WINTER 2021 — Happy 2021 Leave No Tracers! Over the past 12 months, adaptability and resiliency have been two reoccurring themes. Luckily as youth educators, these are skills which we constantly tap into in our day-to-day programming, global pandemic or not. They are also themes that can be seen in the outdoor spaces all around us, spaces we have hopefully all been able to find some inspiration in throughout this time.

However you and your program had to adapt in 2020, we hope that the winter season brought some time for rest and reflection on what has worked well, what you’ve learned, and how this time may continue to shape the outdoor education we provide, even in a post COVID world. The youth team at Leave No Trace is always looking to hear feedback from you on what you might need or ways we can continue to adapt and improve, so please don't hesitate to reach out!

Here's to a new year full of outdoor educating, adventuring and healing, whatever that may look like this year.

Julia Oleksiak (she/her/hers)
Outreach Programs Coordinator
A BOLD & GOLD Kick Off to 2021

The YMCA of Greater Seattle's BOLD & GOLD program has become the latest youth program to begin the Leave No Trace Accreditation process. Learn more and get inspired to take your program to the next level in this new year!

Learn More

Representation Matters 365 Days a Year

Although February is Black History Month, it is important to incorporate and acknowledge the work and contributions (both from history and the present day) of the Black community all year long, especially as youth educators. This article by Dr. Carolyn Finney with artwork by Eren Wilson highlights a few "Heroes of the Great Outdoors."

Read More
Featured Activity Takeover: What's Good in My Hood

What's Good in My Hood was created by Akiima Price as "an innovative service-learning workbook that leads users through a 5-unit investigation of their neighborhood." Upon completion, learners have the resources to create an action plan for their community.

Explore More

Featured Educators: Students & Teachers from RJK Middle School
Students at Robert J. Kaiser Middle School in Monticello, NY have a new way to release stress and connect with nature thanks to a one-mile "Wellness Walk" created by health and P.E. teachers Scott Cooper and Rick Sternkopf. Mr. Cooper and Mr. Sternkopf lead groups of students through the trail, pointing out the sound of the wind through the trees, the crispness in the air, the leaves falling gracefully to the earth, and teaching Leave No Trace. For some of their students it's their first experience hiking, and they enjoy being in the outdoors so much they've begun to brainstorm ways to improve the trail. "One part of what we teach in class is advocacy," said Mr. Cooper. "We teach kids to try to make things around them better and their taking ownership over the wellness trail is a perfect example of that." What a great approach to outdoor learning and wellness, we can't wait to see how your trail and Leave No Trace education efforts continue to grow and expand into the community!

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.
If you have been forwarded this email and would like to sign-up to receive future editions of the Footprint, you can do so here!

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