

# Stewardship Starts With You

Across the country, public lands are feeling the pressure—shrinking budgets, staffing shortages—all amidst high visitation that has left many places without the support they need. Recent Leave No Trace research finds that 84% of avid outdoor users think recent changes are unacceptable. It's anticipated this will shift some visitation from federal lands to local outdoor spaces. It's never been clearer: Nature can't protect itself. That's where you come in. With a little knowledge and a lot of care, your visit can help keep these places open, clean, and thriving for everyone.



## BE YOUR OWN RANGER

With fewer staff on the ground, everyone should become a steward. Pick up litter (yours and others'), stay on trail, and step up to care for the land like it's your job—because right now, it kind of is.



## PLAN FOR FEWER SERVICES

Bathrooms may be closed or lack toilet paper. Trash cans might be full. Come prepared with supplies to bury or pack out your solid human waste. Same goes with trash, if bins are full, pack it all the way home.



## BE AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS

When signs are missing and rangers are rare, people copy what they see. Your behavior becomes the guide. Pack out trash. Yield the trail. Respect wildlife. You never know who you're silently teaching.



## RESPECT CLOSURES AND REDUCED SERVICES

If a site is closed, it's closed for a reason—maybe safety, maybe lack of staff or funds. Visiting anyway can cause lasting damage and danger to you or others. Use official sources to find open areas and help prevent overcrowding elsewhere.



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