

Leave No Trace BSA Guide Workshop



UTAH NATIONAL PARKS COUNCIL

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Leave No Trace BSA Guide Workshop

1. Content

A Leave No Trace BSA Guide workshop is a formal one hour workshop with additional time, when convenient, for each participant to teach a 5 minute Leave No Trace session. BSA Guide workshops emphasize skills and techniques essential to understanding Leave No Trace minimum impact outdoor ethics and education.

A typical BSA Guide workshop will require a minimum of 1 hour of instruction which will include the following:

1. A 15 minute introductory session that will include the following:
 - A: Review Leave No Trace resources and how to use them (available free at www.tcfroar.org).
 - B: Review the importance of a good working relationship with state and federal land managers as well as with private landowners.
- 2: A 5 minute training session on each of the principles.
- 3: Completion of the course requires that each participant teach a five minute session on one of the principles. This can be completed at another time that may be more convenient. Participants qualify as a Leave No Trace BSA Guide upon completion of this step.

2. Guide Workshop: Leaders

The course staff for a Leave No Trace workshop must have a complete understanding of Leave No Trace ethics and principles. Guide workshop staff must conduct the training in a manner consistent with Boy Scout of America guidelines and requirements.

Workshop leaders and staff are strongly encouraged to complete the Tread Lightly! workshop which is available at www.treadlightly.org. Completion will provide a full understanding of the principles guiding our efforts to minimize our impact while engaged in outdoor recreation.



3. Guide Workshop: Enrollment

Guide workshop enrollment is not limited, but course staff should strive to keep the instructor to student ratio at a manageable level.

4. Guide Workshop: Cost

It is strongly encouraged that Guide workshops be held in conjunction with other planned activities or unit meetings and outings where there will be no additional cost. All materials necessary to complete a Guide workshop are available free at www.tcfroar.org.

The purposes of this training is to provide an introductory session at no or extremely low cost in terms of cash and a minimal commitment of time. To offer a workshop with no expense each participant is encouraged to bring to the session the following resource material (all can be downloaded free from our website. All participants will need item #1 to successfully complete the workshop:

- 1: 5 Minute Sessions (NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE TRAINING)**
- 2: 15 Minute Hands-On Sessions**
- 2: 15 Minute Lecture Sessions**
- 3: Impact Monster Skit**
- 4: Hornaday Conservation Award information**
- 5: Teaching *Leave No Trace*.**
- 6: *Leave No Trace* Awareness Award Brochure**
- 7: *Cub Scout Teaching Tread Lightly and Leave No Trace* manual**
- 8: *Cub Scout Leave No Trace* Awareness Award Brochure**

5. Guide Workshop: Completion

Upon successful completion of an **Guide** workshop, each participant will become a **Leave No Trace BSA Guide**. Successful completion of the workshop requires participation in all course activities including participant teaching. Those who complete the **Guide** workshop are equipped to:

- Understand and apply basic minimum impact techniques when outdoors;
- Lead a discussion on outdoor principles and help others understand their importance.

Course staff are encouraged to provide identification cards to each participant who became a **Guide**. A master to make the cards is available free at www.tcfroar.org. It is recommended that these be printed on card stock.



Leave No Trace Guide Workshop

This syllabus is designed to help you organize and implement your own Leave No Trace BSA Guide training event. It contains everything you need to be successful in your efforts. A possible script is provided to help you prepare for your first event. You are encouraged to develop your own script that works well with your personality.

A: Review each of the resources available on our website prior to the course.

Make a list of how they can be used by your participants. Example: With your participants review the preface in "*Teaching Leave No Trace*". Encourage them to work with Cub Scouts using the Cub Tread Lightly - Leave No Trace handbook. Ask them to have scouts prepare for campfire programs using the 15 minute Hands-On Series of sessions. Use your experience and imagination to teach your participants the value of these resources.

B: Presentation

Consider this: Today, use of designated wilderness areas has increased from 4 million people in 1964, to 7 million people in 1974, to 15 million in 1984, 21 million in 1994, and nearly 30 million users in 2000. That's a 750 percent increase in 30 years! As cities grow and populations encroach upon wildlands and recreation areas, we must do more than just pick up the litter and extinguish campfires. We must learn how to maintain the integrity and character of the outdoors for all living things.



If you were the only person to pick a flower, walk through cryptobiotic soil, leave a campfire ring, etc. it probably would be no big thing. The reality is that there were 30 million of us doing that in the United States in 2000. Consider the potential impact of scouts from the Boy Scouts of America. There are four million registered scouts and leaders in the country. Everyone is encouraged to participate in a camp out each month plus a long term camp during the summer. That is 16 nights and 28 days of camping a year. If we all camped as recommended that would be 112,000,000 camper days from the Boy Scouts alone.

Now you say, that isn't happening. Boy Scouts only average half that. Okay, if all those registered in the country only camped half as often as requested that would still be 56,000,000 camper days a year. Over fifty-six million days of impact on the environment each year.

Is it any wonder land managers are concerned? Yes, they should be concerned and in reality so should we. As citizens we demand that the land managers protect the environment and make sure it is pristine when we get there. But then we turn around and get irritated when they ask us to do our part. The reality is that all of us that use the land are responsible for maintaining it. We

are responsible for supporting our land managers. We should show them respect for the work they do in protecting OUR property.

We should also recognize that a large percentage of land managers are also involved in scouting just as we are. Is it coincidence that many land managers for the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service are also avid scouters? Or did their background and experience in scouting help prepare them for their current assignments in taking care of the land? We should do our best to support state and federal land managers. How do we do that?



Visit with them before going to an area they are responsible for. Let them guide you in your planning and organization for the outing. Invite them to a meeting with your boys. Show the boys we respect and support land managers and appreciate the work they do in our behalf. Talk with your local land managers and see what free literature and resources they have that can be beneficial to your program. We all know they can't be all things to all people but they do a great job and we should support them. We are all after the same things so let's work together and have some responsible fun following Tread Lightly! and Leave No Trace ethics and principles.

In like manner we need to respect the owners of private property and their property. They can be a great resource when we show them the proper respect and work with them when we want to have access to their property.

C: Provide a 5 minute introductory session for each Leave No Trace principle and Tread Lightly!.

The similarities between the two programs can be pointed out. These are available at www.tcfroar.org. Take the time to review other resources to fully understand what you are going to teach. The five and fifteen minutes sessions are very simple to complete when properly prepared ahead of time.

D. At least one student led teaching exercise (5 to 15 minutes) by each participant.

It is strongly suggested that participants use "Tread Lightly - Leave No Trace Principles - 5 Minute Series" to prepare for their individual teaching session. Prior to the course divide participants into patrols of seven. Assign each of them a principle to teach during your session. When its time for them to teach separate them into patrols. Place a staff member with each group. It is acceptable for units to complete this step on their own while on unit outings.

E: Closing

Discuss with participants how they will apply what they have learned to minimize their impact on the land when engaged in outdoor recreation. Also strongly encourage them to complete the Tread Lightly! workshop available at www.treadlightly.org.