



ADVENTURE CAMPING

What's a Guider to do? The girls want to adventure camp and/or trip.

November 18-20, 2016

The Principles of Leave No Trace

Leaving no trace is everyone's responsibility.

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

Proper trip planning and preparation helps campers accomplish trip goals safely and enjoyably while minimizing damage to natural and cultural resources. Campers who plan ahead can avoid unexpected situations and minimize their impact by following area regulations. Obtain permits or permission and follow group size limits.

Proper planning ensures:

- Low-risk adventures because campers obtained information and prepared accordingly.
- Properly located campsites because campers allotted enough time to reach their destination.
- Safe campfires and minimal trash because of careful meal planning and food packaging and proper equipment.
- Comfortable and fun camping and experiences because the outing matches the skill level of the participants.

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Damage to land occurs when visitors trample vegetation or communities of organisms beyond recovery. The resulting areas develop into undesirable trails, campsites, and soil erosion.

Concentrate Activity or Spread Out? In high-use areas, campers should concentrate their activities where vegetation is already absent. Minimize resource damage by using existing trails and selecting designated or existing campsites. Keep campsites small by arranging tents in close proximity.

3. Dispose of Waste Properly (Pack It In, Pack It Out)

This simple yet effective saying motivates backcountry visitors to take their trash home with them. It makes sense to carry out of the backcountry the extra materials taken there by your group or others. Inspect your campsite for trash or spilled foods. Accept the challenge of packing out all trash, leftover food, and litter.

Backcountry users create body waste and wastewater that require proper disposal.

Wastewater. After straining food particles, properly dispose of dishwater by dispersing at least 80m (about 80 to 100 strides for a youth) from springs, streams and lakes. Use biodegradable soap 80m or more from any water source.

Human Waste. Proper human waste disposal helps prevent the spread of disease and exposure to others. Catholes 6 to 8 inches deep in humus and 80m from water, trails and campsites are often the easiest and most practical way to dispose of feces.

4. Leave What You Find

Allow others a sense of discovery and preserve the past. Leave rocks, plants, animals, archaeological artifacts and other objects as you find them. Examine, but do not touch cultural or historical structures and artifacts. Minimize Site Alterations. Do not dig tent trenches or build lean-tos, tables or chairs. Never hammer nails into trees, hack at trees with hatchets or saws or damage bark and roots. Replace surface rocks or twigs that you cleared from the campsite. On high-impact sites, clean the area and dismantle inappropriate user-built facilities such as multiple fire rings and log seats or tables.



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5. Minimize Campfire Impacts

Some people would not think of camping without a campfire. Yet the naturalness of many areas has been degraded by overuse of fires and increasing demand for firewood.

Lightweight camp stoves make low-impact camping possible by encouraging a shift away from fires. Stoves are fast, eliminate the need for firewood and make cleanup after meals easier.

If you build a fire, the most important consideration is the potential for resource damage. Whenever possible, use an existing campfire ring in a well-placed campsite. Choose not to have a fire in areas where wood is scarce.

True Leave No Trace fires are small. Use dead and downed wood that can be broken easily by hand. When possible, burn all wood to ash and remove all unburned trash and food from the fire ring. If a site has two or more fire rings, you may dismantle all but one and scatter the materials in the surrounding area. Be certain all wood and campfire debris is cold out.

6. Respect Wildlife

Quick movements and loud noises are stressful to animals. Considerate campers practice these safety methods:

- Observe wildlife from afar to avoid disturbing them.
- Give animals a wide berth, especially during breeding, nesting and birthing seasons.
- Store food securely and keep garbage and food scraps away from animals so they will not acquire bad habits. Never feed wildlife. Help keep wildlife wild.
- You are too close if an animal alters its normal activities.

7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors – Thoughtful campers respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.

- Travel and camp in small groups (no more than the group size prescribed by your permit).
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Keep the noise down and leave radios, tape players and pets at home.
- Make sure the colors of clothing and gear blend with the environment.
- Respect private property.
- Be considerate of other campers and respect their privacy.