



Year in Review

← 2025 →

ACHIEVEMENTS - FINANCES - SUPPORTER RECOGNITION

The 2025 Annual Report includes images by Ulderico Granger/www.uldericoimages.com

A vertical photograph on the left side of the page shows a person walking away from the camera on a dirt path through a dense forest. Sunlight streams through the trees, creating a hazy, ethereal atmosphere. The person is silhouetted against the bright light.

A Message From the Executive Director

In 2025, Leave No Trace expanded its reach, deepened its impact, and showed what's possible when education meets action.

As more people head outdoors, the need to protect the places we love has never been greater. Last year, we rose to meet that moment—reaching tens of thousands of individuals, mobilizing communities, and delivering measurable environmental results.

We made Leave No Trace education more accessible than ever. New online courses—offered in multiple languages and covering topics from sustainable fishing to responsible overlanding—engaged more than 19,000 people worldwide. By meeting people where they are, we're building a global culture of stewardship. And as a cornerstone of our work, we strengthened the foundation of our educator network. Participation in our Level 1 and Level 2 Instructor programs increased by more than 10 percent—ensuring that Leave No Trace educators continue to lead with credibility, consistency, and impact.

Leave No Trace remains grounded in science. Research conducted in seven U.S. national parks and more than a dozen additional natural areas strengthened our understanding of how people interact with the outdoors—and how simple actions can significantly reduce impact. These insights continue to shape the guidance and education we share every day.

Across the country, our programs turned knowledge into action. Through 17 Spotlight activations and 17 Gold Standard Site evaluations, we worked alongside communities to address real-world challenges—mobilizing more than 2,700 volunteer hours in the process.

Our State Advocate network grew stronger, expanding to 39 trained leaders across 34 states and Puerto Rico. Together, they delivered more than 150 education events, reaching over 26,000 people and embedding Leave No Trace principles into communities nationwide.

Importantly, our work is delivering measurable results. After a targeted education campaign in Arizona's Oak Creek Canyon, data show that water pollutants were reduced by more than 50 percent over two years—clear evidence that behavior change leads to environmental recovery.

On California's northern coast, that momentum continued. Through more than 500 community events across Marin, Mendocino, and Sonoma Counties, volunteers removed 55,000 pounds of trash—restoring coastal environments and reinforcing the power of collective action.

The takeaway from 2025 is simple: when people are equipped with the right knowledge, they make better choices for the outdoors. Thanks to our generous donors, partners and dedicated individuals around the globe, we're scaling that knowledge—and the impact that comes with it—so that the places we all care about are protected, now and into the future.

See you out there,

Dana Watts
Executive Director

2025 Financial Summary

Careful management created a stable base and growth opportunities

Leave No Trace closed 2025 in a strong financial position, thanks to disciplined management and thoughtful decisions throughout the year. While total revenue came in slightly below our original projections, careful expense management and strong performance in several key funding areas allowed us to finish the year with a modest operating surplus and improved net assets. As a result, the organization enters 2026 on a stable financial footing with increased cash reserves and continued momentum.

Several areas of support performed particularly well. Corporate partnerships continued to expand and remain one of the most reliable sources of unrestricted funding, while foundation grants exceeded expectations and helped fuel our research and programmatic work. Our program services also experienced strong demand, particularly for recertification programs and online learning. Finally, international activity contributed meaningful revenue growth, reflecting the global reach of Leave No Trace principles.

At the same time, some funding sources fell short of expectations, including federal grants and certain program partnerships, underscoring an uncertain economic landscape. Overall, the year reflects responsible stewardship of resources and positions Leave No Trace to continue advancing its mission in the year ahead.

Kurt Achtenhagen, CPA (inactive)
Chief Financial Officer

2025 Audited Summary Financial Information

(amounts are rounded to the nearest thousand)

SOURCES OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE (\$2,723,000)

- 51% Partnerships & Grants
- 27% Program Services
- 12% Individual Giving
- 5% In Kind Donations
- 3% Interest & Other
- 2% Merchandise Sales



USE OF FUNDS (\$2,672,000)

- 81% Program Services
- 10% General & Administrative
- 9% Fundraising



TOTAL ASSETS AT 12/31/2025 (\$2,228,000)

- 70% Property and Equipment (net of depreciation)
- 21% Cash & Equivalents
- 4% Accounts & Grants Receivable
- 4% Inventory
- 1% Prepayments & Other Assets



Based on the annual audited financial statements.



Teachable Moments

Leave No Trace delivers quality education in-person and online

In a perfect world, everyone who learns about Leave No Trace would have the opportunity to immerse themselves in a natural setting, sleeping under the stars with like-minded students, and exploring low-impact techniques in an outdoor classroom. In fact, options for just that kind of experience exist, thanks mostly to the multiple education-providing organizations we partner with, but there are also less costly, easier-to-schedule, and more accessible options.

Regardless of the setting, the positive outcomes of Leave No Trace training are undeniable:

- Taking a Leave No Trace training results in a **5X greater likelihood** of following well-defined actions to protect nature.
- In a national survey, **85 percent of respondents** agreed that Leave No Trace practices are effective for safeguarding the environment.
- One person who is formally trained in Leave No Trace will typically pass that knowledge along to **256 others in a single year**.

Leave No Trace Training is divided into two distinct paths: The Instructor Training track is designed for those who want to teach Leave No Trace through workshops, courses, or other educational offerings and provides certification to those who complete courses. The

Recreational Training track is designed for those who want to learn Leave No Trace skills and principles to apply in their own outdoor pursuits.

Keep reading for a closer look at the main education options we offer.

ONLINE LEARNING: The Learn.LNT.org platform has seen rapid growth in recent years, providing anyone with an internet connection the option to take a range of high-quality courses, mostly at no cost, and available in multiple languages. The most popular option is "Leave No Trace 101," an introductory class that covers the 7 Principles and provides instructional videos, skills quizzes, and more. More than 19,000 individuals completed our online courses in 2025!

RECREATION-TRACK WORKSHOPS: Each year, in-person and online Leave No Trace Workshops reach tens of thousands of people with minimum impact skills and ethics. Typically conducted in person, these introductory workshops vary in length and content, covering topics ranging from a basic overview of the 7 Principles to an in-depth look at managing waste in the backcountry. They can be tailored for educators, youth, college students, outdoor professionals, or anyone interested in learning more about Leave No Trace practices. These workshops can also take a deep dive into Leave No Trace for a specific environment or recreational activity, such as desert environments or rock climbing.



SKILLS COURSE: Recreation-track Skills Course participants learn Leave No Trace skills and ethics, with opportunities to practice these low-impact techniques in nature. Skills Courses typically occur over two consecutive days and involve spending more than half of the course outdoors. Leave No Trace Skills Course graduates are prepared to discuss the Leave No Trace principles with others and to practice low-impact skills and techniques on future endeavors.

LEVEL 1 INSTRUCTOR COURSE: Participants taking the two-day Level 1 Instructor Course learn Leave No Trace skills, ethics, and techniques for educating others. In-person Level 1 Instructor Courses typically occur over two consecutive days and involve spending more than half of the course outdoors. Virtual options are also available for Level 1 Instructor Courses. Certified Level 1 Instructors are prepared to teach Leave No Trace Skills Courses and Workshops and to co-instruct Level 1 Instructor Courses in their communities.

LEVEL 2 INSTRUCTOR COURSE: The five-day Level 2 Instructor Course is our most comprehensive education course. Participants receive in-depth training in Leave No Trace skills and ethics through practical application in a field-based course. Leave No Trace techniques get shared through discussions, scenarios, demonstrations, and hands-on activities throughout all five days of the field-based course. The Level 2 program prepares participants to be the best possible teachers of Leave No Trace regardless of the setting. Certified Level 2 Instructors are prepared to teach Level 1 Instructor Courses, Leave No Trace Skills Courses, and Workshops.



RECERTIFICATION FOR LEVEL 1-2 INSTRUCTORS:

Level 1 and Level 2 Instructors must recertify every 2 years to maintain their active status and stay up to date with the latest best practices, research, and educational techniques. Recertification ensures that instructors continue to deliver high-quality, accurate, and effective Leave No Trace education while reinforcing their commitment to minimizing human impact on the environment.

Questions? Send a message to Training@LNT.org for more info about any of our education programs.



Recognition for Our Leadership Circle and Notable Supporters

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

David Allen	Kerra Field	Teresa Martinez	Jonathan Simpson
Doug & Karen Angevine	Steven Fraim	Cathy & Alex Miller	Dan Slack
Chris Baumgartner	James Fuller	Holly Moynahan	Mark Tanenbaum
Skip Clemmons	Beth Glosten	Lindsay Needler-Turner	Mike Thomas
Richard Crosson	Matt Hanson	Jeff Neitzel	Claudia Vecchio
Michelle Cutter	Teresa Janison	David O'Leary	Mark Walter
Jay Dement	Richard Jindrich	Frank Santiago	Daniel & Karen Weber
Nathan Dopp	Julie Klein	Daniel Segersin	Davis Wright
Beth & Randall Ferguson			

NOTABLE SUPPORTERS

Steve Abraham	Stephen Emmett-Mattox	Robert Kuhl	Susan Roy
Kurt Achtenhagen	Gloria Enger	Ciera Lanier	Talia Salem
Mike and Susy Alkaitis	Julie England	William Lardie	Catherine Scheder
Scott Anderson	Michelle Esterberg	Richard Laxar	Paul Schimke
David Baker	Man Fai Fong	John Lemire	Gary W. Seldomridge
Lewis Baltz	Lindsey Foree	Tristan Linck	Thomas Shaw
Chris Battle	Mary Franey	John Lindegren	Hillary Shaw
Cheryl Baylor	Ben Fritsch	Dr. Kjell Lindgren	Richard Sienkiewich
Barbara Benson	Brenda Fruhauf	Bruce Loeb	Makiko Smith
Dale & Jean Beucler	Evan Gartley	Laura Loomis	Melissa Smith
David Black	Kyle Gersman	Drew Martin	Kazuo Sone
Amy Boebel	Andre Giel	Connor Martin	Jason Specht
Erin Boisvert	James Green	Margaret Matera	Randolph Stadler
Danny Bottoms	Scott Gurr	Jared Matts	Barbara Straka
Robert Branan	James Hall	Mac McConnell	William Straka
Benjamin Broome	Annie Hall	Jeff McDivitt	Rachel Stucki
Haley Bryan	Gregory Hamilton	Rhonda Mickelson	Patti Sura
Zoe Burmeister	Vicky Hamrick	Mark Miranda	Barbara Swanson
Andrea Burns	Catherine Hartshorn	Edward Miron	Brian Swanson
Kyle Byerly	Timothy Havens	Mark Moody	Mel Tome
Craig Callaway	Justine Hays	Sara Morrison	Robert Traylor
Gary Candy	April Hearne	John Murry	David Tschantz
Rosemary Capuano	Gilbert Heinz	Frances Neuman	D. Valentine
Gregory Carpenter	Daniel Hippe	Janet Nye	Kristin Vogele
Erin W. Carroll	Charles Hoppa	Tony Overlock	Carolyn Von Maur
Christopher Chan	Jay Hsu	Bruce Park	Gerald Vukman
Paula Church	Juan Jauregui	Karen Pharris	Debra Wagner
Sean Collins	Kara Jindrich	Thomas Prevost	Dana Watts
Patrick Connelly	Bradley & Emily John	Joe Princi	Kurt Warmbier
Robert Crawford	Joyce Jones	Madison Pyle	Mary Weiler
Sara Crawley	Churck Jordal	Travis Reynolds	Elizabeth Williams
Michael Cutter	Miranda Kalish	Tamara Richards	Duane Worthington
H.W. Cyphers	Sallie & Gannon Kashiwa	Johanna Richman	Jonathan Wright
Jeffery Davis	Emily Kjos	Steven & Kristina Robertson	Robert C. Wuerdeman
Stephen Deatherage	Kari Klein	John Rohde	Lynn Yonge
Asha Demarsh	Lisa Koehn	Raul Romo	William Young
Chris Desforges	Marion Kohler	Nina Ronzoni	Anna Zawisza
Doug Campbell	Mark Kubers	Charles Ross	

Businesses Across Multiple Industries Stepped Up to Support Our Work

Consumers have more choices for goods and services than ever before, including the option to spend their hard-earned dollars with businesses and destination organizations that share their values. A recent study showed that 97% of travelers consider environmental impacts when planning a trip, and 73% want to learn how to make a positive impact in the communities they visit — but only 23% feel they've been shown how to plan a trip with sustainability in mind (Aruba Tourism Authority, 2025).

We can say with confidence that the organizations that supported Leave No Trace in 2025 made a positive difference. The Leave No Trace partners listed here support responsible recreation and environmental responsibility. We are grateful for their contributions, and we look forward to expanding our collaboration with businesses committed to values-based stewardship.

Interested in aligning your business with Leave No Trace? Learn more by visiting: LNT.org/partnerships.

PATRON PARTNERS:



PLATINUM PARTNERS:



GOLD PARTNERS:

Aquarion Water Company

Landmark Project

Tec Laboratories

EcoVessel

Montucky Cold Snacks

Tincup

L.L.Bean

Osprey Packs

Upslope

SILVER PARTNERS:

Adventure Instead Academy	La Sportiva	Sawyer
BearVault	Little Kamper	Sea to Summit
Bold Rock Hard Cider	Macs Adventure	Travel John Products
Cleanwaste/American Innotek	Niantic Labs	Upstream
CoolWorks	OK4WD/Wrappon	Wayfarer Vans
Eagles Nest Outfitters	Opinel	Yeti
GU Energy Labs	Ramble	

BRONZE PARTNERS:

Arc'teryx Boulder	GearTips	Mast General Store
American Backcountry	Gossamer Gear	Planet Bluegrass
Avid4 Adventure	Grabber Warmers	RISE Festival
Big Agnes	GSI Outdoors	The GeoProject
Burning Man	Hansi/Terra Vi	Transrockies
Cheley Colorado Camps	Hilleberg The Tentmaker	Ultra Music Festival
Eagle Nest Outfitters	Leki USA	Voss Signs
Falcon Guides	Marble Canyon Lodge	

Tourism Partners

Leave No Trace partners with state, regional, and municipal tourism agencies, reaching millions of travelers through educational signage, digital content, and hospitality training. Together, we're not just welcoming visitors, we're helping create sustainable visitors who leave destinations better than they found them, and changing the culture of outdoor travel

Arizona Office of Tourism	Visit Central Oregon	Marin CVB, California
Visit Boulder, Colorado	Maine Office of Tourism	Door County, Wisconsin
Travel Nevada	Martin County, Florida	Rapid City, South Dakota
Colorado Tourism Office	Visit Keweenaw, Michigan	Cleaner California Coast
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality	Sonoma County, California	Matador Network
Visit North Carolina/Outdoor NC	Utah Office of Tourism	Miles Partnership
New Smyrna Beach Area, Florida	Bend, Oregon	Michigan National Forests
West Virginia Office of Tourism	Reno/Sparks Area Tourism, Nevada	Cook County, Minnesota
Bradenton, Florida	Cadillac, Michigan	
Tillamook Coast Visitors Association, Oregon	Alabama Mountain Lakes	
	Marquette, Michigan	

Small and Mid-Sized Businesses Make an Outsized Difference

Each year, a diverse coalition of nonprofits, small businesses, educators, and municipalities align themselves with Leave No Trace and our shared mission to build a sustainable future for the outdoors through education and stewardship. In addition to bringing Leave No Trace training to their own communities, Community Partners help fund Leave No Trace’s online and in-person programming.

Interested in joining these supporting businesses in supporting our work? Send a message to Partnerships@LNT.org

PLATINUM

Backcountry Horsemen of California
 City of Colorado Springs
 Hartwick College
 Mohonk Preserve
 NoCo Places
 PyreLogs

Arizona River Runners
 Aspen Chamber Resort Association
 Aspen Expeditions
 Better Trails (Singapore)
 Calleva Inc.
 Camp Chief Ouray
 Camp Mont Nuage
 Catskill Center

Ice Age Trail Alliance
 In Your Element
 International Mountain Guides, LLC
 Joshua Tree National Park Association
 Kandoo Adventures
 Kansas Outdoor Ethics
 Keweenaw Resort, LLC
 Keystone Trails Association

GOLD

City of Los Angeles Public Library
 City of Waco Parks & Recreation
 City of Westminster Open Space
 Colorado Parks and Wildlife
 Douglas County Open Space and Natural Resources
 Fannin County Chamber of Commerce
 Friends of the Wichitas
 Live More Campervans
 North Lake Tahoe
 North Tahoe Community Alliance
 Pocahontas County, West Virginia
 TRAVEX
 Venture Ever After

City of Allen
 City of Cedar Park Parks & Recreation
 City of Destin
 City of Fayetteville
 Clearwater Collective
 Colorado College Outdoor Education
 Colorado River & Trail Expeditions Inc.
 Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency
 Cottonwood Canyons Foundation
 Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management, Penn State University

Kula Cloth
 L-A-D Foundation
 Lancaster Conservancy
 Landmark Learning
 Lasting Adventures, Inc.
 Marin Convention & Visitors Bureau
 Maryland Park Service
 Miami University Outdoor Pursuit Center
 Minnesota North College, Vermilion Campus
 Morgan Duke Conservation Society
 myscenicdrives.com
 National Outdoor Leadership School
 Naventure

SILVER

Adirondack Forty Sixers, Inc
 Adirondack Mountain Club
 Adventure Wed
 Alaska Alpine Adventures
 Alpine Ascents International LLC
 American Alpine Institute
 Anadyr Adventures
 Angora Lakes Resort
 Appalachian Mountain Club

Fallbrook Land Conservancy
 FIND Outdoors
 Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters
 Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay
 Glacier Guides and Montana Raft
 Glacier Park Boat Company
 Gold Arrow Camp
 Golden Mountain Guides
 Grand Canyon Whitewater
 Grateful For Living
 HappyMarmots.io
 Headwaters Trails Alliance
 Henning Leible
 Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
 Nomado
 North Myrtle Beach RV Resort and Dry Dock Marina
 Nunez & Nunez Consulting Services, Inc.
 Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia
 Outward Bound Brazil
 PA Parks and Forests Foundation

peakquest
Pennsylvania State Parks
Pikes Peak Region Attractions Association
Rainier Mountaineering, Inc.
Rare Forms, Inc
Ray's General Store and Pharmacy
Roxborough State Park
Sage International Schools
Simpler Ways LLC
SIU Touch of Nature Environmental Center
Tennessee Valley Authority
The Redwoods In Yosemite
Touch of Nature Outdoor Education Center
Town of Prescott Valley Parks and Recreation
Town of Vail
Trail Access Project
United States Adventure Racing Association
Utah Valley University Outdoor Adventure Center
Visit Fort Collins
Visit Manitou Springs
Walters Land Pte. Ltd.
Wapsi River EE Center, Scott County (IA) Conservation
Washington Llamas
Wet Planet Rafting and Kayaking
Wildwood Open Lands Foundation
Winter Wildlands Alliance
WisCorps, Inc.
Yosemite Mountaineering School and Guide Service
YourYuckies, LLC

Americas Boating Club Houston
An Ummerkja
And Then She Did, LLC
Angler's Covey, Inc.
Anza Borrego Foundation
Appalachian State University - Recreation Management & Physical Education Department
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Arcadia Guided Outdoor Education
Arkansas State Parks
Arts in the Open
Audubon Center at Riverlands
Backcountry Adventures, Inc.
Backcountry Horsemen of America
Backcountry Horsemen of California Mid Valley Unit
Backcountry Horsemen of Utah
Baxter State Park
Beaver Island Retreat
Big Bay Stewardship Council
Black Fin Guide Company
Black Hills Parks & Forests Association
Black Mountain Expeditions

Blue Ridge Conservancy
Boone County Conservation District
Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center
Breckenridge Tourism Office, Inc
Brevard College
Camp Acta Non Verba (Camp ANV)
Camp Dudley
Camptown
Central Michigan University
Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission
City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department
City of New Braunfels Parks and Recreation
City of Sedona - Sustainability Department
Clear Creek County Tourism Bureau
Clearwater Dells, LLC
Climbing Kilimanjaro
Colorado Christian University

BRONZE

2nd Nature TREC (Training, Research, Education, Consulting)
3lb Ventures, Inc.
Active Sundays
Adirondack Experience, The Museum on Blue Mountain Lake
Aerie Backcountry Medicine
Alsek River Lodge
America's National Parks™
American Prairie Foundation



Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
Colorado Mountain Club
Colvig Silver Camps
Cool Tears and Tiny Campers
Creole Nature Trail All-American Road
CSUSB Adventure
De ville en forêt
Desert Mountain Club
Desert Mountain Medicine
Downstream Adventures
Dropstone Outfitting, LLC
Echo Canyon River Expeditions
Eco Tekk International
EDUXPL PRIVATE LIMITED
EF Outfit - Elemental Fitness
El Paso County Nature Centers
ExploreMore
Field Studies Collaborative
Finger Lakes Trail Conference
ForestDigital Outdoors
Fremont Adventure Recreation
Freshette
Friends of Acadia
Friends of Jocassee, Inc.
Friends of Madera Canyon
Friends of Mt. Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses
Friends of Panthertown

Friends of San Jacinto Mountains County Parks
Friends of Smith Gall Woods State Park
Friends of the Bridger-Teton
Friends of the Shawnee
Friends of Wilderness
Frostburg State University
Garrett College
Georgia Appalachian Trail Club
Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council
Gnomad Home
Gordon College La Vida Center
Grand County, Utah
Great Parks
GREEN OLIVER
Green Valleys Watershed Association
GTG Outdoors
Guineafowl Adventure Company, LLC
Harmony Bridge Travel
Hatch River Expeditions
High Mountain Creative
High Peaks Alliance
Hiking Hound Adventures, LLC
Historic Green Mountain Falls Foundation
Homes On Wheels Alliance (HOWA)
Huellas Latinas
Human Potential, LLC
Idaho Outdoor Association
Indian River Land and Aquatic Preserves
Issaquah Parks & Community Services
Jackson County TDA

Jackson Hole Mountain Guides
Jenna Boshart Photography, LLC
Juniata College
Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge
Kaiyote Tours
Kayde Parker
Keweenaw Adventure Company
Keweenaw Land Trust
Kiwanis Camp Wa-Ri-Ki
Knob Noster State Park
Kuangye Outdoor Sport Center
Lake Tahoe Community College
Larimer County Natural Resources
Lark Overland
Leelanau Conservancy
Lees-McRae College
Len Foote Hike Inn
Locationscout
Los Padres ForestWatch
Love in Motion
Madison Mountaineering, LLC
Maggie Valley Chamber of Commerce
Maine Windjammer Association
Marginal Way Committee - Ogunquit
Miasan Outdoor Center
Minnesota Valley Chapter Izaak Walton League
Minnewaska State Park
Miwok 100K Trail Race
Montreat College
Mountain IDEAL
Mountain Madness, Inc.
Nature First
Nepal Hiking Team
Nevada Outdoor School
New York - New Jersey Trail Conference
Nolichucky Outdoor Learning Institute (NOLI)
OARS
Ocean Isle Property Owner's Association
Onward & Upward
OutThere Colorado
Outward Bound Germany
Overlanded
Pacaso



Pacific Crest Trail Association
 Pacific Northwest Trail Association
 Pacific Ridge School
 Paddle4Tomorrow
 Pathways Active Travel
 Paul Smith's College - VIC
 Peak Planet
 PerfectCamp
 Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy
 Pin Trail Maps
 Pinal County Open Space, Trails, and
 Regional Parks
 Plymouth State University - Outdoor
 Center
 Poudre Wilderness Volunteers
 Prince William Sound College
 Puerto Rico Summit for Outdoor and
 Adventure Recreation
 Puzette Bags, LLC
 Randolph Mountain Club
 RAW Africa Ecotours
 Recreation Solutions Group
 Regional Office of Sustainable
 Tourism
 Rendezvous River Sports, Inc.
 Riverbend Environmental Education
 Center
 Rootstock Racing
 Run the Alps
 Salmon Raft
 Santa Barbara Adventure Co.
 Saratoga PLAN
 Sawnee Mountain Preserve
 Sawtooth Outdoor Education
 Scout Association of Hong Kong
 Sierra Mountain Center, LLC.
 Siskiyou Outdoor Recreation Alliance
 Smokies Life
 Snow College Outdoor Leadership &
 Entrepreneurship
 Social Adventures
 Society for the Protection of New
 Hampshire Forests
 Solid Rock Outdoor Ministry
 Sonoran Trails
 South Suburban Parks and
 Recreation
 Southern Utah University
 Space Between Adventures



Speaks for
 Trees and More,
 Inc.
 Sportsmap Inc.
 Summitborn
 Sun City Texas
 Superior Hiking Trail Association
 Surf Skate Fitness
 Surry County Parks and Recreation
 Tahoe Rim Trail Association
 The Bronze Chapter
 The Bus for Outdoor Access &
 Teaching
 The Gazette
 The Mountain Goat North
 The Trail House
 The Visitor Experience
 Therapeutic Adventures, Inc.
 Top Out Adventures
 Town of Little Elm
 TrailBliss
 Trailful Outdoor Co
 Treasure Island Group
 TripOutside
 Tusker Trail
 Ultimate Safaris
 University of Arkansas - UREC
 Outdoors
 USAF Academy Outdoor Adventure
 Program

v-adventures LLC
 Vandra of Sweden AB
 Virginia Commonwealth University
 Outdoor Adventure Program
 Visit Colorado Springs
 Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge
 VolunteerCleanup.Org
 Warren Wilson College
 Wasatch Mountain Club
 Washington and Lee University
 Washington State University - ORC
 Washington's National Park Fund
 Western Carolina University
 Wild Alabama
 Wilderness Adventure
 Williamson County Conservation
 Foundation
 Wylark Mountaineering
 Wyonegonic Camps, Inc
 YOLO Dream Adventure Travel
 Yosemite Conservancy
 Youth Leadership Explore Association



GOLD STANDARD SITES

More than 300,000 people interacted with these exemplary partners in 2025

In 2025, Leave No Trace made significant strides in bringing education where it matters most, the places we get outdoors. Through our Gold Standard designation, Leave No Trace provides a structured, adaptable framework for parks and protected areas, outdoor programs, outfitters and guides, youth programs, and hospitality sites to integrate Leave No Trace education directly into their operations and visitor experiences. By embedding this education at the point of impact, we advance our mission of ensuring that people enjoy the outdoors responsibly while minimizing their impact on natural spaces.

The Gold Standard designation represents Leave No Trace's highest form of achievement. It recognizes organizations that demonstrate leadership in stewardship by implementing comprehensive, site-specific education strategies that influence visitor behavior and protect natural resources for future generations. Following the program's expansion in 2024 to include new sectors, we saw a 46% increase in designations in 2025, evidence of both growing demand and the framework's adaptability across diverse settings.

To achieve the designation, participating sites and organizations must meet rigorous criteria that ensure education is consistent, visible, and effective. These include training staff and volunteers in Leave No Trace, integrating Leave No Trace principles into programming and operations, providing pre-arrival and on-site visitor education, collaborating with local partners, and implementing sustainable practices across facilities. Together, these elements create a comprehensive approach that influences visitor behavior before, during, and after their outdoor experience.

In 2025, this growth included several important milestones, including the first international designated program, Gear Tips Empowerment Program in Brazil, and the first U.S. Army Corps of Engineers site, Hodges Village Dam, a former Leave No Trace Spotlight. We also worked with our longtime corporate partner Aramark to bring multiple hospitality locations up to designation,

including Zephyr Cove Resort in Lake Tahoe. In 2025, we also launched a redesignation process to ensure long-term accountability and program quality. Multiple original designees, including Shenandoah National Park, completed redesignation, reinforcing the durability and sustained impact of the Gold Standard framework.

These real-world examples show how Leave No Trace can be put into action, with multiple benefits for their host locations:

- **Reduced recreation impacts:** Participating sites implement targeted strategies to address high-impact behaviors, thereby improving resource protection and site durability.
- **Improved visitor clarity:** Clear, consistent messaging helps visitors understand expectations and make informed decisions.
- **Site-specific solutions:** Customized consultations ensure that education and signage strategies are appropriate to local ecosystems, visitor use patterns, and management objectives.
- **Model for replication:** These sites now serve as examples for others seeking effective, scalable approaches to responsible recreation management.

Our Gold Standard-designated sites and organizations become invaluable partners in Leave No Trace education, reaching people where and when they get outdoors. In total, our Gold Standard designees educated over 300,000 people in 2025, providing Leave No Trace information where it matters most.

In 2026, Gold Standard will remain a priority as we work to bring Leave No Trace to more communities across the country. We are working with concessionaires like Aramark, POWDR, and Guest Services to support concessionaires working toward the designation. We are also working with our land management partners, such as the Forest Service and BLM, to develop resources and tools to help their sites become Gold Standard Sites.

Gold Standard Partners



Designated Sites

- 01. Acadia National Park
- 02. San Juan Islands
- 03. Olympic National Park
- 04. Isle Royale National Park
- 05. New River Gorge National Park
- 06. Cheaha State Park
- 07. Knob Noster State Park
- 08. Coconino National Forest
- 09. Buffalo National River
- 10. Castlewood Canyon State Park
- 11. Barr Lake State Park
- 12. Colorado Springs Regional Parks, Trails and Open Spaces
- 13. Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Areas
- 14. McInnis Canyons
- 15. Desert Mountain

- 16. Waterton Canyon
- 17. Jefferson County Open Space
- 18. Highline Lake State Park
- 19. Golden Gate Canyon State Park
- 20. Arches National Park
- 21. Mohonk Preserve
- 22. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area
- 23. Cheyenne Mountain State Park
- 24. Hodges Village Dam
- 25. Slide Rock State Park
- 26. Samuel Farm
- 27. Chugach National Forest
- 28. Town of Green Mountain Falls Parks and Trails
- 29. Shenandoah National Park
- 30. Roxborough State Park

Designated Programs

- 31. Grand County Trail Ambassadors
- 32. Wild Alabama
- 33. Explore Natural Martin
- 34. Gear Tips Empowerment Program
- 35. Sawtooth Outdoor Education
- 36. ExploreMore

Designated Hospitality

- 37. Signal Mountain Lodge
- 38. Zephyr Cove Resort
- 39. Grand Canyon North Rim Lodge
- 40. Pikes Peak Aramark

Designated Outfitters and Guides

- 41. RMI Expeditions
- 42. American Alpine Institute
- 43. Golden Mountain Guides
- 44. Wylark Mountaineering

Designated Youth Programs

- 45. Visit Mountaineer Country CVB Youth Outdoor Steward Training Program
- 46. Opt Outdoors Learning Center
- 47. Butterfly Pavilion
- 48. Ute Pass Elementary
- 49. Philmont Scout Ranch
- 50. Sonlight Camp
- 51. Nevada Outdoor School
- 52. YMCA Camp Chief Ouray
- 53. Avid4 Adventure Day Camps
- 54. City of Colorado Springs Parks, Rec and Cultural Services



Finding Gold in Nevada's Red Rocks Canyon

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, a premier outdoor destination just outside of Las Vegas, welcomes 3 million visitors each year. Building on its previous recognition as a Spotlight, Leave No Trace supported Red Rock NCA in achieving the Gold Standard designation through our ongoing partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and with assistance from Friends of Red Rock Canyon. Leave No Trace principles are now woven throughout the visitor experience, from pre-visit information to on-site signage, staff engagement, and programming, ensuring that stewardship is a consistent and visible message. This progression highlights how sustained collaboration and a commitment to education can elevate a site into a model for responsible recreation, protecting a heavily visited landscape while enhancing the visitor experience.



Thank You, Supporters!

Leave No Trace has unified its membership and donation programs into one seamless experience—the Supporter Access Program. Your contributions unlock access to a suite of rewards, and we put your donations to work protecting nature.



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