



**NATIONAL LEAVE NO TRACE
TRAINING GUIDELINES**

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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	4
TRAINING ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTORS	6
Organizations Offering Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Courses	6
Organizations Offering Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Courses	7
Individual Level 2 Instructors Offering Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Courses	8
Organizations Offering Virtual Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Courses	8
Individual Level 2 Instructors Offering Virtual Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Courses	9
Organizations Offering Leave No Trace Skills Courses	10
Individual Level 1 or 2 Leave No Trace Instructors Offering Leave No Trace Skills Courses	10
Organizations Offering Leave No Trace Workshops	11
Individuals Offering Leave No Trace Workshops	11
INSTRUCTOR TRAINING TRACK	13
LEAVE NO TRACE IN-PERSON LEVEL 1 INSTRUCTOR COURSE	13
Level 1: Curriculum Content	13
Core Components for Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course Curriculum	13
Level 1: Lead Instructor	14
Level 1: Co-instructors	14
Level 1: Enrollment	15
Level 1: Cost	15
Level 1: Completion	15
Level 1: Recertification	16
Level 1: Course Instruction	16
LEAVE NO TRACE LEVEL 1 VIRTUAL INSTRUCTOR COURSE	17
Level 1 Virtual: Curriculum Content	17
Core Components for Virtual Level 1 Leave No Trace Instructor Course Curriculum	17
Level 1 Virtual: Lead Instructor	18
Level 1 Virtual: Co-instructors	19
Level 1 Virtual: Enrollment	19
Level 1 Virtual: Insurance	20
Level 1 Virtual: Cost	20
	2

Level 1 Virtual: Completion	20
Level 1 Virtual: Recertification	21
LEAVE NO TRACE LEVEL 2 INSTRUCTOR COURSE	22
Level 2: Curriculum Content	22
Core Components for Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course Curriculum	22
Level 2: Lead Instructor	23
Level 2: Co-instructors	23
Level 2: Enrollment	24
Level 2: Cost	24
Level 2: Completion	25
Level 2: Recertification	26
RECREATIONAL TRAINING TRACK	26
LEAVE NO TRACE SKILLS COURSE	27
Skills Course: Curriculum Content	27
Core Components for the Leave No Trace Skills Course Curriculum	27
Skills Course: Lead Instructor	27
Skills Course: Co-instructors	28
Skills Course: Enrollment	28
Skills Course: Cost	28
Skills Course: Completion	29
LEAVE NO TRACE WORKSHOPS	30
Workshop: Curriculum Content	30
Core Components for Leave No Trace Workshop Curriculum	30
Workshop: Leaders	30
Workshop: Enrollment	31
Workshop: Cost	31
Workshop: Completion	31

INTRODUCTION

The national Leave No Trace training program has grown to include over 75,000 people trained as either Level 1 or Level 2 Leave No Trace Instructors. As the number of institutions, organizations, individuals, and agencies interested in offering Leave No Trace training programs increases, so does the continued importance of having standardized guidelines that provide a framework for effective Leave No Trace training.

The goals for these Training Guidelines are five-fold:

1. To strive for consistent, quality training for all Leave No Trace course participants.
2. To provide an easily implemented and inclusive training structure that encourages more people to teach and participate in training.
3. To establish a structure allowing the Leave No Trace organization to track and quantify training efforts.
4. To clarify the role of the Leave No Trace Organization regarding training institutions and individual instructors.
5. To identify inherent risks in outdoor activities and to discuss warnings and other safety information about Leave No Trace courses.

These Training Guidelines describe the two tracks of Leave No Trace training in detail:

Instructor Training Track

- o Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor
- o Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor
- o Leave No Trace Level 3 Instructor

Recreational Training Track

- o Leave No Trace Skills Course
- o Leave No Trace Workshops

Fees may be charged for any of these courses, the details of which are described under each heading. Although departures from formal training are valuable and encouraged, Leave No Trace provides a set curriculum for all levels of training. It is encouraged that Leave No Trace materials be used in all training activities regardless of the length or type of training.

The Leave No Trace organization and its Review & Research Network (RRN) oversee Leave No Trace training efforts, curriculum development, and material production. The

RRN also assists with approving organizations to conduct Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Courses. Leave No Trace will review, select, and approve organizations to offer the Level 2 Instructor Courses, according to the guidelines outlined below, at its sole discretion.

Organizations (including approved Level 2 Instructor Course Providers) and individual Instructors teaching both in-person and virtual Level 1 Instructor Courses must enter into a [Training Agreement](#) with the Leave No Trace organization. They must review and follow the guidelines identified here before, during, and after conducting any formal Leave No Trace courses.

Notice: The Leave No Trace Instructor curriculum focuses on techniques for learning and teaching minimum-impact outdoor skills and ethics. Leave No Trace courses do not teach specific outdoor skills such as mountain climbing, river crossings, camping, etc. However, due to the nature of the Leave No Trace program, many courses are taught in outdoor settings. Engaging in outdoor activities involves inherent or other risks and dangers that can lead to injury, property damage, or even death. In addition, Leave No Trace outdoor ethics and principles are only effective if they are accurately relayed and taught to course participants. For these reasons, Leave No Trace requires organizations and individuals interested in conducting Leave No Trace courses to enter into a [Training Agreement](#) with the Leave No Trace organization and to review and follow the guidelines listed here before, during, and after conducting courses. These Guidelines and the Training Agreement are not intended to control the details of how the organization/individual conducts the Leave No Trace course. The Leave No Trace organization does not control, teach or conduct the course but provides organizations and individuals with nationally approved materials to assist in teaching Leave No Trace courses. All organizations and individuals conducting Leave No Trace courses act as independent contractors and are solely responsible for conducting the courses.

Individuals interested in participating in an Instructor Course should have basic outdoor travel and camping skills and be in reasonably good physical condition before attending a course. Participants should understand that they are responsible for their safety and assume responsibility for injuries resulting from the inherent risks of recreational activities.

The Leave No Trace organization does not warrant or guarantee the quality or expertise of any individual or organization providing a Leave No Trace course. Those interested in a Leave No Trace course are advised to independently review and examine the qualifications of individuals or organizations planning to conduct Leave No Trace courses.

TRAINING ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTORS

Organizations Offering Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Courses

The Leave No Trace organization strives to select the most professional, responsible, and qualified organizations to offer and conduct Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Courses. Interested organizations will be asked to provide some or all of the following information and documentation. The Leave No Trace organization will select organizations based upon its review of this material as well as consideration of other factors:

1. Application, including a brief statement made by the organization outlining the reasons why it is committed to teaching Leave No Trace and disseminating Leave No Trace information.
2. Evidence that the organization possesses appropriate risk management plans and procedures for e.g. evacuation plans and serious injuries/incidents.
3. Evidence of an annual report, board of directors, and history of operations.
4. A list of references for the Leave No Trace organization to contact for additional information about the organization.
5. Operational policies and procedures for running the organization.
6. Evidence that staff are trained in outdoor leadership/instruction and possess any necessary licenses to provide services.
7. Examination of serious incident reports on any serious injuries or fatalities occurring in the last two (2) years.
8. Copies of any safety or peer reviews (internal or external) conducted in the last two (2) years.
9. Copies of all required permits or licenses to operate or run operations on municipal, state, or federal lands; and evidence of compliance with applicable laws or regulations.
10. Proof of appropriate levels of insurance.
11. Proof of the ability to efficiently manage student screening and enrollment functions.
12. Evidence of appropriate outdoor/recreational activity and risk disclosure to participants- e.g., in brochures, assumption of risk/release documents, registration materials, and pre-trip talks.
13. Evidence of any professional affiliations, accreditations, and certifications.

Those organizations selected to offer and conduct Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Courses must comply with the *Leave No Trace Training Agreement for Level 2 Instructor Courses* and follow the Guidelines included below:

1. Possessing appropriate levels of insurance.
2. Assuring that the staff of that organization, including any proposed Leave No Trace lead instructors and/or co-instructors, are appropriately trained in outdoor leadership/instruction skills and maintain appropriate levels of emergency medical certification.
3. Distributing the Leave No Trace introduction and discussion of the [Course Participant Acknowledgement, Assumption of Risks, Release, and Indemnity Agreement](#).
4. Following the “Core Components for Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course Curriculum” and additional Guidelines for courses outlined below in all courses.
5. Using the Leave No Trace approved Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor curriculum (the *Master Educator Handbook*) with consideration to existing copyrights.

Organizations Offering Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Courses

Organizations offering Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Courses must comply with the Leave No Trace [Training Agreement](#) and the following Guidelines included below:

1. The organization must be a current [Community Partner](#).
2. Possessing appropriate levels of insurance and providing current Certificates of Insurance to be kept on file at Leave No Trace for the period the organization conducts courses.
3. Assuring that Instructors are current in Leave No Trace certifications.
4. Assuring staff, including any proposed Leave No Trace lead instructors and/or co-instructors, are appropriately trained in outdoor leadership/instruction skills and maintain appropriate levels of emergency medical certification.
5. Distributing the Leave No Trace introduction and discussion of the [Course Participant Acknowledgement, Assumption of Risks, Release, and Indemnity Agreement](#).
6. Following the “Core Components for Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course Curriculum” and additional Guidelines for courses outlined below in any Level 1 Instructor Course.

Individual Level 2 Instructors Offering Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Courses

Those who have completed the Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course can conduct both in-person and virtual Level 1 Instructor Courses with an appropriate co-instructor

as required (see below). Although Level 2 Instructors do not need to be affiliated with an organization to offer in-person or virtual Level 1 Instructor Courses, Level 2 Instructors who are not affiliated with a current partner of Leave No Trace must be a current [individual member](#) of Leave No Trace, comply with the Leave No Trace [Training Agreement](#), and follow the Guidelines included below:

1. Possessing appropriate levels of insurance (federal tort claim coverage is acceptable) as required by these guidelines.
2. Maintaining appropriate levels of emergency medical certification as required by these guidelines.
3. Distributing the Leave No Trace introduction and discussion of the [Course Participant Acknowledgement, Assumption of Risks, Release, and Indemnity Agreement](#) as required by these guidelines.
4. Following the “Core Components for Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course Curriculum” and additional Guidelines for courses outlined below in all Level 1 Instructor Courses.

Liability insurance for individual Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructors may be obtained via a private insurer (contact Leave No Trace for details). See the Leave No Trace [Training Agreement](#) for specifics regarding required liability coverage levels for different course types.

Organizations Offering Virtual Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Courses

Organizations offering Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Courses must comply with the Leave No Trace [Training Agreement](#) and follow the Guidelines included below:

1. The organization must be a current [Community Partner](#).
2. If the Virtual Course is completely virtual or online, proof of insurance is not required. If any portion of the course meets in person, a Certificate of Insurance is required.
3. Assuring that instructors are current certified Level 2 Instructors.
4. Assuring staff, including any proposed Leave No Trace lead instructors and/or co-instructors, are appropriately trained in outdoor leadership/instruction skills and maintain appropriate levels of emergency medical certification if any portion of the course occurs in person.
5. Distributing the Leave No Trace introduction and discussion of the [Course Participant Acknowledgement, Assumption of Risks, Release, and Indemnity Agreement](#).

6. Following the “Core Components for Virtual Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course Curriculum” and additional Guidelines for courses outlined below in any Level 1 Instructor Course.

Individual Level 2 Instructors Offering Virtual Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Courses

Those who have completed the Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course can conduct both in-person and virtual Level 1 Instructor Courses with an appropriate co-instructor as required (see below). Although Level 2 Instructors do not need to be affiliated with an organization to offer in-person or virtual Level 1 Instructor Courses, Level 2 Instructors who are not affiliated with a current partner of Leave No Trace must be a current [individual member](#) of Leave No Trace, comply with the Leave No Trace [Training Agreement](#), and follow the Guidelines included below:

1. Possessing appropriate levels of insurance (federal tort claim coverage is acceptable) as required by these guidelines **if any portion of the virtual course meets in person.**
2. Maintaining appropriate levels of emergency medical certification as required by these guidelines **if any portion of the course meets in person.**
3. Distributing the Leave No Trace introduction and discussion of the [Course Participant Acknowledgement, Assumption of Risks, Release, and Indemnity Agreement](#) as required by these guidelines;
4. Following the “Core Components for Virtual Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course Curriculum” and additional Guidelines for courses outlined below in any Level 1 Instructor Course.

Liability insurance for individual Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructors may be obtained via a private insurer. See the Leave No Trace [Training Agreement](#) for specifics regarding required liability coverage levels for different course types.

Organizations Offering Leave No Trace Skills Courses

Organizations offering Leave No Trace Skills Courses must comply with the Leave No Trace [Training Agreement](#) and follow the Guidelines included below:

1. The organization must be a current [Community Partner](#).

2. Possess the appropriate levels of insurance and provide current Certificates of Insurance to be kept on file at Leave No Trace for the period the organization conducts courses.
3. Assuring that Instructors are current in their Leave No Trace certifications.
4. Assuring staff, including any proposed Leave No Trace lead instructors and/or co-instructors, are appropriately trained in outdoor leadership/instruction skills and maintain appropriate levels of emergency medical certification.
5. Distributing the Leave No Trace introduction and discussion of the [Course Participant Acknowledgement, Assumption of Risks, Release, and Indemnity Agreement](#).
6. Following the “Core Components for Leave No Trace Skills Course Curriculum” and additional Guidelines for courses outlined below in any Leave No Trace Skills Course.

Individual Level 1 or 2 Leave No Trace Instructors Offering Leave No Trace Skills Courses

Those who have completed the Level 1, 2, or 3 Leave No Trace Instructor Courses can conduct the Leave No Trace Skills Course. Instructors do not need to be affiliated with an organization to offer the Leave No Trace Skills Course. Instructors who are not affiliated with a current partner of Leave No Trace must be a current [individual member](#) of Leave No Trace, comply with the Leave No Trace [Training Agreement](#), and follow the Guidelines included below:

1. Possessing appropriate levels of insurance (federal tort claim coverage is acceptable) as required by these guidelines.
2. Be current in Leave No Trace certifications.
3. Maintaining appropriate levels of emergency medical certification as required by these guidelines.
4. Distributing the Leave No Trace introduction and discussion of the [Course Participant Acknowledgement, Assumption of Risks, Release, and Indemnity Agreement](#) as required by these guidelines.
5. Following the “Core Components for Leave No Trace Skills Course Curriculum” and additional Guidelines for courses outlined below in any Leave No Trace Skills Course.

Liability insurance for individual Instructors may be obtained via a private insurer (contact Leave No Trace for details). See the Leave No Trace [Training Agreement](#) for specifics regarding required liability coverage levels for different course types.

Organizations Offering Leave No Trace Workshops

Organizations offering Leave No Trace Workshops are strongly encouraged to become a [partner organization](#) of Leave No Trace (to **receive Workshop Completion Certificates from Leave No Trace, an organizational partnership is required**) and must follow the Guidelines included here. This includes:

1. Assuring that instructors are certified as Leave No Trace Level 1, 2, or 3 Instructors to provide a Certificate of Completion to participants. Leave No Trace Workshops can be taught by someone not formally trained in Leave No Trace, but a Certificate of Completion issued by the Leave No Trace organization cannot be distributed.
2. Assuring that staff, including any proposed Leave No Trace instructors or co-instructors, are appropriately trained in outdoor leadership/instruction skills;
3. Following the “Core Components for Leave No Trace Workshop Curriculum” and additional Guidelines for courses outlined below in any Leave No Trace Workshop.

Individuals Offering Leave No Trace Workshops

Individuals offering Leave No Trace Workshops are strongly encouraged to [become a member](#) of Leave No Trace (**in order to receive Workshop Completion Certificates from Leave No Trace, membership is required**) and must follow the Guidelines included here. This includes:

1. Those who have completed a Level 1, 2, and/or 3 Leave No Trace Instructor Courses are able to conduct Leave No Trace Workshops and provide Certificates of Completion.
2. Others who are familiar with Leave No Trace but have received no formal Leave No Trace training are also encouraged and authorized to conduct Leave No Trace Workshops but are not able to provide a Certificate of Completion.
3. Following the “Core Components for Leave No Trace Workshop Curriculum” and additional Guidelines for courses outlined below in any Leave No Trace Workshop.

INSTRUCTOR TRAINING TRACK

LEAVE NO TRACE IN-PERSON LEVEL 1 INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Level 1: Curriculum Content

A Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course is a modified version of a Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course. The Level 1 Course is shorter, less comprehensive, and less expensive to conduct than a Level 2 Course. Like Level 2 Courses, Level 1 Courses emphasize skills and techniques essential to Leave No Trace minimum impact ethics and education. Sample Level 1 Course curricula and other resources are available through the Leave No Trace organization. A qualified lead instructor and a qualified co-instructor must staff Level 1 Courses.

A Level 1 Course can be taught/delivered by Instructors in different settings:

- Backcountry - Backcountry training models include a minimum of two eight-hour days and one night camping in the field and must be staffed by a qualified lead instructor and a qualified co-instructor.
- Frontcountry - Frontcountry training models include a minimum of two eight-hour days and could have an overnight component should the instructor choose to do so. Overnight accommodations could include tents, cabins, bunkrooms, etc., in a frontcountry setting like a camp, outdoor education center, etc. A qualified lead instructor and a qualified co-instructor must staff frontcountry courses.

Core Components for Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course Curriculum

1. A minimum of sixteen (16) total hours of experiential instruction, ten (10) hours of which must be conducted in the field (Instructors can offer this training in a Frontcountry or Backcountry model).
2. The role and function of a Level 1 Leave No Trace Instructor.
3. The Principles and Ethics of Leave No Trace: This is the core of the Level 1 Instructor Course and should be covered by both the instructor/s and through the student teaching topics. The Master Educator Handbook, www.LNT.org, and the Leave No Trace organization's various social channels, such as YouTube, are excellent resources for this information

4. Teaching skills and techniques, and methods: Chapter 2 in the Master Educator Handbook is devoted to the *Principles of Education* and provides excellent information on teaching techniques and teaching methods.
5. At least one student-led teaching exercise by each participant. Instructor(s) and other participants should provide feedback for each lesson in real-time.
6. Overview of the National Leave No Trace program: This information is contained in the [Leave No Trace standard PowerPoint Presentation](#). Each slide contains presenter notes to help guide you as you facilitate this section.
7. The role and function of the Leave No Trace organization: This information is contained in the [Leave No Trace standard PowerPoint Presentation](#).

Level 1: Lead Instructor

The lead instructor for a Level 1 Instructor Course must be a Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor. Level 1 Course lead instructors should have training and experience in outdoor leadership/instruction skills and maintain appropriate levels of emergency medical certification. At a minimum, the lead instructor should maintain current Standard First Aid and CPR certifications. Level 2 Instructors wishing to offer Level 1 Courses must maintain their certification by taking the Leave No Trace Recertification Course every two (2) years to remain certified. Additionally, any Level 2 Instructor offering Level 1 Courses must be a current [Member of Leave No Trace](#), or the organization sponsoring the course must be a [Partner](#).

Level 1: Co-instructors

A qualified co-instructor is required for all Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Courses.

- A co-instructor for a Level 1 Course can be a Level 2 Instructor or a Level 1 Instructor who completed an in-person Level 1 Course. Those who have completed a Virtual Level 1 Course can co-instruct as well, but the Level 2 lead instructor should ensure the person has adequate outdoor experience.
- Co-instructors should have experience as teachers/trainers within their respective organizations, ideally including instruction on at least one overnight Leave No Trace course.
- Co-instructors should have training and experience in outdoor leadership/instruction skills and appropriate levels of emergency medical certification. At a minimum, co-instructors should maintain current Standard First Aid and CPR certifications.

Level 1: Enrollment

Level 1 Courses must have a minimum of four (4) course participants, as this minimum number better ensures a quality experiential learning opportunity for all participants. If meeting the minimum number of participants is not possible, Leave No Trace may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis. Leave No Trace must be contacted **before** offering any Level 1 Course with fewer than four (4) participants. A Level 1 Course has a maximum of 12 participants. Leave No Trace strives to keep the instructor-to-student ratio low to enhance learning opportunities. Individuals or organizations should contact Leave No Trace for a case-by-case review and approval to run courses with more than 12 participants.

Given the high level of interest in these courses, all courses open to the public should be shared with the Leave No Trace organization to post on the [Upcoming Courses webpage](#). To post your course to the Leave No Trace website, please email a brief course description, including dates, times, costs, contact, and registration information to Training@LNT.org.

Lead instructors for a Level 1 Course must contact land managers at the intended course location before any course to ensure compliance with permitting and group size requirements.

Participants must be 18 or older to participate in a Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course.

Level 1: Cost

The Leave No Trace organization does not set course costs for Level 1 Courses, but a range of \$150 to \$250 per person depending on course logistics and locations, is recommended. Course leaders and/or organizations should set the cost of Level 1 Courses to cover material, travel, staff, and other costs.

Level 1: Completion

Upon completing a Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course, each participant will become a certified Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor and receive a completion certificate from Leave No Trace. Level 1 Course instructors must submit the course roster to the Leave No Trace organization via the [online roster submission form](#). Course rosters cannot be submitted prior to the course being run. Successful course

completion requires participation in all course activities and teaching exercises. Those who complete the Level 1 Course are equipped to:

- Understand, demonstrate, and teach state-of-the-art minimum impact techniques for friends, family, or community groups.
- Lead a discussion on outdoor ethics and help others explore their own personal outdoor ethic.
- Serve as a co-instructor for in-person Level 1 Courses with a qualified Level 2 Instructor.
- Offer and lead Leave No Trace Skills Courses and provide Certificates of Completion.
- Offer and lead Leave No Trace Workshops and provide Certificates of Completion.

Instructors of a Level 1 Course reserve the right to deny certification if, in the eyes of both instructors, the participant has **not**:

1. Attended or participated in the entire course.
2. Displayed the skills necessary to conduct outreach programs or otherwise disseminate Leave No Trace skills and ethics in a productive way.
3. Exhibited behavior consistent with the Leave No Trace philosophy.

Should a course participant display or engage in any of the aforementioned, adequate documentation is required by the course instructors and should be forwarded to Leave No Trace upon course completion.

Level 1: Recertification

Level 1 Instructors must maintain their certification by taking the Leave No Trace Recertification Course every two (2) years to remain certified. Additionally, any Level 1 Instructor wanting to provide Certificates of Completion when offering Leave No Trace Skills Courses and Leave No Trace Workshops must be a current [Member of Leave No Trace](#), or the organization sponsoring the course must be a [Partner](#).

Level 1: Course Instruction

See the Leave No Trace Master Educator Handbook for full details on running a Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course.

LEAVE NO TRACE LEVEL 1 VIRTUAL INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Level 1 Virtual: Curriculum Content

A Virtual Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course is a modified version of a Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course. The Virtual Level 1 Course is shorter, less comprehensive, and less expensive to conduct than a Level 2 Course. Like Level 2 Courses, Virtual Level 1 Courses emphasize skills and techniques essential to Leave No Trace minimum impact outdoor ethics and education. Sample Virtual Level 1 Course curricula and other resources are available through Leave No Trace.

Core Components for Virtual Level 1 Leave No Trace Instructor Course Curriculum

1. Sixteen (16) total hours of experiential instruction: the course must include a minimum of ten (10) hours of synchronous instruction (all course participants together via an online platform such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams) and no more than six (6) hours of asynchronous instruction (self-directed learning offline). This will help ensure a meaningful and effective Virtual Level 1 Course experience for all participants. While having a co-instructor for Virtual Level 1 Courses is best, it is not a requirement.
2. The role and function of a Level 1 Leave No Trace Instructor: Instructors should use the National Training Guidelines to provide this information to course participants. While the PDF version of the Guidelines could be disseminated to course participants, we highly encourage instructors to offer this content as a stand-alone lesson for course participants using available technology.
3. The Principles and Ethics of Leave No Trace: This is the core of the Level 1 Instructor Course and should be covered by both the instructor/s and through the student teaching topics. The Master Educator Handbook, www.LNT.org, and the Leave No Trace organization's various social channels, such as YouTube, are excellent resources for this information. Additionally, there are a variety of supplemental resources for each principle linked below.
4. Teaching skills and techniques, and methods: Chapter 2 in the Master Educator Handbook is devoted to the *Principles of Education* and provides excellent information on teaching techniques and teaching methods.
5. At least one student-led teaching exercise by each participant: **Each course participant should present a 10 to 15-minute teaching topic.** All course participants should create and submit a teaching outline for their topic to the course instructor(s) before the course. Outlines are then shared with all course participants. Instructor(s) and other participants should provide feedback for

each lesson in real-time or via other electronic means (email, Word document, Google doc, etc.). The student-led sessions can be accomplished in a variety of ways:

- a. Participants could teach live via Zoom, Skype, Google Hangouts, Microsoft Teams, or other video conference services to all other participants.
 - b. Participants could record their teaching topic and submit it before the course to be shared with all course participants via YouTube, Zoom, etc.
 - c. Participants could video themselves demonstrating the skill or putting the Principle they are assigned into action outdoors (backyard, local park, open space, etc.).
6. Overview of the National Leave No Trace program: This information is contained in the [Leave No Trace standard PowerPoint Presentation](#). Each slide contains presenter notes to help guide you as you facilitate this section. It is highly encouraged that this PowerPoint is shared live with participants using a video conference service.
 7. The role and function of the Leave No Trace organization: This information is contained in the [Leave No Trace standard PowerPoint Presentation](#).

Level 1 Virtual: Lead Instructor

The lead instructor for a Virtual Level 1 Course must be a Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor. The lead instructor should have training and experience in outdoor leadership/instruction of outdoor skills. Additional qualifications:

- Maintain appropriate levels of emergency medical certification. At a minimum, the lead instructor should maintain current Standard First Aid and CPR certification. **Note: this requirement will be waived provided that no portion of the Virtual Level 1 Course is taught in person.**
- Level 2 Instructors wishing to offer Virtual Level 1 Courses must maintain their certification by taking the Leave No Trace Recertification Course every two (2) years to remain certified.
- Additionally, any Level 2 Instructor offering Level 1 Courses must be a current [Member of Leave No Trace](#), or the organization sponsoring the course must be a [Partner](#).

Level 1 Virtual: Co-instructors

A co-instructor is not required for the Virtual Level 1 Course but is strongly recommended for course quality. Co-instructors can be either Level 2 or Level 1 Instructors. Additional qualifications:

- Co-instructors should have experience as teachers/trainers within their respective organizations.
- While the Virtual Level 1 Course has no overnight component, co-instructors should have knowledge that includes events that may occur on an overnight experience, like Leave No Trace campsite selection, campfire management, food storage consistent with overnight experience, and more.
- Co-instructors should also have training and experience in outdoor leadership/instruction of outdoor skills.
- At a minimum, co-instructors should maintain current Standard First Aid and CPR certification. **Note: this requirement will be waived provided no portion of the Virtual Level 1 Course is taught in person.**
- Level 1 and Level 2 co-Instructors wishing to offer Virtual Level 1 Courses must maintain their certification by taking the Leave No Trace Recertification Course every two (2) years to remain certified.
- Any Level 1 or Level 2 Instructor co-instructing Level 1 Courses must be a current [Member of Leave No Trace](#), or the organization sponsoring the course must be a [Partner](#).

Level 1 Virtual: Enrollment

Virtual Level 1 Courses must have a minimum of four (4) course participants as this better ensures a quality experiential learning opportunity for all participants. If meeting the minimum number of participants is not possible, Leave No Trace may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis. Leave No Trace must be contacted before offering any Level 1 Course with fewer than four (4) participants. The maximum number of Virtual Level 1 Courses participants is twelve (12). Leave No Trace strongly recommends that organizations and individuals offering Virtual Level 1 Courses strive to keep the instructor-to-student ratio low to enhance learning opportunities.

Given the high level of interest in these courses, all courses open to the public should be shared with the Leave No Trace organization to post on the Upcoming Courses webpage. To post your course to the Leave No Trace website, please email a brief course description, including dates, times, costs, contact, and registration information to Training@LNT.org.

Level 1 Virtual: Insurance

While general liability insurance for Level 2 Instructors is a standard requirement for Leave No Trace in-person Level 1 Courses, **this requirement will be waived provided no portion of the Virtual Level 1 Course is taught in-person.**

Level 1 Virtual: Cost

Course costs for Virtual Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Courses are not set by the Leave No Trace organization, but a course cost between \$150 and \$250 per participant is recommended. Course leaders and/or organizations should set the cost of Virtual Level 1 Courses to cover material, staff, and other costs.

Level 1 Virtual: Completion

Upon completing a Virtual Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course, each participant will become a Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor and receive a certification from Leave No Trace. Virtual Level 1 Course instructors must submit the course roster to the Leave No Trace organization via the [online roster submission form](#). The roster may not be submitted prior to the course being run. Successful course completion requires participation in all course activities and teaching exercises. Those who complete the Virtual Level 1 Course are equipped to:

- Understand, demonstrate, and teach state-of-the-art minimum impact techniques for friends, family, or community groups.
- Lead a discussion on outdoor ethics and help others explore their own personal outdoor ethic.
- Serve as a co-instructor for In-person Level 1 Courses with a qualified Level 2 Instructor.
- Offer and lead Leave No Trace Skills Courses and provide Certificates of Completion.
- Offer and lead Leave No Trace Workshops and provide Certificates of Completion.

The instructor(s) of a Virtual Level 1 Course reserves the right to deny certification if, in the eye(s) of the instructor(s), the participant has **not**:

1. Attended and participated in the entire course.
2. Displayed the skills necessary to conduct outreach programs or otherwise disseminate Leave No Trace skills and ethics in a productive way.
3. Exhibited behavior consistent with the Leave No Trace philosophy.

Should a course participant display or engage in any of the aforementioned, adequate documentation is required by the course instructor/s. It should be forwarded to Leave No Trace upon course completion.

Level 1 Virtual: Recertification

Level 1 Instructors must maintain their certification by taking the Leave No Trace Recertification Course every two (2) years. Additionally, any Level 1 Instructor wanting to provide Certificates of Completion when offering Leave No Trace Skills Courses and Leave No Trace Workshops must be a current [Member of Leave No Trace](#), or the organization sponsoring the course must be a [Partner](#).

LEAVE NO TRACE LEVEL 2 INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Level 2: Curriculum Content

A Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course emphasizes skills and techniques essential to Leave No Trace minimum impact outdoor ethics and education. **As stated in the introduction above, Leave No Trace courses do not teach basic travel, camping or other outdoor skills or provide outdoor instructor certification.**

A Level 2 Course can be taught/delivered by Course Providers in different settings:

- Backcountry - Backcountry training models include a minimum of four eight-hour days and one to three nights camping in the field and must be staffed by a qualified lead instructor and a qualified co-instructor.
- Frontcountry - Frontcountry training models include a minimum of five eight-hour days and could have an overnight component should the instructor choose to do so. Overnight accommodations could include tents, cabins, bunkrooms, etc., in a frontcountry setting like a camp, outdoor education center, etc. A qualified lead instructor and a qualified co-instructor must staff frontcountry courses.
- Hybrid - Both the Backcountry and Frontcountry courses can be offered by instructors in a partially virtual model. Days 1 and 5 are mostly classroom days and can be provided by instructors via a virtual method should the instructors choose to do so.

Core Components for Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course Curriculum

1. Review of the role of a Level 2 Instructor.
2. Discussion and practice of the Principles and ethics of Leave No Trace.
3. Discussion of the Leave No Trace training concept and Training Guidelines.
4. Overview of Leave No Trace related research: recreation ecology, human dimensions of natural resources, and resource types and social impacts.
5. Discussion of Leave No Trace teaching skills and techniques, student learning styles, and development of lesson plans.
6. Development of a Leave No Trace Action Plan.
7. At least one student-led teaching exercise by each participant.
8. Focus on interactive and hands-on field experiences.
9. Review of the mission and need for the Leave No Trace program.
10. A historical overview of the Leave No Trace program.
11. Overview of the role, function, and structure of the Leave No Trace organization.

Level 2: Lead Instructor

- Be employed by or directly affiliated with an approved Level 2 Course Provider or retained by such an organization to conduct the course.
- Be a currently certified Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor.
- Have previous Leave No Trace course experience. Specifically, a lead instructor must:
 - Co-instruct one or more approved Level 2 Courses before serving as a lead instructor or,
 - At a minimum, must successfully instruct at least two in-person Level 1 Courses before serving as a lead instructor.
 - The qualifying Level 2 Course or in-person Level 1 Course must be co-instructed with a different individual than the one who facilitated the instructor's Level 2 Course.
- Have training and experience in outdoor leadership/instruction skills and maintain appropriate levels of emergency medical certification. At a minimum, the lead instructor should maintain current CPR and Wilderness First Responder certifications.
- Level 2 Instructors must maintain their certification by taking the Leave No Trace Recertification Course every two (2) years to remain certified.
- Any Level 2 Instructor teaching Level 2 Courses must be a current [Member of Leave No Trace](#), and the organization sponsoring the course must be a current [Partner](#).

Level 2: Co-instructors

A qualified co-instructor is required for all Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Courses. The co-instructor for a Level 2 Course must:

- Be a Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor.
- Be employed by or directly affiliated with an approved Level 2 Course Provider.
- Have experience as a teacher/trainer within their respective organizations, including instruction of at least one overnight Leave No Trace Level 1 Course.
- Have training and experience in outdoor leadership/instruction skills and maintain appropriate levels of emergency medical certification.
- Level 2 co-instructors must maintain their certification by taking the Leave No Trace Recertification Course every two (2) years to remain certified.
- Any Level 2 co-Instructor must be a current [Member of Leave No Trace](#), or the organization sponsoring the course must be a [Partner](#).
- At a minimum, maintain current certification in Standard First Aid and CPR or adhere to their organization's higher-level requirement.

Leave No Trace encourages, when possible, the presence of qualified, agency-affiliated co-instructors on Level 2 Courses to provide participants with a perspective on the management and use of public lands.

Note: If a lead instructor or co-instructor must be replaced during a last-minute emergency, and the Provider cannot locate a replacement that fulfills these criteria, Leave No Trace must be contacted immediately. The Leave No Trace organization will offer assistance in locating a qualified lead or co-instructor from other Level 2 Course Providers or land management agencies. If this is not possible, Leave No Trace can grant a co-instructor exception on a case-by-case basis.

Level 2: Enrollment

Level 2 Instructor Courses must have a minimum of five (5) course participants, as this minimum number better ensures a quality experiential learning opportunity for all participants. If meeting the minimum number of participants is not possible, Leave No Trace may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis. Leave No Trace must be contacted before offering a Level 2 Instructor Course with fewer than five (5) participants. A Level 2 Instructor Course has a maximum of 12 participants. Leave No Trace strives to keep the instructor-to-student ratio low to enhance learning opportunities. Individuals or organizations should contact Leave No Trace for a case-by-case review and approval to run courses with more than 12 participants. Lead Instructors for a Level 2 Instructor Course must contact land managers at the intended course location before any course to ensure compliance with permitting and group size requirements.

All enrollment in a Level 2 Instructor Course should occur with full understanding that in the event an enrolled participant cannot attend the course, either a replacement person from that organization/agency can be sent, or the organization/agency or individual may forfeit all or part of the tuition, per the policy of the offering organization.

Participants must be 18 or older to participate in a Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course.

Level 2: Cost

The Leave No Trace organization will review but not set Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course tuition costs before establishing the annual Level 2 Instructor Course calendar. Every effort will be made to agree upon a fair and equitable cost for the

training organization and the student/participant. Course costs set by course providers do not include travel (and associated travel costs) for participants to and from the course.

Course tuition discounts may be extended to applicable partners if they provide cost-saving logistical support, host facilities, equipment, and/or other services to the course provider. Any discounts offered are done so at the discretion of the course provider.

Level 2: Completion

Upon completing a Level 2 Instructor Course, each participant will become a Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor and receive a certification from the course provider. Successful course completion requires participation in all course activities and teaching exercises. Those who complete the Level 2 Instructor Course are equipped to:

- Understand, demonstrate, and teach state-of-the-art minimum impact outdoor techniques, with the ability to train and certify others as Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructors (in-person and virtual).
- Lead a discussion on outdoor ethics and help others explore and define their own personal outdoor ethic.
- Develop and share an Action Plan for teaching others about Leave No Trace.
- Offer and provide completion certificates for Leave No Trace Skills Courses.
- Offer and provide completion certificates for Leave No Trace Workshops.

All participants of a Level 2 Instructor Course shall be asked to complete The Leave No Trace organization's course evaluation form, copies of which must be submitted to Leave No Trace by the Course Provider.

The Leave No Trace organization, in consultation with its Course Providers, reserves the right to deny certification if, in the eyes of both instructors, the participant has not:

1. Attended and participated in the entire course.
2. Displayed the skills necessary to train Level 1 Instructors, conduct outreach programs or otherwise disseminate Leave No Trace skills and ethics in a productive way.
3. Exhibited behavior consistent with the Leave No Trace philosophy.

Should a course participant display or engage in any of the aforementioned, adequate documentation is required by the course instructors. It should be forwarded to Leave No Trace upon course completion.

Level 2: Recertification

Level 2 Instructors must maintain their certification by taking the Leave No Trace Recertification Course every two (2) years.. Additionally, any Level 2 Instructor wanting to provide certifications for Level 1 Courses or Certificates of Completion when offering Leave No Trace Skills Courses and Leave No Trace Workshops must be a current [Member of Leave No Trace](#), or the organization sponsoring the course must be a [Partner](#).

RECREATIONAL TRAINING TRACK

LEAVE NO TRACE SKILLS COURSE

Skills Course: Curriculum Content

A Leave No Trace Skills Course is a modified version of a Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course. The Skills Course is shorter, less comprehensive, and less expensive to conduct than a Level 1 Course. Like Level 1 Courses, Skills Courses emphasize skills and techniques essential to Leave No Trace minimum impact ethics, but participants are not required to teach a Leave No Trace lesson. Instead, the course focuses on participants learning practical skills and ethics. Sample Skills Course curricula and other resources are available through the Leave No Trace organization. A qualified lead instructor and a qualified co-instructor must staff a Skills Course.

Core Components for the Leave No Trace Skills Course Curriculum

1. A minimum of sixteen (16) total hours of experiential instruction, an overnight experience is recommended but not required (Instructors can offer this training in a frontcountry or backcountry setting).
2. The Principles and Ethics of Leave No Trace.
3. Leave No Trace skills, techniques, understanding, and practice.
4. General overview of the national Leave No Trace program.

Skills Course: Lead Instructor

The lead instructor for a Skills Course must be a Leave No Trace Level 1, 2, or 3 Instructor. Skills Course lead instructors should have training and experience in outdoor leadership/instruction skills and maintain appropriate levels of emergency medical certification. At a minimum, the lead instructor should maintain current Standard First Aid and CPR certifications. Instructors wishing to offer Skills Courses must maintain their certification by taking the Leave No Trace Recertification Course every two (2) years to remain certified. Additionally, any instructor offering Skills Courses and providing a Certificate of Completion must be a current [Member of Leave No Trace](#) or the organization sponsoring the course must be a [Partner](#).

Skills Course: Co-instructors

A qualified co-instructor is required for all Leave No Trace Skills Courses.

- A co-instructor for a Skills Course can be a Level 1, 2, or 3 Instructor or a person with advanced knowledge and understanding of Leave No Trace Principles, skills, and ethics. The lead instructor should ensure that a co-instructor without Leave No Trace Level 1, 2, or 3 instructor training has the necessary background to co-instruct.
- Co-instructors should have experience as teachers/trainers within their respective organizations, ideally including instruction on at least one overnight Leave No Trace course.
- Co-instructors should have training and experience in outdoor leadership/instruction skills and appropriate levels of emergency medical certification. At a minimum, co-instructors should maintain current Standard First Aid and CPR certifications.

Skills Course: Enrollment

Skills Courses do not have a minimum or maximum participant restriction. However, Leave No Trace strives to keep the instructor-to-student ratio low to enhance learning opportunities. A 1 to 6 instructor-to-participant ratio is highly recommended.

Given the high level of interest in these courses, all courses open to the public should be shared with the Leave No Trace organization to post on the Upcoming Courses webpage. To post your course to the Leave No Trace website, please email a brief course description, including dates, times, costs, contact, and registration information to Training@LNT.org.

Lead instructors for Skills Courses must contact land managers at the intended course location before any course to ensure compliance with permitting and group size requirements.

Skills Course: Cost

The Leave No Trace organization does not set course costs for Skills Courses, but a range of \$50 to \$85 per person, depending on course logistics and locations, is recommended. Course leaders and/or organizations should set the cost of Skills Courses to cover material, travel, staff, and other costs.

Skills Course: Completion

Upon completing a Leave No Trace Skills Course, each participant can receive a Certificate of Completion from Leave No Trace if the instructor's certification and membership/partnership are current. Skills Course instructors must submit the course roster to the Leave No Trace organization via the [online roster submission form](#). Successful course completion requires participation in all course activities and teaching exercises. Those who complete the Skills Course are equipped to:

- Understand and practice state-of-the-art minimum impact techniques on personal outdoor excursions.
- Discuss the 7 Principles and outdoor ethics with others.
- Co-instruct Leave No Trace Skills Courses with a certified Leave No Trace Level 1, 2, or 3 Instructor.
- Teach Leave No Trace Workshops. However, being a Leave No Trace Level 1 or Level 2 Instructor is required to provide Certificates of Completion.

Instructors of a Skills Course reserve the right to deny a Certificate of Completion if, in the eyes of both instructors, the participant has not:

1. Attended and participated in the entire course.
2. Exhibited behavior consistent with the Leave No Trace philosophy.

Should a course participant display or engage in any of the aforementioned, adequate documentation is required by the course instructors. It should be forwarded to Leave No Trace upon course completion.

LEAVE NO TRACE WORKSHOPS

Workshop: Curriculum Content

A Leave No Trace Workshop is any formal Leave No Trace presentation one day or less in length and facilitated or implemented by a Leave No Trace Level 1, 2, or 3 Instructor. Individuals familiar with the Leave No Trace Principles, skills, and ethics can also teach Workshops, but Certificates of Completion may only be provided by a certified instructor in good standing with the organization. These workshops require less time, are less comprehensive, and are less expensive to conduct than Level 1 or Level 2 Instructor Courses. Like Level 1 and Level 2 Instructor Courses, Workshops emphasize skills and techniques essential to Leave No Trace minimum impact outdoor ethics and education. The Leave No Trace Workshop curriculum samples are available through the Leave No Trace organization.

Core Components for Leave No Trace Workshop Curriculum

- Leave No Trace Workshops should be one day or less in length and adequately cover the Leave No Trace Seven Principles, outdoor ethics, and mission of the Leave No Trace organization. Workshops can be built into other course offerings, classes, staff training, etc.
- In addition, the following topics should be included, time permitting:
 - Overview of the national Leave No Trace program, including information about Leave No Trace Frontcountry practices when applicable.
 - The role and function of the Leave No Trace organization.
 - Overview of the Leave No Trace website and all available resources.
 - Overview of how individuals and organizations can join and support Leave No Trace.

Workshop: Leaders

A Leave No Trace Workshop leader can be a Leave No Trace Level 1, 2, or 3 Instructor. Individuals familiar with the Leave No Trace Principles, skills, and ethics can also teach Workshops but cannot provide a Certificate of Completion unless they are a certified instructor in good standing with the organization. Leave No Trace Workshop leaders should have training and experience in outdoor leadership/instruction skills. It is recommended that Workshop leaders maintain current certifications in Standard First Aid and CPR.

Workshop: Enrollment

Leave No Trace Workshop enrollment is not limited by Leave No Trace. Organizations and individuals offering Workshops should strive to keep the instructor-to-student ratio low to enhance learning opportunities. The number of participants in any Workshop should comply with the local land management agency's group size limits.

Workshop: Cost

Course costs for Leave No Trace Workshops are not set by the Leave No Trace organization. Course leaders and/or organizations should set the cost of Workshops to cover material, travel, staff, and other costs and are encouraged to offer free Workshops whenever possible. If fees are charged, Leave No Trace encourages course leaders and/or organizations to make Workshop fees as low as possible to encourage enrollment and training efforts.

Workshop: Completion

Upon completing a Leave No Trace Workshop, each participant can receive a Certificate of Completion from the instructor if the instructor is a Level 1, 2, or 3 Instructor in good standing with the organization. Those who complete a Leave No Trace Workshop should be equipped to:

- Understand and practice minimum impact techniques when recreating outdoors.
- Discuss outdoor ethics with others and explore their own personal outdoor ethic.
- Understand and convey the purpose of Leave No Trace.
- Recite and explain the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace.

Upon completion of a Leave No Trace Workshop, the instructor is asked to submit a roster including the total number of participants, the participant's first and last name, and email. Workshop rosters can be [reported online](#).