

## Five Tips for Planning Ahead and Preparing Girl Scouts Love State Parks

### 1. Check online resources about the park and the weather.

Your local state park's website will have great information about their facilities, access to water and other resources so that you and your group have a fun and safe day out in the park. Be sure to check the weather for the area that you'll be visiting—being caught by wet, cold or hot weather could seriously reduce your fun factor!

### 2. Review the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace with your group.

It's always a great idea to review the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace with your group before heading out to your local state park. It takes less than 10 minutes! For **Daisies, Brownies and Juniors**, focus on Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces, Respect Wildlife and Be Considerate of Other Visitors. Older scouts like **Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors** should be given the opportunity to read each of the Seven Principles and interpret their meanings out loud for the group.



**PRO TIP!**

Visit [LNT.org](http://LNT.org) for information about the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace.

### 3. Use the free Leave No Trace activities to engage your scouts!

Check out [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org) for a collection of free activities and projects that you can use to teach Girl Scouts of all ages about Leave No Trace outdoor ethics, both during the event weekend and in the weeks afterwards. Giving young people the opportunity to create something that activates their interpretive knowledge of the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace helps build the outdoor stewards of tomorrow!

### 4. Pack clothing and equipment that suits the weekend's activities.

There are so many activities that you can take part in during the Girl Scouts Love State Parks weekend! Does your group know what they will need for all of the planned activities? Having the right clothing and resources help people feel comfortable and ready for whatever weather or conditions they encounter. If you are planning on camping, don't forget to bring along any required permits in addition to your camping gear and food.



**PRO TIP!**

As an adult leader, it is always a good idea to bring along one or two extra pieces of clothing in your backpack in case someone forgets something at home.

### 5. Bring a reusable water bottle instead of single-use plastic.

In this day and age 30-packs of small, disposable water bottles are sold at almost every local grocery store. It is really easy to unintentionally create a lot of plastic waste—yes, even if you recycle it afterwards. Instead, encourage your group members to bring along reusable water bottles that can be refilled at the park. Bring along extra reusable water bottles for Girl Scouts or fellow adult volunteers that may not have their own.