

Appendix W

CUB SCOUT OUTDOOR ETHICS

Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to be

- *Clean in my outdoor manners:* We will clean up after ourselves. We will not leave graffiti, fire rings, camp gadgets, or other signs of our presence.
- *Careful with fire:* Fire is an important tool, but one that can be devastating if it gets out of hand.
- *Considerate in the outdoors:* We will think about other visitors in the outdoors and how our presence impacts them.
- *Conservation-minded:* We will think about our impacts on the environment.

Leave No Trace Principles for Kids

Source: Help Kids “Leave No Trace”; National Parks Conservation Association blog post by Jennifer Chambers, January 2015. Reprinted by permission of the author.

Since 1994, the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics has been one voice among many hoping to inspire youth to be stewards of the earth through their engagement in the outdoors. Leave No Trace implemented a few tools to educate kids about reducing their personal footprint on nature: a “PEAK program” (six activities to engage elementary-age children), a teen curriculum, a manual of 101 activities, and seven principles specifically written for kids. Leave No Trace educators teach young people how they can be stewards of nature in small ways that make a big impact while having fun outdoors.

Below are seven tips on encouraging children to practice Leave No Trace.

1. **Know Before You Go:** Children have few choices in life, so finding ways to give them a choice helps build confidence. Get their input when planning an outdoor adventure. Have them plan the best clothing to wear based on the weather forecast. Provide trail choices within their ability. Allow them to choose their lunch and snack food.
2. **Choose the Right Path.** Play a game of “ninjas and detectives.” Encourage children’s imaginations while guiding their powers of awareness and role-playing. Ask them to pretend they are ninjas or spies—or any characters who might observe their surroundings without leaving clues as to where they have been. Parents can play the detectives, following the ninjas’ trails as they attempt to remain unseen and unheard.
3. **Trash Your Trash.** Play “I Spy” with trash by creating a competition among kids (or between child and parent) to see who can collect the most litter. This activity gets kids thinking about the accumulation of trash and its impact on parks and communities.
4. **Respect Wildlife.** Kids are naturally fascinated by animals they encounter outside, often wanting to touch or get close to them. Help them to understand how close they can safely be from an animal: Ask them to stand with one arm raised straight out at shoulder height with the thumb raised. Tell them to look at the animal with one eye closed and try to cover their view of the animal with the thumb. If they are far enough away, their thumbs will completely block out the animal.
5. **Be Careful With Fire.** When camping, play a firewood relay race. Create groups of two or more (or have a competition between children and parents). The objective is to gather dead and downed firewood of appropriate size. Then arrange the firewood from the smallest to the largest in diameter. Any firewood larger than a child’s wrist is disqualified. The team with the most appropriate firewood wins. Finish this game by explaining that firewood should be no larger in diameter because it takes too long to burn into ash, hindering the decomposition process.

6. **Leave What You Find.** Give the kids a camera to take photos of treasures they find on the trail. Then have them put their photos together with a photo collage app so they can save and share their outdoor adventures. This reinforces that they can keep the memory while leaving the actual objects in nature.
7. **Be Kind to Others.** Encourage kids to be inclusive and polite when playing outdoors. Model and teach good manners, such as sharing the trail with others, and avoid bad behaviors like talking on cell phones while exploring.

Extensive guidelines for teaching Leave No Trace principles are on the BSA website at www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/TeachingLeaveNoTrace.aspx

Contact Information and Resources

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Leave No Trace Inc. is a private, not-for-profit organization established to administer the national Leave No Trace program while partnering with the following federal agencies: U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service.

Staff members of Leave No Trace Inc. serve as the primary source of program information and coordination. In addition, more than 1,100 individuals throughout the country are Masters of Leave No Trace. These individuals can assist in the Leave No Trace program.

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The following booklets from the Leave No Trace Outdoor Skills and Ethics series provide techniques for specific regions. These booklets are available through Leave No Trace Inc. or from the National Outdoor Leadership School.

Alaskan Tundra

Desert and Canyon Country

Lakes Region

North American

Northeast Mountains

Pacific Northwest

Rocky Mountain

Sierra Nevada Mountains

Southeastern States

Temperate Coastal Zones

Tropical Rainforests (also available in Spanish)

Western River Corridors

Other Written Materials

Backcountry Horse Use

Caving

Mountain Bicycling

Rock Climbing

Soft Paths, Second Edition

Teaching Leave No Trace: An Activity Guide