

Leave No Trace

Outdoor Skills and Ethics



**A National Education Program Designed to Teach Stewardship,
Land Ethics and Outdoor Skills**



The mission of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics

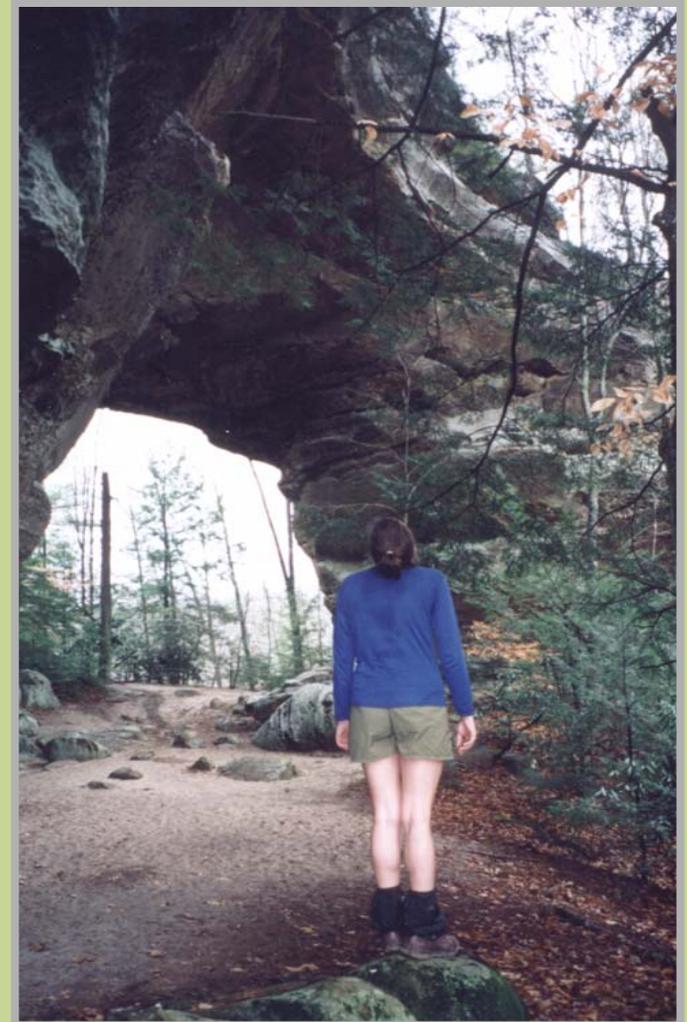
To promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and **partnerships.**



Program Roots



- Leave No Trace program has its roots in backcountry and federally-designated Wilderness areas
- Very successful and effective program at targeting both backcountry and frontcountry impacts
- 7 principles applicable and universal in all areas, and for all types of human-powered recreation



Overview of Visitor Impacts



Vegetation Impacts

Vegetation loss

Spread of non-native species

Tree damage



Soil Impacts

Loss of organic litter

Soil compaction

Soil erosion

Wildlife Impacts

Disturbance of wildlife

Altered behavior

Reduced health & reproduction



Water Resource Impacts

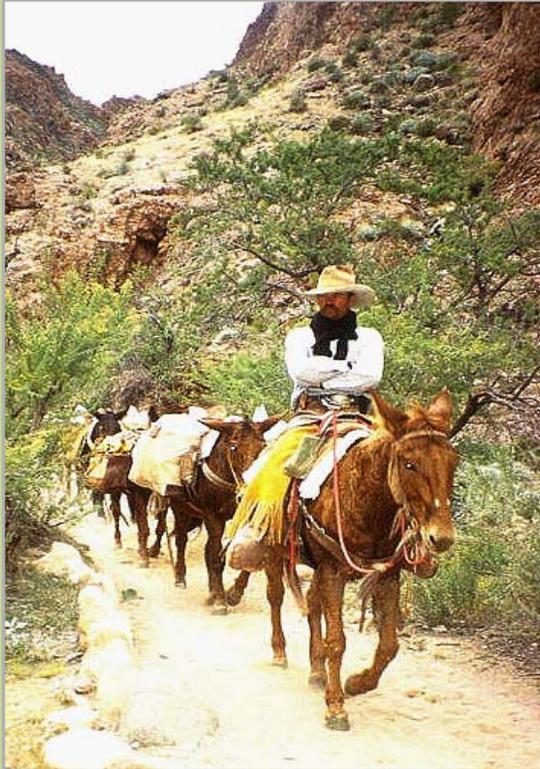
Turbidity, sedimentation

Soap & fecal wastes

Social Impacts

Crowding

Conflicts



Cultural Resource Impacts

Theft of artifacts

Damage to historic structures

Damage to cultural features



Loving Our Public Lands To Death?

- Wilderness recreation visitor days:
 - 7 million in 1975
 - 15 million in 1985
 - 20 million in 2000
- National Park Service visits:
 - 33 million in 1950
 - 172 million in 1970
 - 287 million in 2000



Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics



- **A non-profit organization, based in Boulder, Colorado, whose mission is to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships.**
- **Partners with federal agencies, manufacturers, retailers and others to promote minimum impact messages.**
- **The Center has professional staff in Boulder and two teams of educators, *Traveling Trainers*, that travel the country 11 months out of the year providing education, outreach and training.**

Why Leave No Trace

- *Leave No Trace* might seem [?]unimportant until you consider the combined effects of millions of outdoor visitors.
- One poorly located campsite or campfire may have little significance, but thousands of such instances seriously degrade natural resources and recreation experiences.
- To protect our resources we must take the responsibility to educate ourselves and practice the skills and ethics necessary to *Leave No Trace*.



The Leave No Trace Challenge

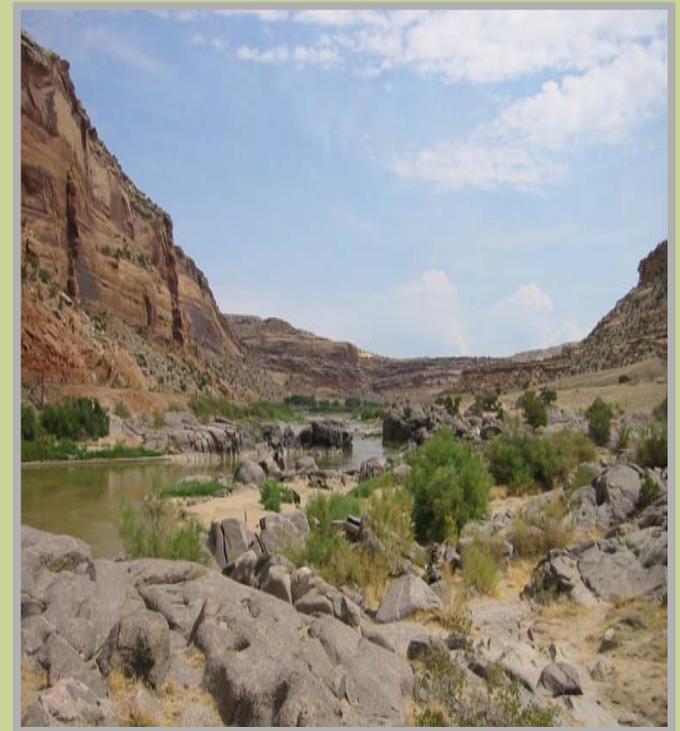
- Prevent avoidable resource and social impacts
- Minimize unavoidable impacts
- Preserve the quality of resources and recreation experiences



The Seven Principles

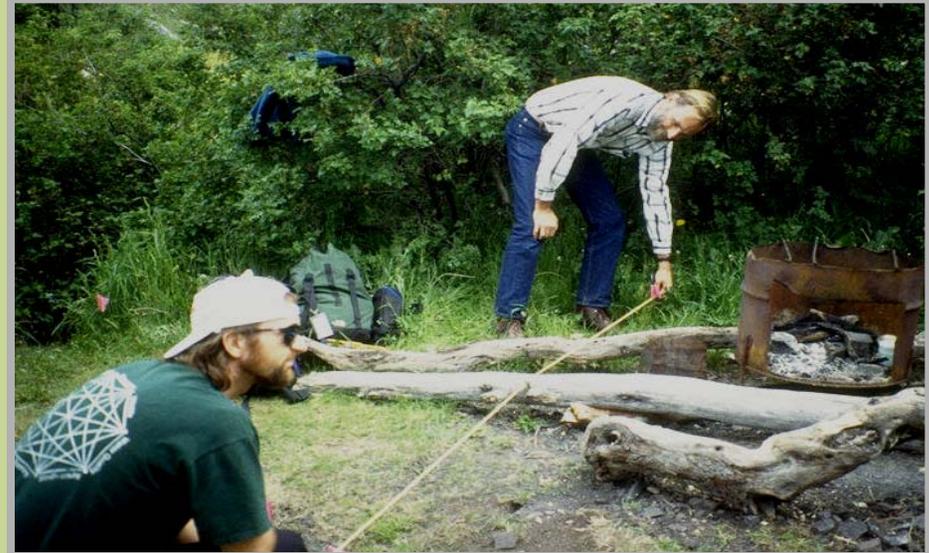
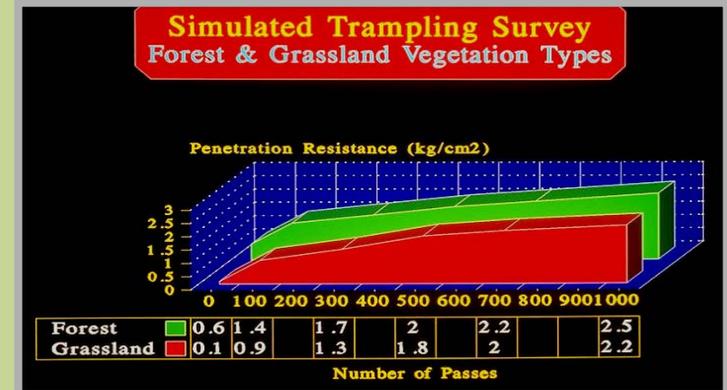


- 1. Plan Ahead and Prepare**
- 2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**
- 3. Dispose of Waste Properly**
- 4. Leave What You Find**
- 5. Minimize Campfire Impacts**
- 6. Respect Wildlife**
- 7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors**



Leave No Trace is Research-based

- Recreation ecology research tells us about recreation impacts and how they can be reduced by managers and visitors.
- Social science research tells us about visitor perceptions and behaviors.





Partnership Structure

- Federal agency partners
- Corporate partners
- Local and State partners
- Non-profit partners
- Universities and Schools
- Retailer, Outfitter, Guide
- International partners



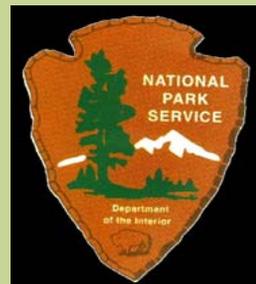
Federal Agency Partners

- The Center for Outdoor Ethics is under an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the four largest land management agencies to spread the Leave No Trace message on public lands in the U.S.
- Each agency has staff that have been trained in Leave No Trace, who in turn train more agency personnel and the general public.
- The federal agencies have national Leave No Trace coordinators who serve as advisors on the Center's Board of Directors and the Education Review Committee.
- The agencies play a critical role in getting the Leave No Trace message to millions of outdoor enthusiasts each year.

U.S. Forest Service



National Park Service



Bureau of Land Management



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Corporate Partners

- REI has a long-standing partnership with the Center and has provided a broad range of support - lab project, youth programs, technical support, etc.
- REI provides expertise and advice to the projects they support.
- REI responds to the core needs of the Center and focuses on what will make the organization thrive vs. the co-branding or marketability of certain projects.
- REI is currently working on the PEAK program, a national youth initiative, being piloted at REI stores.



Corporate Partners

- Subaru has provided support and vehicles for the *Traveling Trainer* Program - educators who spend are in the field teaching school children, agency staff, retail store employees, user groups, educators, etc.
- Their partnership, beginning in 1999, substantially changed the Center's ability to reach millions each year instead of thousands.
- The *Traveling Trainer* program's hands-on approach is one of the most effective ways the Leave No Trace message is currently spread.



Local Partners



- The Center works with a wide variety of local land managers across the country to create site-specific Leave No Trace messages that are more locally-relevant.
- Many of these partners manage lands that are considered “frontcountry” - *outdoor areas that are easily accessible by vehicle and mostly visited by day users.*
- Because more than 85% of all outdoor recreation takes place in frontcountry areas, these local partners are critical in spreading the Leave No Trace message.



State Partners

- State land management agencies are becoming more essential in spreading Leave No Trace skills and ethics to millions each year.
- The Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources has an annual visitation of *10 million* on lands they administer, most of which are frontcountry in nature.
- State Parks provide ample opportunity to reach many thousands annually.
- The Center is currently working with several state parks systems to better integrate Leave No Trace into existing programs and trainings.



Non-profit Partners



- Non-profit partners are key to the success of the Leave No Trace program.
- The American Mountain Guides Association does education and certification of mountain guides in the U.S.
- The AMGA incorporates Leave No Trace into all of its guide trainings.
- AMGA guides spend an average of 175 days in the field working and passing on the Leave No Trace message to their clients.
- The 2-day Leave No Trace Trainer course is a regular part of their annual meeting.

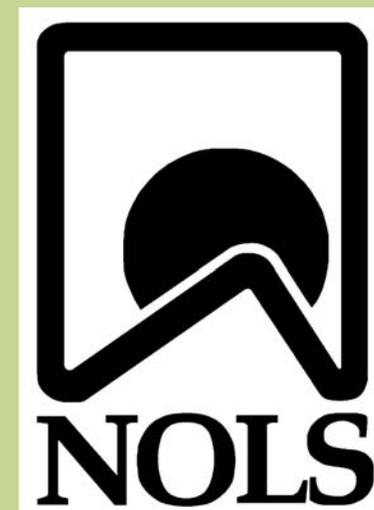
Non-profit Partners



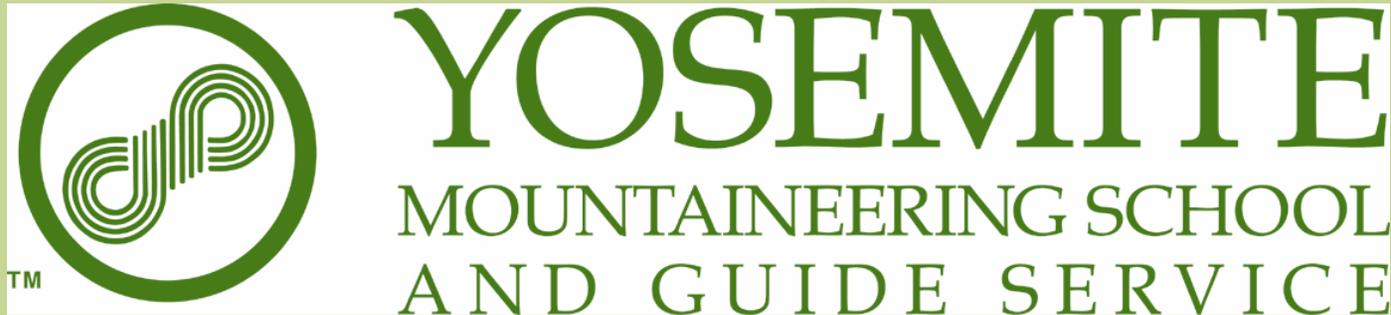
- **The Colorado Fourteeners Initiative is a partnership whose mission is to preserve the natural integrity of Colorado's 54 14,000 foot peaks.**
- **Colorado Fourteeners Initiative trains hundreds of individual each year through their Peak Steward Program, Adopt-a-Peak and various other offerings.**
- **Leave No Trace is a key component of all Colorado Fourteeners Initiative trainings, allowing them to effectively spread the message to hundreds each year.**

Universities and Schools

- University and school partnerships are necessary for reaching school-age children to college students
- Schools such as NOLS have been critical to the success of the program because they offer training, develop curriculum and include the message in all their course offerings.
- Universities such as Northern Arizona University have been key to reaching college students with the Leave No Trace message.
- Universities and schools regularly train their staff who in turn offer Leave No Trace training to their students and in some cases the general public.



Retailer, Outfitter, Guide



- **Retail, Outfitter and Guide partners provide unique opportunities to reach many first-time users with a minimum impact message.**
- **The Yosemite Mountaineering School is a guide service whose guide manager is one of 1500+ Master Educators in the country.**
- **Annually, Yosemite Mountaineering School staff is trained in Leave No Trace, allowing them to incorporate it into their work with with clients.**
- **Yosemite Mountaineering School regularly conducts Leave No Trace trainings and workshops.**

International Partners

- Australia
- Japan
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Scotland
- Canada
- Israel
- Columbia



Various international partners have sent individuals to the U.S. for Leave No Trace training and have subsequently brought it back to their own country.

Benefits of Being A Partner



- **Widespread use of the program, including the logo, principles and supporting educational materials in conjunction with your existing program.**
- **Discounts on educational and promotional material.**
- **Opportunities to co-brand programs such as hang-tags, State Advocate program, educational scholarship programs, etc.**
- **The Center provides exposure for partners through all publications and the website.**
- **Partners receive preference for training from the Subaru Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers and other educators.**
- **The Center will help partners create educational messages for their websites, publications, signs, catalogs, etc.**
- **Satisfaction that you're involved in a national education program that reaches millions annually.**

Benefits of Applying LNT

- Better planning leads to safer trips and lighter loads.
- Prevents avoidable impacts, minimizes unavoidable impacts.
- Protects the quality of natural environments and recreation experiences.
- Avoids or minimizes the need for restrictive management regulations or use limitations.



Leave No Trace Publications

Hang Tags



For more information and materials:
1.800.332.4100
WWW.LNT.ORG

LEAVE NO TRACE	<i>Outdoor Ethics</i>
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PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Travel in small groups. Split larger parties into groups of 4-6.
- Use a map and compass to eliminate the need for tree scars, rock cairns, or ribbons.
- Repackage food into reusable containers.
- Prepare for all types of weather.
- Carefully evaluate the risks associated with your outing.

TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES

On the trail

- Stay on designated trails. Walk in single file in the middle of the path. Do not cut switchbacks.
- When traveling cross-country, choose the most durable surface available: rock, gravel, dry grasses, or snow.

At camp

- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is unnecessary.
- Choose established legal campsites that won't be harmed by your stay.
- Keep pollutants out of water sources by camping at least 200 feet (70 adult steps) from lakes and streams.

DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsites and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash: yours and others'.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished. Pack out toilet paper.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

Newsletters



No. 17
Winter 1998

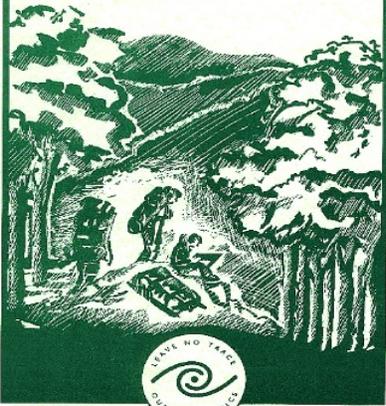
Master Network

A Publication of the Leave No Trace Program

Outdoor Skills & Ethics Series

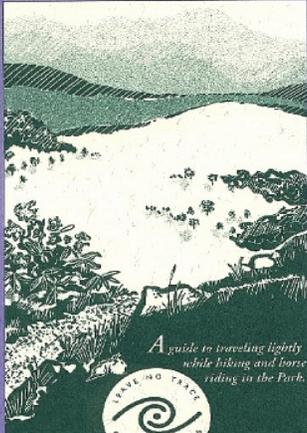
LEAVE NO TRACE
OUTDOOR SKILLS & ETHICS

Southeastern States



Pamphlets

Leaving No Trace
in Great Smoky
Mountains
National Park



A guide to traveling lightly while hiking and horse riding in the Park.



Leave No Trace Website



Comprehensive information on the Leave No Trace program including:

- * **Materials and Merchandise**
- * **Principles**
- * **Leave No Trace Courses**
- * **Skills & Ethics Booklets**
- * **Traveling Trainer Program**
- * **Membership/Partnership info**

Leave No Trace Training



- **Master Educator course:** Intensive 5-day field-based course offered over 15 times/year in different regions of the country. Designed for educators. 1500+ Masters to date.
- **Trainer course:** Less intensive 2-day course. Designed for group leaders, teachers and agency staff who conduct Leave No Trace workshops and interact with the public.
- **Awareness workshops:** Variable length from 20 minutes to 1 day. Designed for school children through adults. Generally tailored to meet specific needs of the audience.

LNT Successes



The Leave No Trace ethic is rapidly becoming the standard code of conduct on public land:

- An estimated 10 million outdoor visitors are reached with Leave No Trace messages each year.
- More than 300 organizations print the Leave No Trace message on catalogs, hangtags, and outdoor gear.
- Leave No Trace training programs have educated more than 1500 leaders across the U.S. who provide training for an estimated 850,000 students annually.

What Can I Do?



- Visit the website (www.lnt.org) or call the Center (1-800-332-4100) to obtain Leave No Trace information.
- Become a partner of the Center for Outdoor Ethics
- Become an individual member of the Center for Outdoor Ethics!
- Learn & apply Leave No Trace skills and ethics on future trips!
- Take a Leave No Trace Trainer or Master's course and then teach others Leave No Trace skills and ethics.

Leave No Trace



From Your Backyard to Your Backcountry