



# Leave No Trace Takeaway Message

The Mission of the Leave No Trace program is to develop a nationally recognized, minimum-impact backcountry educational system which educates wilderness use groups, federal agencies, and the public through training and effective written and video materials.

## The seven principles of Leave No Trace are:

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors

Leave No Trace can be used in many different types of camping such as in developed campgrounds (“front country”), wilderness areas (“back country”), horse trips, mountain biking, caving, alpine environments, and even urban areas.

## Background Information on the Leave No Trace Program

- The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics is a non-profit educational corporation authorized by:
  - National Park Service
  - USDA Forest Service
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - US Fish and Wildlife Servicein partnership with educational programs and youth organizations (like Boy Scouts of America) as well as the outdoor industry
- BSA has adopted Leave No Trace as an important tool for guiding its members in appropriate ways to use and protect the outdoors.
- Leave No Trace provides a common language for all who accept the responsibility of caring for the environment.
- Leave No Trace applies in all regions of the United States.
- Leave No Trace principles are guidelines, not rules. Leaders and group members should consider their surroundings, local regulations, weather and skill level when considering the best way to Leave No Trace.

Special principles are available for backcountry horse use, Western river corridors, rock climbing, caving, and the Pacific Northwest. These activities require special consideration by groups choosing to do these activities.

There are LNT recognition programs for all levels in Scouting, youth and adults:

- Cub Scout Leave No Trace Awareness Award
- Boy Scout and Venturer Leave No Trace Achievement Award

**WOOD BADGE FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**