

STEPS FOR TEACHING THE ACTIVITY (30 MINUTES)**Will You Make It?**

This activity will teach participants how to identify events that can interfere with a successful trip. These are real-life scenarios contributed by experienced field rangers who see poorly prepared groups suffer because they do not plan ahead. “Will You Make It?” emphasizes the need to plan solutions to potential problems *before* a trip.

Instructions

- 1 Match events and solutions.** Evenly distribute the travel event and solution cards. Some group members may need to share cards if the group is larger than 16. The goal is to have participants find the group member with the corresponding event or solution card and form a pair. The leader may want to use the key to ensure correct pairing.
- 2 Plan a presentation.** Once all solutions are matched to the corresponding events, have each pair plan some way to teach the plan-ahead concept. Allow group members to be imaginative. Some ideas include pantomime, acting out, lecture, and drawing.
- 3 Give a presentation.** Have each pair use their chosen presentation method to teach their concept to the rest of the group.

Facilitate learning by discussing the scenarios after they are presented. Make sure each event is discussed. Emphasize the key elements of trip planning presented in the “Will You Make It?” handout and the Background on the Principles of Leave No Trace. Tie these key elements to the importance of good preparation.

TRAVEL CARD KEY

Event Card	Solution Card
12	1
2	9
15	3
4	11
14	5
6	13
10	7
8	16

WILL YOU MAKE IT?



Why Is Trip Planning Important?

- ▶ It prepares you to Leave No Trace.
- ▶ It helps ensure the safety of groups and individuals.
- ▶ It contributes to accomplishing trip goals and having fun.
- ▶ It increases self-confidence and opportunities for learning.

Elements to Consider When Trip Planning

- 1 Identify the goals (expectations) of your trip.
- 2 Identify the skills and ability levels of trip participants.
- 3 Select destinations to match the group's goals, skills, and abilities.
- 4 In advance, gain knowledge of the area you plan to visit.
- 5 Choose the proper equipment and clothing.
- 6 Plan trip activities to match the group's goals, skills, and abilities.
- 7 Evaluate your trip upon return—note needed changes.

Planning and Preparation Checklist

Create a “Planning and Preparation Checklist” you can use to plan your next trip. Use the answers to these questions in creating the checklist.

- ▶ Can your group identify at least three reasons why trip planning is important?
- ▶ Can your group describe seven key elements included in successful planning and preparation (“Will You Make It?” handout, Background on the Principles of Leave No Trace)?
- ▶ Do solutions to planning elements change depending on the environment visited (i.e., desert versus high alpine areas)? Reflect on conversation that resulted from the imaginary day hike to the desert and alpine environments.

Congratulations on conducting a well-organized meeting for your group!

WRAPPING UP THE ACTIVITY (20 MINUTES)

Your group has participated in three activities—one identifies the importance of trip planning, another identifies key elements to consider when planning a trip, and the third can be used as a tool for planning a trip. How well has your group learned the importance of trip planning? If the group needs additional help, try these activities.

- ▶ Create new event and solution cards as you learn new Leave No Trace concepts.
- ▶ Discuss these topics. Ask participants
 - If they have seen resource damage that may have resulted from poor planning
 - To recall safety concerns they have experienced or witnessed as a result of poor planning
- ▶ Have participants share the planning process with their families and use it to plan a family vacation or birthday party.

Event Travel Card

12

BLISTERS! You have a nasty blister and can no longer carry your pack. You are not even sure you can walk to your campsite.

Solution Travel Card

1

An adhesive felt-like material acts like a second skin and can be applied to the feet or other areas of human skin to help prevent rubbing. Always carry this with you, and *always* break in new footwear *before* a trip. Encourage your crew members to check “hot spots” while you take a break. Change socks frequently, and keep your feet clean and dry.

Event Travel Card

2

LIGHTNING! A storm is quickly blowing into your area. From your vantage point high on the trail you can see lots of lightning. You estimate you have about five minutes before the storm reaches you.

Solution Travel Card

9

Before you left on your trip, you researched safety. You remember that lightning is attracted to the highest point and that water and metal conduct the electrical charge. You descend from your high vantage point, away from the storm. If lightning occurs nearby, take off your metal frame pack, stay away from water, and choose a low spot in which to crouch away from the tallest trees. Insulate yourself from the ground by sitting on your pack or sleeping bag and resting your feet on one or the other.

Event Travel Card

15

PACKWEIGHT! Your pack did not feel heavy when you left, but now you can hardly move. You’re so tired you would just as soon sit right down and not walk another step!

Solution Travel Card

3

Too bad. Your heavy pack made it impossible for you to hike comfortably, and you didn’t have any fun. You find a campsite for the night, but you never made it to your destination. The weight of your pack should generally be no more than a fourth of your body weight. Pack your backpack *before* you leave and weigh it on a scale. Leave items behind if necessary. Some things, like cook kits, can be shared by several people and the contents divided among several packs.

Event Travel Card

4

STEEP TRAIL! Your hike is 3 miles long and gains 1,000 feet of elevation for every mile. This is steep. You must reach camp before dark. Everyone is walking *very* slowly because it is so steep.

Solution Travel Card

11

You believe in planning ahead. You looked at a map and talked to the agency that manages this trail, so you were aware it was steep. Realizing that people hike an average of 2 miles an hour on flat terrain, you figured backpacking at a rate of 1 mile per hour and added one hour for the thousand-foot elevation gain for a total of four hours. You have plenty of time to reach camp before dark.

<p>Event Travel Card 14</p> <p>PRIVATE PROPERTY! Your group is walking along a trail when suddenly in front of you there is a fence with a “No Trespassing” sign.</p>	<p>Solution Travel Card 5</p> <p>Your group leader pulls out a statement signed by the property owner, who has granted the group permission to cross the private land. A review of maps revealed this private property, and a couple of phone calls resulted in the signed statement.</p>
<p>Event Travel Card 6</p> <p>WATER! Your group brought 2 quarts of water per person, but your hike has been very hot and now everyone is low on water. You can’t boil water to drink because there is a fire ban in effect, and you don’t have a stove because you were only going on a hike.</p>	<p>Solution Travel Card 13</p> <p>After another hour of an uncomfortably dry hike, you run across a prepared hiker who pulls out a water filter designed to remove bacteria from open water sources. After taking a break on the rocky shore of a small pond and filtering water, you have enough water to finish the hike. You make a note to remind someone to buy a water filter or water purification tablets before your next outing.</p>
<p>Event Travel Card 10</p> <p>CAMPFIRE BAN! You have no stove, and the area you came to visit has been heavily used and does not permit campfires. It’s dinnertime and everyone in the group is very hungry.</p>	<p>Solution Travel Card 7</p> <p>Because this was only an overnight camping trip, someone suggested bringing prepared food for dinner. As the sun begins to set, everyone gathers together on a rock outcrop near the camp and pulls out a sandwich, a piece of fruit, and a snack for dessert. As darkness falls, the group watches the stars appear and tells stories about the shadows in the night.</p>
<p>Event Travel Card 8</p> <p>CAMPSITE! When you arrive at your destination, you find that both of the campsites recommended to you by friends are being used. It will be dark soon, and there is little time to search for another site. You are tempted to set up camp right where you are on the trail, even though you know that does not follow good Leave No Trace ethics.</p>	<p>Solution Travel Card 16</p> <p>Your group leader hiked to this area two weeks ago in anticipation of your trip and found three perfect campsite options. After following your leader for another 10 minutes you move off-trail to a campsite with big, flat rocks to sit on and a great view of the valley.</p>