



Outdoor Ethics Training Guidelines

November 15, 2025

Outdoor Ethics training is included in all of the core Scouting America outdoor training programs: National Youth Leader Training (NYLT) and National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) for youth, and the Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS), BALOO, and Wood Badge for adult volunteers.

Scouting America also offers specialized Outdoor Ethics and Leave No Trace training courses to assist youth and adult members seeking to bring researched-based outdoor ethics practices to their outdoor programs.

Scouting America Outdoor Ethics Orientation

The goal of this course is to introduce the concept of Outdoor Ethics in a fun and engaging way to a group with little experience in the concept of Outdoor Ethics. It should help youth and adults at all program levels understand the general principles behind Outdoor Ethics in Scouting's outdoor program.

- [Scouting America Outdoor Ethics Orientation Course - Instructor Guide](#)
- Training Code:
 - S110 - Youth
 - S111 - Adult

Scouting America Leave No Trace Basics

This course is a general introduction to Leave No Trace ethics and skills. It is designed to help youth and adults at all program levels understand the Leave No Trace Seven Principles and how to apply them in Scouting America's outdoor program. It is also designed to give adult volunteers the confidence to assess youth understanding and skills for purposes of signing off on Scouts BSA rank requirements and Venturing Ranger Award requirements.

- [Scouting America Leave No Trace Basics Course Guide](#)
 - Instructed by: Certified Leave No Trace Instructor
 - Course Length: 3 or more hours
 - Training Code: D74
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The Leave No Trace Skills Course, Scouting America Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course, and Scouting America Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course must follow the appropriate Course Guidelines and the National Leave No Trace Training Guidelines.

https://lnt.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/National-Training-Guidelines_Final.pdf

Leave No Trace Skills Course

This 16-hour course, with an optional overnight, provides in-depth training for Scouts, Venturers, Sea Scouts, and adult volunteers from all programs in the skills and ethics of the Leave No Trace Seven Principles. Participants leave the course fully equipped to lead their unit's inclusion of Leave No Trace in the Scouting program.

Course Standards:

- Training Agreement: Scouting America has a blanket training agreement to provide the **Leave No Trace Skills Course**. This agreement extends to all Councils (every course, approved by the council, is covered under this agreement and must follow the National Leave No Trace Training Guidelines). All courses not authorized by the local council must file a separate training agreement with Leave No Trace.
- Each course must file with the respective council the Request for Authorization to Conduct Scouting America-Sponsored Leave No Trace Skills Course (<https://scouting-oec.org/forms/RFASkillsCourse.pdf>).
- Minimum enrollment per course = 4 participants (no age restrictions).
- Maximum enrollment per course = no limit on participation enrollment.
- Lead Instructor = Level 1 Instructor (18+) or Level 2/Level 3 Instructor.
- Co-Instructor = Level 1 Instructor (18+), Level 2 Instructor, or a graduate of a Leave No Trace Skills Course (18+).
- Additional Instructors = Level 1 Instructor, Level 2 Instructor, or Skills Course graduate (age requirement is not a factor).
- Additional Instructors are needed to maintain a 6 participant/ 1 instructor ratio when enrollment exceeds 12 participants.
- <https://lnt.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Skills-Course-Guidelines.pdf>
- If overnight, Short-Term Camp rules apply and the [RFA](#) must include the associated form and signatures.
- The Lead Instructor must file a Council Training Report and a course roster with Leave No Trace via the [online roster submission form](#). The Lead Instructor will receive the Leave No Trace Skills Course Certificates of Completion by email.
- Training Code: D84

Scouting America Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course

This 16-hour course, with an optional overnight, trains interested Scouting volunteers, ages 18 and older, to serve as Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructors. Level 1 Instructors are the backbone of Outdoor Ethics in the Scouting program, providing instruction to individuals and units wishing to adopt researched-based outdoor ethics practices into their unit programs. Level 1 Instructors are specially commissioned to teach the Leave No Trace Skills Course, the Scouting America Leave No Trace Basics course and Leave No Trace Workshops.

Course Standards:

- Training Agreement: Scouting America has a blanket training agreement to provide the **Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course**. This agreement extends to all Councils (every course, approved by the council, is covered under this agreement and must follow the National Leave No Trace Training Guidelines). All courses not authorized by the local council must file a separate training agreement with Leave No Trace. All who complete this training are certified by Leave No Trace. Re-certification is required every 2 years.
- Each course must file with the respective council the Request for Authorization to Conduct Scouting America-Sponsored Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course (<https://scouting-oec.org/forms/RFAInstructor1Course.pdf>).
- All Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor courses must follow the Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course Guidelines.
<https://lnt.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Level-1-Instructor-Course-Guidelines-1.pdf>
- Minimum enrollment per course (18+) = 4 participants.
- Maximum enrollment per course = 12 participants.
- Lead Instructor = Certified Level 2 Instructor.
- Co-Instructor = Certified Level 1 (18+) or Level 2 Instructor.
- Additional Instructors = Certified Level 1 or Level 2 Instructor (age requirement is not a factor).
- All Scouting America Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Courses must follow the [Scouting America Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course Manual](#).
- If overnight, Short-Term Camp rules apply and the [RFA](#) must include the associated form and signatures.
- The Lead Instructor must file a Council Training Report and a course roster with Leave No Trace via the [online roster submission form](#). The Lead Instructor will receive the Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Certificates by email.
- Participants completing the Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor course receive a complementary 6-month membership with Leave No Trace.
- Training Code: D78

Multiple Scouting America Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Courses

Multiple Scouting America Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor courses can be held at the same time providing the enrollment and instructor standards are met for each course. The multiple courses may share a large classroom for many of the overview presentations, however the courses should be separated out for the curriculum sessions that teach the Leave No Trace Seven Principles and participant presentations.

- The Request for Authorization to Conduct Scouting America -Sponsored Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course must be filed for each individual course in the combined format (<https://scouting-oec.org/forms/RFAInstructor1Course.pdf>).
- Each individual course in the combined format must meet the minimum and maximum enrollment standards specified above for a Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor course.
- Each individual course in the combined format must have its own Lead Instructor and Co-Instructor with the qualifications specified above for a Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course.
- The designated Lead or Co-Instructor for each course in the combined format may not be designated as a Lead or Co-Instructor for any other course in the combined format.
- All Scouting America Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Courses must follow the [Scouting America Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course Manual](#).
- The Lead Instructor for each course must file a Council Training Report and a course roster with Leave No Trace via the [online roster submission form](#).

Combining a Leave No Trace Skills Course with a Level 1 Instructor Course

A Scouting America Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course can be combined with a Leave No Trace Skills Course and held at the same time providing the enrollment and instructor standards are met for each course. The combined courses may share a large classroom for many of the overview presentations, however the courses should be separated out for the curriculum sessions that teach the Leave No Trace Seven Principles and to allow for the participant presentations required for the Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor course. The participant presentations should not be presented to the Skills Course participants, the presentations are only intended for the participants attending the individual Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course in the combined format.

- The Request for Authorization to Conduct Scouting America - Sponsored Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course (<https://scouting-oec.org/forms/RFAInstructor1Course.pdf>) and the Request for Authorization to Conduct Scouting America - Sponsored Leave No Trace Skills Course (<https://scouting-oec.org/forms/RFASkillsCourse.pdf>) must be filed for each individual course in the combined format.
- The Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor course(s) must meet the minimum and maximum enrollment standards specified above for a Level 1 Instructor course.
- Each individual course in the combined format must have its own Lead Instructor and Co-Instructor with the qualifications specified above for the specific course they are instructing.

- The designated Lead and Co-Instructors for each course in the combined format may not be designated as a Lead or Co-Instructor for any other course in the combined format.
- The Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor course(s) must have Lead, Co-, and optional Additional Instructors as specified above for Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor courses.
- The Leave No Trace Skills course must have Lead, Co-, and Additional Instructors as specified above for Leave No Trace Skills courses.
- The Lead Instructor for each course must file a Council Training Report and a course roster with Leave No Trace via:
 - Leave No Trace Skills Course [online roster submission form](#). The Lead Instructor will receive the Leave No Trace Skills Course Certificates of Completion by email.
 - Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course [online roster submission form](#). The Lead Instructor will receive the Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Certificates by email.

Scouting America Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course

This five-day, five-night course trains interested Scouting volunteers, ages 18 and older, to serve as Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructors. Level 2 Instructors work with their council's outdoor ethics advocates to provide the Scouting America Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course, Leave No Trace Skills Course, Scouting America Leave No Trace Basics, Leave No Trace Workshops, and other outdoor ethics awareness courses.

The National Council of Scouting America is an approved provider of the Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course. All who complete this training are certified by Leave No Trace. Re-certification is required every 2 years.

Course Standards:

- Training Agreement: The National Council of Scouting America has a training agreement to provide the **Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course**.
- All Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor courses are approved and administered by the Program Operations team of Scouting America's Outdoor Ethics & Conservation Subcommittee. Information on how to apply to host a Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course can be found here: <https://scouting-oec.org/training/Level2CourseHosting.php>
- Minimum enrollment per course (18+) = 5 participants, or half of the course maximum when the land management agency has a group size limit of <12 (e.g. minimum is 4 if maximum allowed is 7).
- Maximum enrollment per course = 12 participants.
- Lead Instructor = Certified Level 3 Instructor assigned by the Program Operations team of Scouting America's Outdoor Ethics & Conservation Subcommittee.
- Co-Instructor = Certified Level 2 Instructor assigned by the Program Operations team of Scouting America's Outdoor Ethics & Conservation Subcommittee.
- All Scouting America Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Courses must follow the Scouting America Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course Manual (restricted).

- Participants completing the Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor course receive a 12-month membership with Leave No Trace.
- Training Code: D79

Tread Lightly! Tread Trainer & Master Tread Trainer Courses

Tread Trainer and Master Tread Trainer Courses are administered directly through Tread Lightly!. Scouting America does not have any agreements to provide this training. Scouting volunteers interested in delivering one of these programs should contact Tread Lightly! for information on what is required.

<https://treadlightly.org/>

Scouting America does recognize Scouting volunteers that have completed these valuable training programs:

- Tread Trainer, Training Code: D80
- Master Tread Trainer, Training Code: D81

Outdoor Ethics Training Resources

- Leave No Trace (<https://lnt.org/>)
- [Leave No Trace National Training Guidelines](#)
- [Leave No Trace Skills Course Guidelines](#)
- [Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course Guidelines](#)
- Tread Lightly! (<https://treadlightly.org/>)
- [Outdoor Ethics on Scouting.org](#)
- [Scouting America Outdoor Ethics Orientation Course - Instructor Guide](#)
- [Scouting America Leave No Trace Basics Course Guide](#)
- [Scouting America Leave No Trace Instructor Supplement](#)
- [Scouting America Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course Manual](#)
- [Request for Authorization to Conduct Scouting America - Sponsored Leave No Trace Skills Course](#)
- [Request for Authorization to Conduct Scouting America - Sponsored Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course](#)
- [Information on hosting a Scouting America Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor Course](#)