

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

Will You Make It

Purpose:

This activity will teach participants how to identify events that can interfere with a successful trip.

Supplies:

A set of Event & Solution Cards for every 16 participants with the Travel Card Key. Materials available in *“Teaching Leave No Trace”* available on www.tcfroar.org.

Directions:

“First we will break you into groups of 16. Please count off to 16.”

When the groups are formed:

“Each group will receive 8 Event Travel Cards and 8 Solution Travel Cards. You will need to talk to each other in your group to find the Event card that goes with the Solution card. Let your group leader know when you think you are all paired correctly.”

Have group leaders hand out the cards and verify proper matching of cards when everyone is done. Each group leader will lead a discussion with their own group.

Group Leader: *“Will each pair please share their event and solution cards and how they could apply to your outings.”*

When everyone has reported or you run out of time have the group leaders collect the cards for their group. Turn individual groups over to the moderator for further instructions.

Moderator: *Thank you for participating. Please go to the next station.*

Show the participants where to go next.

TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES

Beach Ball

Purpose:

Help participants understand the importance of traveling and camping on durable surfaces and how to identify durable surfaces.

Supplies:

One blow up beach ball with questions related to this principle.

Directions:

"I am going to toss this ball out to you. I would like you to keep batting it around until I say STOP. The one holding the ball will tell me the number and read the question by their right thumb. You will then answer the question and we will discuss it. Okay, here we go.

Toss the ball out to the participants. Stop it about every 4 to 5 hits and go through the question and answer process. You have the answers to the questions listed below for reference.

1: What is the definition of a durable surface?

A surface we cannot harm by being on it.

2: Give 5 examples of a durable surface:

Established trails and campsites

Rock

Gravel

Dry Grasses

Snow

3: When does damage occur to surface vegetation?

When it is trampled beyond recovery.

4: Why do land managers build trails and campsites?

To concentrate impact and reduce damage to the environment.

5: What is another name for a trail?

Ribbon of Death - because nothing grows there.

6: What is a pristine area?

An area without developed trails or campsites.

7: What is a "Ghost Trail"?

An unplanned trail that is used more than once which shows the effect of trampling which encourages others to follow the same route.

8: How can we avoid forming a Ghost Trail?

By spreading out when traveling in pristine areas and never taking the same route twice.

9: How can we minimize the number of trips from camp to get water?

By using a collapsible water container that carries more.

10. Should we camp by water sources? Why?

No. It stops animals who need the water from getting to it, it is a visual impact to other campers, and we can pollute the water easier.

11: How far away from water sources should we camp? Why?

200 feet. So we don't

12: How far away from trails should we camp? Why?

200 feet.

13: Where do we find cryptobiotic crust?

In the desert and other dry areas.

14: What is cryptobiotic crust?

Crypto consists of tiny communities of organisms that appear as a blackish and irregular raised crust.

15: Why is cryptobiotic crust important?

It retains moisture and prevents erosion in the desert.

16: Where do we camp in a river corridor? Why?

On established sites located on:

Beaches

Sandbars

Below the high-water line

17: Is it okay to damage our natural resources because we are tired, run into bad weather, or get started later than we had planned? Why?

No. There is never an excuse to cause avoidable impact to the land. Proper prior planning will prevent avoidable impacts.

18: What is a riparian area?

The area surrounding lakes, streams and other water sources which are easily damaged by careless use.

19: Should we walk single file or side by side down a trail? Why?

Single file to avoid making the trail wider.

20: Complete this sentence: Good campsites are found,
not made.

Thank you for participating. Will you please go to the next station."

Show the participants where to go next.

DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

Flagged Human Waste

Purpose:

This activity demonstrates the amount of human waste that is disposed in and around popular campsites. Teach participants to spread out far and wide when nature calls and to dig an appropriate cathole.

Supplies:

24 yellow irrigation flags to represent urine and 24 red irrigation flags to represent solid human waste.

Directions:

In front of the rest of the group, explain:

“I need six volunteers please – four young men and two adults. This group of people will be spending two nights camping at one site. On the first night, they eat their favorite food: Burritos. As good campers they have been drinking 4-6 quarts of water a day while hiking. Since everyone has to answer nature’s call, I would like each of our volunteers to take a flag for each time they would urinate in the next 24 hours and a flag for each of the times they would need to dispose of solid human waste.”

Explain the boundaries for the activity and continue:

“Please stay within the boundaries and plant flags where you would relieve yourself.”

After they are done, ask:

“What is for dinner the second night?”

Repeat the activity again for the second day at the campsite. When they are done the second time, ask:

Can you imagine what campsites, or for that matter – anywhere outdoors, would look like if everyone deposited their waste on the surface of the ground? This short activity demonstrates why it is so important to dispose of our personal waste at least 200 feet away from water sources, trails and campsites. It also makes it easier to understand the importance of using a cathole for solid human waste.

We want to thank the volunteers for helping us out today and the rest of you for being here. Will you please go to the next station.”

Show the participants where to go next.

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

Natural Treasures

Purpose:

Visual demonstration of the idea of leaving desirable objects where they are found. The activity will also show ways to take the memories with you without moving or touching the objects.

Supplies:

List 1: Daypack, pretty rocks, feathers, arrowheads, pictographs, rubber snake, antlers and trash.

List 2: Binoculars, camera, pocket size sketch pad & pencil, and an empty trash bag.

Directions:

Set up one trail about 20 feet long and 5 feet apart. Place the items on List 1 (except the trash) along the trail before the participants arrive. As they arrive have them spread out along both sides of your demonstration area and about 10 feet back from the trail.

Moderator: *“We are going to demonstrate a way you can teach others this important principle. Pretend you are going to eavesdrop on the two hikers walking down the path. Please be quite so you can hear everything the hikers say as they hike along the trail”.*

The first hiker puts on his pack and starts walking down the trail while saying:

“It is really great to be on this beautiful mountain on such a nice day.”

Pick up rock and put in pack: *“WOW!!! My mom will really like this rock.”*

Pick up feather and put on hat: *“This feather will look cool on my hat.”*

Pick up arrowheads and put in pocket: *“I will show these to my history teacher.”*

Pick up pictograph and put in pack: *“I bet Jack can sell this for big bucks.”*

Stomp on snake: *“Whoa, that snake scared me – it’s a good thing I got him before he got me!”*

Pick up antlers and drop trash: *“No room for the garbage if I am going to take these neat antlers. As you walk off: “This has sure been a good day for a hike.”*

As items from List 1 are placed back on the trail the moderator leads a short discussion:

Moderator: *Should we pick up rocks, feathers, or cultural artifacts that we find? Why*

Moderator: *Is it okay to kill critters we see when we are outdoors? Why?*

Moderator: *“Now lets watch as another hiker goes down another trail. Please continue to listen so you can hear everything he says”.*

The second hiker puts on his pack and starts walking down the trail while saying:

“I am sure glad I am in a beautiful area on such a nice day.”

Take a picture of rock: *WOW!!! My mom will really like this rock.”*

Look at the feather without touching it: *“I will leave this here so others can enjoy the same sense of discovery I had.”*

Take picture of arrowheads: *“I will show these to my history teacher.”*

Draw picture of pictograph: *“I bet Jack will wish he was here so he could have seen this himself. I hope other hikers will leave it here for everyone to enjoy.”*

Look at snake through binoculars as you quietly move around it: *“I’ve never seen a snake like that before.”*

Pick up trash: *“I wonder why people leave so much trash?”*

Take picture of antler: *“My friends will think this is cool.”*

As you walk off: *“This has sure been an interesting hike.”*

Moderator: *Ask yourself this question: Which kind of hiker do you want to be? One who takes things from nature for themselves? Or one who respects nature and other people and leaves natural items for everyone to enjoy?*

Moderator: *One final question. What other things can we do to show we respect wildlife and nature? (Continue getting answers to this question until your time runs out).*

Moderator: *“Thank you for listening to our hikers. Please remember to leave things where you find them unless it is trash. Please remove all trash you find. Please go to the next station.”*

Show participants where the next station is located.

MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

Campfire Alternatives

Purpose:

To help participants find alternatives to having a campfire when a fire is not really needed or not allowed.

Supplies:

A few supplies to illustrate campfire alternatives and keep the discussion moving. You could include: Different color Nalgene bottles, colored pop bottles, lanterns – candle, oil and gas, flashlights, white bucket, Quik Fire, etc.

Directions:

“During a campfire program it helps to have something for everyone to focus on. We would like your help finding alternatives to a campfire when a fire is not really needed or when they are not allowed. Does anyone have an idea that could be used?”

Discuss any ideas that participants share. If the idea is not clear to you it is probably not clear to others. Ask the participant to fully describe what he means. If no one volunteers an idea use one of the props listed above to get things going. Also use props when ideas slow down. Have someone keep a list of ideas to help lead the discussion with the other groups.

How to use props:

Nalgene bottles: *“Most of us use some type of bottle to carry our water in. These can provide an interesting alternative to a campfire. You can put a flashlight in or under the bottle. If you have a waterproof flashlight you can get additional effects by putting the light in a bottle filled with water.”*

Colored pop bottles: *“You can also use colored pop bottles. They tend to provide darker colors which may be interesting. You can’t put most flashlights inside of one of these bottles without cutting off the top or bottom.”*

Candle and Oil Lanterns: *“If you want a smaller focal point you can use candle and oil lanterns. When you use an oil you can use oil that repels mosquitoes and other flying bugs.”*

Gas Lanterns: *“Gas lanterns can be used for a larger focal point. You can get a soft glow by putting the lantern inside a white bucket during the campfire program.”*

Quik Fire: *“Last night we all enjoyed a campfire program using a newer technology. The Quik Fire is allowed even where there are fire regulations because it can be turned off immediately, has a safety valve if someone tries to turn it up too far or the fuel tank gets knocked over.”*

Stars, Constellations, and the Moon: *“And there is always the greatest campfire alternative there is. Just sit under the moon and stars. Often times this can lead to a more subdued and spiritual alternative as we contemplate important principles under God’s creations.”*

“Thank you for your ideas. Now if you would please go to the next station.”

Show participants where the next station is located.

RESPECT WILDLIFE & BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

Role Reversal

Purpose:

Help participants realize how they are disrespectful to God's creations – wildlife & other visitors to the outdoors.

Supplies:

None

Directions:

"Imagine you had a friend in your home who ate all your food, left trash on the floor and dirty dishes in the sink, walked on the carpet with dirty shoes, dumped their dirty water in your water supply, etc. How would you feel? Would you say anything to them? What would you say?"

"When we are outdoors we are in the home of whatever wildlife lives there and we should treat their home with the respect we expect from those who visit our homes. I would like you to think of your favorite animal, fish, bird – any form of wild critter."

Give the participants a minute to think of their favorite critter and continue:

"Now, imagine you are that critter and a human destroyed your home, killed your family members just for fun or captured them to make them a pet, left trash in your home, polluted your water supplies, left human waste on the floor of your outdoor home, etc.."

"Who would like to tell us what their critter would say if it could speak its mind?"

"What could humans have done to show respect to your critter?"

Keep asking the last two questions with different participants until you have used half of your time.

"Now imagine you are on a camping trip and a bunch of drunks are in the next camp. They stay up all night shouting, swearing, shooting guns, etc. You are not able to get to sleep and are getting irritated that they could be so inconsiderate."

"Has something like that ever happened to you?"

"How did you feel?"

"Do you think you have ever been noisy when you should have been more quiet when on a campout?"

"Do you think it is easy to forget our manners when we are outdoors?"

"What do we do as Scouts that may bother other visitors to the outdoors?"

"What can we do about it?"

Keep asking this type of question with different participants until you use all of your time.

“Please remember that when you are outdoors you are in some critters home and should show them the same respect you expect in your home. Also remember we owe other visitors to the outdoors the same courtesy we would expect from them if they were in our home.”

“Thank you for participating. Please go to the next station there.”

Show participants where the next station is located.