

# Front Country Leave No Trace Guidelines

- Discussion Reference for CUB Scout Units -

## 1. Know Before You Go

Be Prepared! Don't forget the right clothing to protect you from cold, heat, or rain. Use maps to show you where you'll be going and to avoid getting lost. Learn about the areas you will visit. Read books and talk to people before you go. The more you know, the more fun you will have. Good trip planning and preparation helps you be safe, have fun, and minimize damage to the natural environment.

## 2. Choose the Right Path

Use existing camp areas and walk on the main trail to protect nature. Keep natural areas looking natural. Avoid trampling plants. Once damaged, they may not grow back. Camp at least 100 big steps from roads, trails, and water.

## 3. Trash Your Trash

Pack it in, pack it out. Put all litter in trash bags, including trash left by others before you. Inspect and clean your lunch site or campsite of trash and spilled foods and carry it out. Use toilets or outhouses when available. If not, and you have to "go," act like a cat and bury poop in a small cathole 6 to 8 inches deep at least 100 big steps from water, campsites, or trails. Bury your toilet paper deep in the hole or put it in a plastic bag to throw away later in a garbage can. Fill in and disguise the cathole.

## 4. Leave What You Find

Allow others a sense of discovery, and preserve the past. Leave rocks, plants, animals, historical items, and other objects as you find them. Look at, draw, or photograph but do not touch cultural or historical structures and artifacts. It's illegal to damage or remove artifacts. Good campsites are found, not made. Do not dig trenches around tents or build lean-tos, tables, chairs, or new fire rings. Damaging trees with axes, saws, or knives is never a good thing for a Scout to do.

## 5. Be Careful With Fire

The natural feel of many areas has been harmed by overuse of campfires and firewood collection. Try cooking on a lightweight camp stove. Stoves are fast, eliminate the need for firewood, and make cleanup after meals easier.

Choose not to have a campfire in areas with limited wood. If you build a fire, use only existing campfire rings and conserve wood for others. Collect only dead and downed wood no bigger than your wrist. Do not burn trash or food; this can attract and harm wildlife.

## 6. Respect Wildlife

Watch wildlife from a distance and never approach, feed, or follow them. Human food is unhealthy for all animals, and feeding them starts bad habits. Quick movements and loud noises are stressful to animals. You are too close to an animal if it runs away or changes its normal activities. Many dogs will chase other animals, so keep them on a leash or leave them at home. Store all food and garbage securely from animals.

## 7. Be Kind to Other Visitors

Make sure the fun you have in the outdoors does not bother anyone else. Remember that other people are there to enjoy the outdoors as well. Listen to nature. Avoid making loud noises or yelling. Thoughtful campers respect other visitors and protect their experience. Inconsiderate behaviors degrade the experiences of other visitors.