

Backcountry Principles: Scouts BSA

Leave No Trace is an outdoor code of ethics. The backcountry principles of Leave No Trace are commonly referred to as the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace.

The **Seven Principles of Leave No Trace**:

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

Plan ahead and prepare

Some things you will want to plan and prepare for before you leave on a trip are as follows:

- Check the weather forecast
- Make sure you know the rules and regulations of the area
- Know the anticipated food consumption
- Make a meal plan
- Make a duty roster
- Identify your trip's goal
- Make sure you have brought the essential outdoor tools
- Know the ability level of your unit's members



Weekly meal plan	Shopping list
Monday:	
Tuesday:	
Wednesday:	
Thursday:	
Friday:	
Saturday:	
Sunday:	



[This Photo](#) by

Travel and camp on durable surfaces

Prepare correctly for different types of terrain.

- Rock, gravel
 - Very durable
 - Can tolerate repeated trampling
- Snow
 - The effect of trampling is temporary, making it a good surface
 - Make sure you have dressed correctly
- Vegetation
 - Vegetation varies in sturdiness
 - Select areas with sparse vegetation
- Desert puddles/mud holes
 - Do not walk through these. Water is a precious resource in the desert.



Dispose of waste properly

- Do not bury trash!
- Strain dishwater and broadcast the strained water over a wide area at least 200 feet from the nearest water source.



Leave what you find

- Preserve the past! Give others the same opportunity you had to find things.
- Leave rocks, plants, and other natural objects as you find them.
- AVOID INTRODUCING NON-NATIVE SPECIES.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.



Minimize campfire impact

- Campfires can leave a lasting impact on the environment.
 - Use a lightweight stove for cooking
 - Use a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire areas.
- Keep fires small, use only sticks that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cooled ashes.
- **BURN ONLY WOOD!!!**



Respect wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals! Feeding animals can alter their feeding behaviors, making them prone to loss of food and predators. Animals can become dependent on humans for food.
- Store rations and food securely.
- Control pets at all times. If possible, leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times.
 - Mating season
 - Nesting
 - Raising young

- Winter



Be considerate of other visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to others on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown
Author is licensed under CC