

# THE RESOURCE

**TECH TIP  
VIDEOS**

**TALE OF  
TRASH  
FROM A  
LEAVE NO  
TRACE  
MEMBER**

**CREATING A  
CONNECTION  
WITH  
AMERICAN  
CAMPS**

**ADVANCE YOUR  
EDUCATION THIS  
SPRING**

**EDUCATION IN MOTION**

Find out when Leave No Trace will be  
in your neck of the woods.



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MARCH 2016 | [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org)

MARCH  
2016

# CONTENTS

---

3

## THE FANTASTIC 4

*Updates for outstanding outdoor advocates.*

4-5

## EDUCATE OTHERS THIS SEASON

*Share your Leave No Trace skills  
or advance your own education.*

6-11

## LEAVE NO TRACE FOR AMERICAN CAMPS

*Introducing a new camp-specific curriculum for youth.*

12-13

## TRAVELING TRAINER TECH TIPS

*Buff up your bouldering tips, hiking tricks  
and more!*

14

## A STORY FROM THE TRAIL

*Featured story from an active member  
of Leave No Trace.*

18

## LEAVE NO TRACE PRO SHOP

*Brush up on your Leave No Trace  
educational activities!*



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Cover photo: Raccoon and dog paw prints in the mud of a creek bed at Clark Creek Natural Area in Southwest Mississippi. This photo serves as a stark reminder that humans often recreate in areas that wildlife inhabit and that we need to be mindful of the impacts that we have on our surroundings.

# THE FANTASTIC 4

Updates you need to know *right now*



**Washington, D.C.'s Smithsonian Museum of Natural History is featuring educational pieces from Leave No Trace as part of their Wilderness Forever Exhibit: 50 Years of Protecting America's Wild Places.**



**Through a partnership with the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, the Center has selected 7 local corps to carry out service projects at Leave No Trace Hot Spot locations in 2016. The 21st Century Conservation Service Corps is a national effort to put thousands of America's young people and veterans to work protecting, restoring, and enhancing America's great outdoors.**



**In early February, the Center introduced its new, national Leave No Trace Youth Initiative to the American Camp Association, the country's leading organization for camp professionals. The Center is conducting pilot programs at over 20 camps in 2016.**



**93 Leave No Trace service projects in key outdoor locations were a success through the innovative Hot Spot program in 2015. Hot Spots are designed to rehabilitate struggling areas. Final selections for 2016 Hot Spots include 12 new locations and 4 revisit locations across our county's public lands spectrum.**



Photo taken during the Pinnacle Mountain Hot Spot Week in Little Rock, AR. Traveling Trainers, Katelyn Stutterheim and Blake Jackson had just completed a micro-trash cleanup competition and are educating kids on the importance of disposing of waste properly.



# 3 WAYS TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT

Are you one of the hundreds of millions of people in this country who get downright giddy when the buds appear on the trees? Do you sit at your desk, daydreaming of a wash of spring sunshine on your skin? If this describes you, you will be part of the surge of people heading to neighborhood parks to throw around a Frisbee or loading up with dog and kids to and venture deeper into the wilds.

More people enjoying the natural world do not necessarily mean more impacts, especially with YOU involved. The simple act of attending a Leave No Trace workshop or actually leading one in your neighborhood can make an indelible, meaningful impact.

Leave No Trace courses function like a pyramid. At the top of the pyramid is the Master Educator Course, which is the most comprehensive training, generally lasting 5 days in length and covering roughly 40 hours of material. After completion, these Master Educators are then able to facilitate the second level, the Trainer Course. Trainer Courses are 2 days long, covering 16 hours of material. These Trainers are then able to conduct the third level of Leave No Trace training called Awareness Workshops, which are less than a day in length and provide a general overview of Leave No Trace.

**Once you've decided which course is right for you, the next step is finding one in your area.**

## **1. Awareness Workshop**

**Find information on how to complete the Online Awareness Course and how to find an Awareness Workshop near you.**



## **2. Trainer Course**

**If you'd like to enroll in a Trainer Course, or if you're a Master Educator wishing to facilitate a Trainer Course start here!**



## **3. Master Educator Course**

**If you are ready for a Master Educator Course, learn how to enroll in a course and find more details here.**



**Leave No Trace plays an important role in reducing your impacts on the beautiful, but limited, natural spaces you enjoy. By attending or facilitating Leave No Trace training, you're taking important steps toward ensuring the integrity and continued access to these wonderful resources.**

# LEAVE NO TRACE FOR AMERICAN CAMPS

When the Leave No Trace for Every Kid Campaign launched in 2015, the goal was to bring Leave No Trace education to all American kids who ventured into nature. The Center's starting point—camps and outdoor programs that serve youth. As the campaign moves into its second year, a new camp-focused youth curriculum, the most robust and comprehensive Leave No Trace youth education tool to date, is being introduced to move the organization towards its goal.

## Understanding the Need

It's no secret that kids are spending less and less time in natural environments. Lack of access, encouragement, and interest are all contributing factors. We know some of the benefits of kids spending time in the outdoors: attention restoration, affinity for the natural world, and developmental opportunities.

There are benefits for the natural world as well. Kids begin developing their ethic if they are encouraged and taught that stewardship can go hand-in-hand with play and enjoyment.

Leave No Trace has been involved with youth-centered education resources since the early 2000's. The highly successful PEAK (Promoting Environmental Awareness in Kids) and TEEN programs support 45-minute modules, used by teachers and instructors who are incorporating Leave No Trace into larger curriculum units. Yet context is a major component of our educational philosophy. Programs that take kids outside provide the best opportunity for them to learn Leave No Trace.

From their most basic premise, camps and outdoor youth programs create relevant context because of their locations in natural environments. It's not as simple as merely inserting Leave No Trace's PEAK and TEEN programs into these natural program spaces. Camps and outdoor youth programs present a number of opportunities and challenges. For example, the opportunity to spend entire days hiking trails or playing games in the forest require a comprehensive tool that allows campers to interact with, then reflect on, Leave No Trace's principles. Yet these experiences must be led by camp staff who are not typically trained classroom educators. So the challenge of supporting camp staff must be considered while enhancing opportunities for a camp-focused Leave No Trace program.



**6th graders at Vernon E. Greer Elementary School in Galt, CA excitedly display their Leave No Trace reference ethics cards. Students received the cards during an awareness workshop led by Traveling Trainers Katelyn Stutterheim and Blake Jackson.**

The objective is clear — a camp-focused curriculum must involve the dynamics of camp programming and youth development, built within a scaffold of Leave No Trace expertise.

## The Power of Engagement

It's not enough for kids to simply be introduced to Leave No Trace education as a set of rules to abide by. Every kid comes to camp with a slightly different perspective. In an era that has not seen much improvement since Richard Louv's 2005 book *Last Child in the Woods*, camps and outdoor programs may be the only time that our kids are interacting with the natural world. This interaction includes a limited potential to learn Leave No Trace.

Youth development research has shown engagement to be a quality of highly effective youth programming. A camp example of this would be giving kids the opportunity to voice their opinions and participate in the planning of what hiking route their group will take through the forest. By being a part of the decision making process, kids feel that their community (in this case, staff and other campers) places a value on their opinions. This sense of value from their community leads to feelings of empowerment. Empowerment has been shown to be a contributing asset in a child's ability to successfully navigate adolescence and become a flourishing adult. With that said, engaging youth in Leave No Trace education goes beyond just learning ways to be stewards of the environment. It involves challenging youth to decide and voice how Leave No Trace is relevant to their lives, particularly as members of a supportive, unique camp community.

Engagement goes beyond Leave No Trace principles, however. Remember, some of these kids will be encountering the natural world and Leave No Trace for the first time. Engaging youth in the natural world also means encouraging play in the natural world. Play in the natural environment allows kids to build a deep,



**Stephanie Whatton, Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainer, teaches a third grade class in Virginia about the importance of keeping a safe distance from wildlife.**

personal context that is relative to the natural environment. Leave No Trace and play in nature are not on opposite ends of the spectrum. Instead, they can exist at the same time. And once a kid develops an affinity for the natural world, their values for environmental stewardship are not far behind.

## **Preparing Camp Staff**

While play is inherent in kids, understanding the context and values of Leave No Trace is not. Program staff, counselors, and instructors are the essential link between kids and Leave No Trace. And just like the kids entering these youth programs, these staff also bring their own perspectives and experiences in the natural world.

Staff turnover and a finite amount of pre-season training can make the successful integration of a robust curriculum, such as this new one from Leave No Trace, challenging. Ensuring that camp program staff feel confident and prepared to deliver this comprehensive curriculum is essential—and as such, has become a cornerstone in the new camp-focused curriculum. By working with our partner camps and youth agencies, the Center has been able to build a framework that will deliver standardized training, while at the same time adapting to a program's unique culture and the needs of its staff.

One major goal of the curriculum's training section is that staff feel successful using the curriculum in both the on-site and off-site program areas at camp. An on-site context might be nature, drama, arts and crafts, or other key program areas on camp. Some have an obvious connection to the outdoors and others provide some new opportunities. Off-site programming would include those programs

that are immersed in the wilderness for extended amounts of time on backpacking, canoe, or pack-animal trips. Supporting the staff who will be using this curriculum is essential.

## The Year Ahead

The new Leave No Trace curriculum will enter pilot testing in the summer of 2016. We are confident that the activities and training programs will increase our kids' affinities for nature and connection to camp, but the utility of such a robust program is essential. Our pilot sites will be helping to shape the curriculum into a 'living' resource that grows with the needs of camps and youth programs across the United States.

A second initiative will help to compliment the efforts of our curriculum partners. A Leave No Trace Program Endorsement will help educate camp owners and program directors in the standards for minimum impact education, particularly from a programming and organizational engagement perspective.

So what about our school-based programs using PEAK and TEEN? Over the next few years, the expansion of this new curriculum, along with feedback from our camp partners, will allow us to transfer the support to teachers and instructors in the classroom setting, supplementing our PEAK and TEEN programs.

The Center is excited to enhance the education efforts of camps and youth organizations through the Leave No Trace for Every Kid Campaign in 2016 and beyond.

# LEAVE NO TRACE TECH TIPS

*Leave No Trace's education teams love the outdoors. This month they created Leave No Trace tech tips for specific types of outdoor activities. Check out these tips from the experts!*

1



Always packout trash.

0:36 / 0:52

Leave No Trace - Bouldering

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Free Your Feet

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Tech Tip: Duct Tape on Trekking Poles

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4



Don't Bust The Crust

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# RUNNING UP A MOUNTAIN OF TRASH

**SUBMITTED BY LEAVE NO TRACE MEMBER & ADVENTURER:  
ERIN FITZGERALD**

During a summer run on Mt. Hood Ski Bowl, I noticed a ton of trash. I felt guilty leaving it behind, but my hydration vest couldn't hold it all. I returned the next day armed with a large plastic bag and gloves. My mission: Pick up everything I could during my mountain run.

I thought I'd fill a quarter of the 13-gallon bag; by the time I finished, it overflowed with empty beer bottles, cans, plastic from binders, cigarette butts, and endless random paper—and one broken ski pole.

Halfway during my descent, I was getting nervous—sharp edges from the cans were digging holes in the bag; I was afraid it would rip open, dumping everything onto the ground. For a successful end to my mission, I had to get the bag down in one piece, so I cradled it like a baby.

Our wilderness belongs to everyone—it's up to us to keep it beautiful and viable. Remember the principles of Leave No Trace and take home what you pack in and pick up trash during your adventures. Use my experience as a reminder that we all play a critical role and need to be conscientious out there.

Read the full story on Erin's Blog!



## Calling all storytellers!

What's your wildest  
Leave No Trace tale?  
In the backcountry  
or in your own backyard.

Please submit up to 200 words and a  
high-res photo.

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[membership@LNT.org](mailto:membership@LNT.org)

**Do you want your story to be told  
in the next Resource?**

**Be an ambassador for the  
outdoors and submit your tale  
today!**

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

*with Leave No Trace Community Partners*



Solid Rock Outdoor Ministries (SROM) is a Christ-centered ministry that uses remote wilderness as a context for discipling sons and daughters of God. Our programming activities include backpacking, rock climbing, and mountaineering in locations such as the Wind River Wilderness, Rocky Mountain National Park, and Grand Canyon National Park. SROM is accredited by the Association for Experiential Education.

*Emily Hall, Food & Equipment Manager for Solid Rock Outdoor Ministries answers:*

**Q: Our Leave No Trace partnership...**

*A: is valuable because we teach students the importance of relationships and responsibility, and we get to show that through Leave No Trace.*

**Q: Why Leave No Trace?**

*A: We strive to steward students' experiences with excellence and forward thinking.*

**Q: Best trail snack?**

*A: In our ration system: yogurt-covered pretzels - outside of that: Nutter Butters!*

**Q: Can't go outside without:**

*A: Rain shell, water, sunscreen, humor, love, humility, and willingness to learn.*



# 100% RECYCLED T-SHIRTS FOR SALE!

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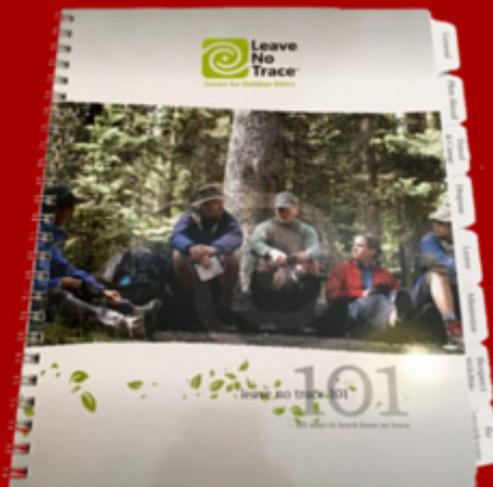
Leave No Trace and environmentally conscious company, RECOVER, have partnered to design a 100% recycled t-shirt! \$5 from each t-shirt sale goes directly to Leave No Trace - 10% discount for current members.

Check out RECOVER's website for more details!

# PRO SHOP SALE

**Our most popular educational tool  
is on sale through April!**

Plan ahead and prepare for the coming season and get some fresh ideas for teaching Leave No Trace skills & ethics! The *101 Ways to Teach Leave No Trace* book is 30% off through April.



**101 Ways to  
Teach Leave No  
Trace  
on SALE**

Regularly \$18.95,  
now \$13.25



# Education near YOU

The Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers are conducting the following events across the country in March and April. Find out more about how you can get involved by checking out the event calendar.

## California:

- BLM El Centro Field Office, El Centro, Mar. 10
- Kern River Hot Spot Week, Kernville, Mar. 14-21
- San Diego Girls Alliance, San Diego, Mar. 24
- Subaru Sea Otter Classic, Monterey, Apr. 14-17

## Colorado:

- Colorado Youth Leaders, Commerce City, Mar. 5
- University of Colorado Hiking Club, Boulder, Mar. 6
- Colorado Mountain School, Boulder, Mar. 7

## Florida:

- Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, Naples, Mar. 10
- Santos Fat Tire Mountain Bike Expo, Ocala, Mar. 11-13

## Georgia:

- Southern Appalachian Trail Hot Spot Week, Neels Gap, Mar. 21-28
- Awareness Workshop, Kennesaw, Apr. 14

## Maryland:

- Patapsco Valley State Park Hot Spot Week, Ellicott City, Apr. 11-18
- Girl Scouts of Central Maryland 'The Big Outdoors Event', Ellicott City, Apr. 24

## Mississippi:

- Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Moss Point, Mar. 30
- Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival, Pass Christian, Apr. 2

## Nevada:

- Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Hot Spot Week, Las Vegas, Mar. 28 - Apr. 4

## New York:

- The North Face Endurance Challenge, Bear Mountain, Apr. 30 - May 1

## Tennessee:

- St. Nicholas School, Chattanooga, Mar. 23
- Southeast Conservation Corps, Chattanooga, Mar. 25

## Virginia:

- Wild River Outfitters, Virginia Beach, Apr. 1
- Breaks Interstate Park Hot Spot Week, Kentucky & Virginia, Apr. 18-25