



Respect Wildlife:

“Role Reversal”

Audience: All ages. Groups of any size.

Time: 30 minutes.

Materials: N/A

Leave No Trace Objective: To help participants understand ways in which they may be disrespectful of wildlife.

Directions: First, ask students to imagine that they had a guest in their house who ate all the food, left trash on the floor and dirty dishes in the sink, walked on the carpet with dirty shoes, etc. Explain that, when we visit the wilderness, we have a responsibility to treat animals’ homes with respect.

Next, have your students pick their favorite wild animal. Give them each a minute or two to describe how they (the animal) would feel if it were shown disrespect by humans. Have them verbalize what that animal would say if it could speak its mind. Examples: a bear that had all its berries eaten, a beaver that had its lodge destroyed. Then ask each student how humans could have behaved in a way that would have shown respect.

Check with local wildlife authorities to learn how wildlife in your area is shown disrespect and be sure to discuss this with your kids.