SPRING 2019 — It's springtime, and for many Leave No Trace educators that means one thing, summer is right around the corner and there is a lot to check off of our “lists”. Finalizing programming enrollment and participant forms; scrambling to hire those last few staff positions that are still vacant; and of course, planning this year’s staff training. I would love to say that Leave No Trace can help you with those first two items, but sadly we cannot. Our specialty, however, will help set you up for a successful staff training this year.

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics has several free staff training curricula that go beyond simply knowing the Seven Principles. Yes, the Seven Principles are important, but impacting young people with Leave No Trace education often extends into our program culture, meeting the needs of many learners at the same time, and helping those learners engage with outdoor ethics through the values they experience at home, school and beyond. Easier said than done, right? Check out the staff training resource links below and see for yourself.

One more kernel for your work this spring and summer—let's remind young people that not everyone has had the opportunity to learn Leave No Trace. As such, it is never appropriate to call someone out (in person or digitally) for things like stepping off trail, picking flowers, or other actions which are perceived to be "less than Leave No Trace". Leave No Trace represents a set of values—one of those important values is kindness. Let's set an example and have those conversations so that stewardship is a concept that invites and empowers everyone to protect the outdoors.

See you out there,

Andrew Leary
National Youth Programs Manager
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Are You Summer Ready?
This fun video comes from our partnership with the Colorado Office of Tourism and their "Care for Colorado" campaign, but it got us thinking—what if each camp, outdoor ed program, school, etc. had a similar video to show staff and participants to challenge them to care for that space? Have a look and see if you can avoid getting the jingle stuck in your head!

NEW Leave No Trace Website

In conjunction with the 25th Anniversary of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, we are excited to launch our new website! Find both our most-loved and new and improved resources and pages for teaching Leave No Trace.

Featured Activity: Program Specific Principles

Your staff may know the Seven Principles and the bullet points behind them, but by running this activity, you'll give them the chance to view Leave No Trace specifically through the lens of your program—creating further engagement and buy in!

Featured Educator: Josh Lamothe
Josh Lamothe, a volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America, uses LEGO to help capture the interest of youth and adults when teaching Leave No Trace. Using photos and comic strips, these LEGO minifigures bring the Leave No Trace message to life on social media. During trainings and workshops, Josh uses a LEGO diorama of a backcountry scene to demonstrate the Seven Principles and potential impacts. Providing hands-on learning and allowing scouts to manipulate the scene enables a better understanding and visualization of our impacts in a way that doesn’t require actual impacts to be made. What a fun and interactive way to teach youth about Leave No Trace!

Submit YOUR activities, games, and ideas! Each newsletter will highlight a Leave No Trace educator with a unique approach to engaging youth in Leave No Trace through games, activities, and more. Email julia@LNT.org with any leads.

Curriculum | Youth Program Accreditation

Education Research & Resources

Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics

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