



Respect Wildlife: “Role Reversal”

Audience: All ages. Groups of any size.

Time: 30 minutes.

Materials: N/A

Leave No Trace Objective: To help participants understand ways in which they could be disrespectful to wildlife.

Directions: First, start by asking participants to imagine that they had a guest in their house who ate all of the food, left trash on the floor and dirty dishes in the sink, walked on the carpet with dirty shoes on, etc. Explain that, when we visit the wilderness, we have a responsibility to treat animals’ homes with respect.

Next, have participants pick their favorite wild animal. Give them each a minute or two to describe how they (their favorite wild animal) would feel if it were shown disrespect by humans while the humans were visiting their home. Have them verbalize what that animal would say if it could speak its mind. Examples: a bear that had all of its berries eaten; a beaver that had its lodge destroyed. Then ask each student how humans could have behaved in a way that would have shown respect.

Debrief: This activity presents a good opportunity to check with local wildlife authorities to learn how wildlife in your area are shown disrespect. These examples can be used in debriefing the activity and discussion.