LEAVE NO TRACE PURPOSE

Americans love the outdoors. Today, more than 330 million people visit America’s national parks and another 150 million visit our national forests. The motives for spending time in the natural world are diverse — from solitude to recreation, adventure to fellowship. Our love of the outdoors, however, too often comes at the cost of trashed parks and damaged trails, fire scarring, polluted waterways and serious wildlife issues. Leave No Trace is built upon the premise that conservation of the outdoors is possible only when people know how to respect it and prevent impacts from their activities. To that end, the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics’ mission is to protect the outdoors by teaching and inspiring people to enjoy it responsibly. The Center accomplishes this through education, research, partnership and volunteerism. The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics has delivered successful educational programs in the United States and internationally since 1994. Although the genesis of the Leave No Trace program is along wilderness trails and in backcountry campsites, recent trend studies have shown that the majority of outdoor use occurs near population centers. Open space lands, urban parks and established campgrounds are the setting for the majority of recreational pursuits. In an effort to address the dramatic increase in the use of America’s parks, forests, and protected areas, The Center continues to expand its educational focus to include all lands enjoyed for recreation, from urban green spaces to deep wilderness.
RECREATION-RELATED IMPACTS

Whether in frontcountry (outdoor areas that are easily accessible by vehicle and mostly visited by day users) or deep wilderness (areas where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by humans; where humans are visitors that do not remain), impacts from recreation-related activities can impact both the physical, natural resources of an area as well as the social experience. Impacts include but are not limited to the following:

- Off trail hiking
- Erosion
- Social conflict among visitors
- Pet waste
- Human waste impacts on water sources
- Pets harming wildlife
- Litter/trash
- Graffiti and vandalism
- Invasive/non-native species
- Damage to cultural and heritage resources
- Wildlife impacts
- Visitor safety issues
- Trespassing on private property
- Campfire impacts
- Loss of vegetation and tree cover
- Water resource impacts

If land managers commonly face these or other impact concerns, assistance from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics will be beneficial in assessing local conditions to provide realistic and robust solutions for minimizing recreation-related impacts through effective education, outreach, training and site design.
Decades of public investment in parks and protected areas have yielded millions of acres of land set aside for recreation in the U.S. Various initiatives have not only acted as an unparalleled catalyst for creating world-class recreational amenities throughout the country, but they have also created an expectation of benefits to the public – high quality recreational experiences for all outdoor enthusiasts.

Those currently engaged in managing the country’s vast recreational assets often have an obligation to expand recreational opportunities and facilities, and provide more education and programming directly related to outdoor recreation and responsible enjoyment of the parks. Leave No Trace information has the capacity to be a substantial and meaningful part of this process. By developing and providing locally tailored, activity-based Leave No Trace information, recreation-related resources and social impacts can be avoided, minimized or mitigated in America’s parks and protected areas.

Leave No Trace is the most relevant and appropriate framework for ensuring the continued enjoyment and protection of parks and protected areas for current and future generations. Without effective, relevant and accessible visitor education focused on Leave No Trace outdoor ethics, a sustainable recreational future is not possible. As participation in outdoor recreation increases, defining and better communicating a sustainable recreation paradigm for outdoor enthusiasts will become increasingly important in the years to come. Park managers and partners must address expectations for public use, while simultaneously protecting the critical natural and cultural resources found in parks and natural areas all across the country. Those spending time in the outdoors need a clear understanding of both the experiences available to them as well as appropriate behavior while enjoying these shared resources.
SERVICES PROVIDED BY LEAVE NO TRACE CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS

Most parks and protected areas have a dual mandate to provide resource protection and high quality recreational opportunities. However, some land management agencies lack the tools and resources necessary to effectively evaluate and address the effects of recreation and its impacts to natural and social conditions on the ground. This is where The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics can be of critical assistance.

With decades of experience in effective outdoor ethics education the Center has the expertise necessary to help land managers across the agency spectrum explore and better understand recreation patterns, impacts and implications on the lands they manage. With this insight, the Center can provide the tailored tools, techniques and methods necessary to effectively address recreation-related impacts.

To assess current conditions and implement locally relevant Leave No Trace efforts in an area, The Center can provide some or all of the following services:

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<tr>
<th>Consultation to assess the management concerns and visitation patterns of the respective area</th>
<th>On-site visit(s) for current situational and programmatic evaluation</th>
<th>Appraisal of current educational initiatives with respect to Leave No Trace practices</th>
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<tr>
<td>Use of applicable existing Leave No Trace language and graphics to address specific impacts or issues</td>
<td>Development of new language and graphics to address additional local concerns</td>
<td>Synchronization of content for an integrated, coherent educational program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultation on program implementation</td>
<td>Assessment tools to help quantify the efficacy of educational efforts</td>
<td>Empirical research focused on specific topics/behaviors of interest</td>
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CONSULTING FEES

Consulting service fees vary depending on the scope and scale of the work desired. In general, base fees do not include the cost of a site visit(s) or cover the cost of the production of any materials, signage, brochures, webpages, educational materials, etc. Contact the Center for a fee schedule for specific consulting services.

The Leave No Trace program contains copyrighted language and graphics. However, the copyrighted content is generally available for use by organizations and agencies who retain the Center’s consulting services. The Center can provide these additional fee-based services:

- Development and production of educational materials: brochures, posters, signs, booklets, web-based content, etc.
- Implementation of Leave No Trace efforts: ranger programs, volunteer coordination, staff training, Authority of the Resource training, volunteer training, etc.
- Program development such as a locally-tailored Junior Ranger Program
- Focus group facilitation to explore recreation or impact-related topics of interest

To learn more about the Leave No Trace Consulting Program, obtain additional information, or request a quote please contact:

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