# Outdoor Ethics Module

# First Cass Advancement

Related requirements as of 11/14/19

**TENDERFOOT**

1C. Tell how you practiced the Outdoor Code on a campout or outing.

**SECOND CLASS**

1B. Explain the principles of Leave No Trace and tell how you practiced them on a campout or outing. *This outing must be different from the one used for Tenderfoot requirement 1c.*

**FIRST CLASS**

1B. Explain each of the principles of Tread Lightly! and tell how you practiced them on a campout or outing. *This outing must be different from the ones used for Tenderfoot requirement 1c and Second Class requirement 1b*.

# Module

* Review the 3 core parts of Outdoor Ethics
  + [Leave No Trace](https://lnt.org/why/7-principles/)
  + [Outdoor Code](https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/outdoor-ethics/outdoor-code/)
  + [Tread Lightly](https://www.treadlightly.org/learn/)
  + Suggestion: Let a different youth leader read each one. After each have a different scout read the points from outlines below.
* Activity: [see Activity’s below](#_Actvities)

# Leave No Trace Principles

The tremendous rewards of high-adventure treks are drawing more and more people to the backcountry. At the same time, the vast territory suitable for treks is shrinking in size. More people and less land mean we all must be careful not to endanger the wild outdoors we have come to enjoy.

1. *A High-Adventure Ethic*
   1. A good way to protect the backcountry is to remember that while you are there, you are a visitor. When you visit a friend, you are always careful to leave that person's home just as you found it. You would never think of dropping litter on the carpet, chopping down trees in the yard, putting soap in the drinking water, or marking your name on the living room wall. When you visit the backcountry, the same courtesies apply. Leave everything just as you found it.
   2. Hiking and camping without a trace are signs of an expert outdoorsman, and of a Scout or Scouter who cares for the environment. Travel lightly on the land.
2. *About the Principles of "*[*Leave No Trace*](https://lnt.org/why/7-principles/)*"*
   1. "Leave No Trace" is a nationally recognized outdoor skills and ethics education program. The Boy Scouts of America is committed to this program. The principles of Leave No Trace are not rules; they are guidelines to follow at all times.
   2. The Leave No Trace principles might not seem important at first glance, but their value is apparent when considering the combined effects of millions of outdoor visitors. One poorly located campsite or campfire is of little significance, but thousands of such instances seriously degrade the outdoor experience for all. Leaving no trace is everyone's responsibility.
3. ***The Principles of Leave No Trace***
   1. **Plan Ahead and Prepare**
      1. Proper trip planning and preparation helps hikers and 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 complying with area regulations such as observing limitations on group size.
      2. Proper planning ensures
         1. Low-risk adventures because campers obtained information concerning geography and weather and prepared accordingly
         2. Properly located campsites because campers allotted enough time to reach their destination
         3. Appropriate campfires and minimal trash because of careful meal planning and food repackaging and proper equipment
         4. Comfortable and fun camping and hiking experiences because the outing matches the skill level of the participants
   2. **Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces**
      1. Damage to land occurs when visitors trample vegetation or communities of organisms beyond recovery. The resulting barren areas develop into undesirable trails, campsites, and soil erosion.
      2. *Concentrate Activity, or Spread Out?*
         1. 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.
         2. In more remote, less-traveled areas, campers should generally spread out. When hiking, take different paths to avoid creating new trails that cause erosion. When camping, disperse tents and cooking activities-and move camp daily to avoid creating permanent-looking campsites. Always choose the most durable surfaces available: rock, gravel, dry grasses, or snow.
         3. These guidelines apply to most alpine settings and may be different for other areas, such as deserts. Learn the Leave No Trace techniques for your crew's specific activity or destination. Check with land managers to be sure of the proper technique.
   3. ***Dispose of Waste Properly***
      1. *Pack It In, Pack It Out*
         1. 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. Minimize the need to pack out food scraps by carefully planning meals. Accept the challenge of packing out everything you bring.
      2. *Sanitation*
         1. Backcountry users create body waste and wastewater that require proper disposal.
         2. Wastewater. Help prevent contamination of natural water sources: After straining food particles, properly dispose of dishwater by dispersing at least 200 feet (about 80 to 100 strides for a youth) from springs, streams, and lakes. Use biodegradable soap 200 feet or more from any water source.
         3. Human Waste. Proper human waste disposal helps prevent the spread of disease and exposure to others. Catholes 6 to 8 inches deep and 200 feet from water, trails, and campsites are often the easiest and most practical way to dispose of feces.
   4. **Leave What You Find**
      1. Allow others a sense of discovery: Leave rocks, plants, animals, archaeological artifacts, and other objects as you find them. It may be illegal to remove artifacts.
      2. *Minimize Site Alterations*
         1. 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 by tying horses to trees for extended periods. 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.
         2. Good campsites are found, not made. Avoid altering a site, digging trenches, or building structures.
   5. **Minimize Campfire Use**
      1. 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.
      2. 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. After dinner, enjoy a candle lantern instead of a fire.
      3. 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-at higher elevations, in heavily used areas with a limited wood supply, or in desert settings.
      4. True Leave No Trace fires are small. Use dead and downed wood no larger than an adult's wrist. 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 dead out.
   6. **Respect Wildlife**
      1. Quick movements and loud noises are stressful to animals. Considerate campers practice these safety methods:
      2. Observe wildlife from afar to avoid disturbing them.
      3. Give animals a wide berth, especially during breeding, nesting, and birthing seasons.
      4. Store food securely and keep garbage and food scraps away from animals so they will not acquire bad habits. Help keep wildlife wild.
      5. You are too close if an animal alters its normal activities.
   7. **Respect Others**
      1. Travel and camp in small groups (no more than the group size prescribed by land managers).
      2. Keep the noise down and leave their radios, tape players, and pets at home.
      3. Select campsites away from other groups to help preserve their solitude.
      4. Always travel and camp quietly to avoid disturbing other visitors.
      5. Make sure the colors of their clothing and gear blend with the environment. (NOTE: During Hunting Season, it may be better safe than sorry and wear BRIGHT clothes - especially ORANGE Colors)
      6. Respect private property and leave gates (open or closed) as found.
      7. Be considerate of other campers and respect their privacy.

# Outdoor Code

**As an American I will do my best to:**

**Be clean in my outdoor manners**

I will treat the outdoors as a heritage.

I will take care of it for myself and others.

I will keep my trash and garbage out of lakes, streams, fields, woods, and roadways.

**Be careful with fire**

I will prevent wildfire.

I will build my fires only where they are appropriate.

When I have finished using a fire, I will make sure it is cold out.

I will leave a clean fire ring, and remove all evidence of my fire.

**Be considerate in the outdoors**

I will treat public and private property with respect.

I will use low-impact methods of hiking and camping.

**Be conservation minded**

I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, wildlife, and energy.

I will urge others to do the same.

Outdoor code: [Click here](https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/outdoor-ethics/outdoor-code/)

# Tread Lightly! Principles

[Tread Lightly](https://www.treadlightly.org/learn/)! is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to promote responsible outdoor recreation through ethics education and stewardship. Tread Lightly!’s goal is to balance the needs of people who enjoy outdoor recreation with the need to maintain a healthy environment. Initially focused on motorized and mechanized use in the backcountry, Tread Lightly! principles can be applied in all outdoor settings.

* Travel responsibly
  + on land by staying on designated roads, trails and area. Go over, not around, obstacles to avoid widening the trails. Cross streams only at designated fords. when possible, avoid wet, muddy trails. On water, stay on designated waterways and launch your watercraft in designated areas.
* Respect the rights of others
  + including private property owners, all recreational trail users, campers and others so they can enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed. Leave gates as you found them. Yield right of way to those passing you or going uphill. On water, respect anglers, swimmers, skiers, boaters, divers and those on or near shore.
* Educate yourself
  + prior to your trip by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies. Plan for your trip, take recreation skills classes and know how to operate your equipment safely.
* Avoid sensitive areas
  + on land such as meadows, lake shores, wetlands and streams. Stay on designated routes. This protects wildlife habitats and sensitive soils from damage. Don’t disturb historical, archeological or paleontological sites. On water, avoid operating your watercraft in shallow waters or near shorelines at high speeds.
* Do your part
  + by modeling appropriate behavior, leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species and repairing degraded areas.

# Activities

**Outdoor Scoundrel (outdoors)**

Some outdoor scoundrel has not followed good outdoor ethics. Help find and correct the problems.

Set up a campsite with a bunch of things wrong. Note them on a pad. Have each Patrol go through the site point out the “scoundrels” violations and tell what to do to remediate. 1 point for finding it. 1 point for remediation.

Patrol with the most points win!

**Match the Rule (indoors)**

Make about 24 + situations / violations on a board. Have the patrols match the point / rule that is wrong and what could be done to fix it.

1 point matching up the Point from Leave No Trace, Outdoor Code, or Tread Lightly rule / Point.

1 point for the remediation.

Patrol with the most points win!

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