



Be Considerate of Others: “Close Encounters of the Unkind”

Audience: 6 years old and up. Groups of any size.

Time: 30 to 45 minutes.

Materials: Some items that could be useful include cell phone, small radio, and brightly colored clothing.

Leave No Trace Objective: The group will be able to identify undesirable behavior in the outdoors. By doing so they will be able to reduce their social impact on others when recreating.

Directions: Before taking the group on a short hike the leader needs to recruit several people to play the role of less than considerate visitors. These visitors are placed along the trail that the group will soon be hiking on. As the group passes these visitors they will act their assigned roles. Some less than considerate activities that they could participate in include:

- Taking a break in the middle of the trail with gear spread out that needs to be stepped over,
- Talking loudly on a cell phone,
- Screaming to other people in their party
- Having a dog off leash,
- Listening to a loud radio,
- etc...

Debrief: After the group is led on a hike past these visitors you can debrief by asking the following questions:

- How did it feel to share the trail with these visitors?
- How did their behavior affect your trip?
- How could they have behaved in a more Leave No Trace manner?
- What could you say to these visitors to encourage them to alter their behavior?