Spring 2020 — These are odd times for nearly everyone, and certainly every educator. First off, I hope that you are doing OK this week. I say this week because while a regular routine and certain habits can help deflect some of the stress associated with physical distancing and stay-at-home orders, there are just some weeks that are better than others. I hope this is one of those better weeks.

This has been a busy time for the Leave No Trace Center. During the COVID-19 pandemic people are visiting shared public lands stressed by a lack of management personnel and essential park services. If you haven’t read them yet, check out the Center’s Recommendations for Getting Outside during COVID-19. We have also been fast tracking resources that you can use right now to effectively teach and engage participants with Leave No Trace. Yes, Leave No Trace is still best taught in the outdoors, but our pivot to digital learning spaces and activities that kids can engage with independently are crucial moving forward. Nearby nature—be it a front stoop, a local park, or a backyard—can still be excellent places to dive into the rich world of Leave No Trace.

I invite you to explore all of the new and familiar free activities and curriculum. From virtual tours of the National Parks with Leave No Trace activities, to using LEGO to create deeper connections with stewardship and the outdoors—it’s all in there! The new resources are accompanied by how-to guides for parents, educators and organizations. We will be releasing new activities, curriculum and videos every few weeks so make sure to bookmark the Youth Educator Library.

Please reach out and let us know how you and your community are doing as you continue to navigate the rest of the spring into the summer. Be well everyone.

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COVID-19 Resources for Youth Educators
We have compiled all of our resources for continued Leave No Trace education and fun during these times of homeschool learning and close to home play. Check out our activities, videos, and various curriculum for COVID-19 and beyond!

Read More

PEAK Online is Back!

PEAK (Promoting Environmental Awareness in Kids) Online includes videos and activities to help kids understand the Seven Principles and how Leave No Trace skills and ethics can help protect the outdoor places we love. After recent updates, PEAK Online is back and ready for your virtual classroom!

Explore More

Featured Activity: Virtual Park Tour

Following National Park Week and Earth Week, we encourage you to take a virtual tour of some of the coolest parks out there! Follow along as park rangers give interpretive talks about each site and then make your own park brochure filled with Leave No Trace information.

Learn More

Featured Educator: Silver Creek Leadership Academy - Fall 2019 Semester
Silver Creek Leadership Academy (SCLA) is a program at Silver Creek High School in Longmont, CO for students that want to go above and beyond. SCLA is committed to build leaders from the ground up. For the 11th grade curriculum they work on community leadership and create mini-capstone projects. This past fall, a group of five students (Ellie Huff, Sloan Alber, Brendan Moroney, Karson Hills, and Maddie Keuhl) came up with “Sol Hikes.” Their mission was to get fellow students into the outdoors while also raising money for the Center. They created a sunrise and sunset hike with donation-based participation for students from their school. On the hikes they taught the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace and proper outdoor etiquette. What a great way to get high school students in the outdoors thinking about outdoor stewardship and supporting future Leave No Trace efforts!

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.

Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics

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