

**LEAVE NO TRACE MASTER EDUCATOR COURSE**  
**Great Smoky Mountains National Park/Aug. 7-11, 2019**  
**COURSE REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION**

**Course Registration**

Thank you for your interest in participating in a Leave No Trace Master Educator course with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Please read over the contents of this information packet carefully and promptly mail the following forms to the address below (keep the rest for your files):

- Leave No Trace Master Educator Course Application (disregard if you've already submitted this)
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy's 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
- ME Course Teaching Topic Selection

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy requires payment in full at time of registration to secure your place on the course. We will accept credit cards over the phone, a check in the mail, or a purchase order from your company or organization. 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 the Leave No Trace Coordinator to arrange payment.

Send forms and contact for questions:

Chloë de Camara – Trail Education Specialist  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy      Phone: 828-357-6542  
160 Zillicoa Street  
Asheville, NC 28801      Email: [cdecamara@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:cdecamara@appalachiantrail.org)

Cost: \$630 for Appalachian Trail Conservancy Members (additional discount for AT trail club and agency partners), \$700 for non-members (Ask about becoming an ATC member with registration).

Course fee includes instruction, curriculum and teaching materials, a subscription to the Leave No Trace Center's "The Resource" and a one-year Leave No Trace Membership. One night's lodging at Soak Ash Basecamp (on Day #1), meals 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: August 7, 2019 , 9 a.m., 199 Soak Ash Creek Rd. Gatlinburg, TN 37738**

**ENDS: August 11, 2018, 3 p.m., 199 Soak Ash Creek Rd. Gatlinburg, TN 37738**

**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 three days, two nights. We will be hiking between 3-6 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 of the Appalachian Trail varies greatly, so participants should be prepared for rocky, rugged and sometimes steep conditions. Participants should be in good physical condition and be able to hike with a full pack (about 40-55 pounds) for 3-6 miles per day. We will camp at designated campsites, managed campsites, impacted campsites and explore the possibility of a pristine site, all along the Appalachian Trail.

**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.

As a part of the course application packet, participants will receive the *Teaching Session Information* form; 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 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 SPOT devices, 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:** Please note breakfast will not be provided before we meet on Day #1. On Day #1, we will meet at 9:00 am at Soak Ash Base Camp for a day in the classroom. Lunch will be provided. That night (Day#1), after dinner, you will stay in the bunkrooms at Soak Ash Base Camp (included in the cost of your course). Breakfast Day #2 will be served at 9:00 and we will depart for our hiking trip shortly thereafter.

Soak Ash Base Camp has ample parking to leave your vehicle while we are in the field, personal items can be stored within the base camp or in personal vehicles. The facility will also be used by ATC seasonal staff and volunteers. The Park Service has installed a gate that remains open while facility is in use, and locked when vacant.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Our Master Educator course will take place in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The first day of the five-day course will be at Soak Ash Basecamp for classroom-based lessons. After breakfast on day two, we will drive to Cades Cove Campground and park the vehicle at the Cades Cove group campsite and enjoy a frontcountry camping and learning experience. Day three we will hike from Cades Cove Campground shelter to Russel Field Shelter, gaining approximately 2,000 feet in elevation. Day four, we will hike to Campsite 9 via the A.T., Bote Mountain Trail, and Anthony Creek Trail. On day five we will hike from Campsite 9 back to our vehicle at Cades Cove Campground. We will conclude day five by driving back to Soak Ash Base Camp as a group.

The Smokies are a temperate rainforest, and aptly named, so plan for rain by bringing adequate rain gear and layers. Even though it will be early August during this course it is not impossible to get cold and wet conditions at that time of year. We will be camping at anywhere from 3,200-4,700 ft. in elevation, so weather will always be colder at night.

**FACILITY:** See Expectations for Group Use of Soak Ash Base Camp (attached)

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:** A message can be left for you at Soak Ash Base Camp (865-430-11110 or ATC's Southern Regional office (828-254-3708.)

**TRAVEL INFORMATION:** If you're interested in carpooling with other participants to this course, please email [cdecamara@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:cdecamara@appalachiantrail.org) to see what some options are. Directions to Soak Ash are as follows:

[Driving Directions from Cosby, Tennessee](#)

From the intersection of U.S. Route 321/Tenn.73 and Tenn. 32 (the Cosby Post Office is at this intersection), follow Tenn. 73 W / US-321 S / U.S. 321-Scenic North/Hooper Hwy about 9 miles. Soak Ash Creek Road is on the left, just after passing the Century 21 on the left. The road sign for Soak Ash Creek is very obscure and difficult to read (especially at night) due to Pittman Center sign ordinances. You'll easily miss it, so keep your eyes peeled.

#### Driving Directions from Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Soak Ash Creek is 8.8 miles from Gatlinburg. Take East Parkway Rd. / Tenn. 73E / U.S. 321 N / U.S. 321 Scenic South past Greenbrier. Cross over the Webb Creek Bridge, and make an immediate right hand turn on to Soak Ash Creek Rd. The road sign is very obscure and difficult to read due to Pittman Center sign ordinances. You'll easily miss it, so keep your eyes peeled. If you get to the Century 21 building, you've gone too far! Once on Soak Ash Creek Rd.: Follow the road until you reach a gate. Pass through the gate and follow the driveway to reach the basecamp.

#### 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. With your application packet, you will receive the *Suggested 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, tarps, ground cloths, cooking stoves, pots, pans, 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.

