warmth-holding insulating layers and wind/water-proof shell layers. With these layers in various combinations, you will be warm and dry in most types of weather. Upon completion of registration you will receive the *Personal Equipment List* for specific suggestions on what to bring.

**Group Gear:** Certain gear is provided by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy for the use of all participants. These items may include: tents, flys, ground cloths, cooking stoves, pots, pans, cooking utensils, first aid kits, repair kits, maps, trowels, and water purification items. You may be able to bring your own tent if you would like to, but we may ask you to share a tent with other participants to minimize the number of tents in use.

