



Scouting America Outdoor Ethics Action Award Service Project Information

One of the requirements for earning the Outdoor Ethics Action Award is to participate in a service activity that addresses recreational impacts. This doesn't have to be a large undertaking. The point of the project is to reinforce the outdoor ethics that are being taught and to offer service to the outdoor areas used by Scouts. In this spirit, a Scout should consider projects such as:

- Removing or cleaning up multiple campfire rings - this should be done with the *prior* approval of the governing agency (State Park, City Park, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), or the National Park Service (NPS)) in charge of the area you are visiting. Remember, you should concentrate use in areas that are heavily visited; so keeping one campfire ring may be entirely appropriate. Check with local government officials or land managers to find out their policies.
- Campsite naturalization - if you happen across a campsite that is either not supposed to be there, or that is not heavily impacted, consider naturalizing it. If it is an area that has seen some heavy use, think about reducing the size of the impact area to make it a better area for the next group to use. This should be done with the prior approval of the land use agency (State Park, City Park, USFS, BLM or NPS) in charge of the area you are visiting.
- Trash removal - this should be an extensive removal effort, not just the occasional trash sweep that every unit should perform before they leave an area they have used.
- Build a Leave No Trace information kiosk or display - working with a local ranger, a unit can put together an information station at a trailhead to inform other visitors about how to apply the Leave No Trace principles in the backcountry.
- Other conservation-related project - many units perform conservation projects as part of their yearly outdoor program. Projects which address recreational impacts could include: hiking trail maintenance, closing and restoring social trails, or stream bank impact restoration. These types of projects should be done with prior approval of the land use agency (State Park, City Park, USFS, BLM, Or NPS) in charge of the area you are visiting.

If you have any questions on the award or need other ideas for a project, contact Scouting America at outdoorethics@scouting.org.