



## LEAVE NO TRACE AND GIRL SCOUTING

Leave No Trace is an ethic that promotes minimum impact enjoyment and recreational use of the land. Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) works collaboratively with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics (the Center) at the national and local levels through the Elliott Wildlife Values Project's *Linking Girls to the Land* program.

GSUSA supports Leave No Trace values and ethics, which teach stewardship, minimal impact camping, and responsible recreational use of the land. GSUSA also encourages Girl Scout councils to become familiar with the Leave No Trace principles, trainings, and educational materials. The concepts are woven into the Girl Scout Leadership Experience journeys and the principles can be used to enhance other environmental and outdoor related program offerings, awards, membership pathways, and adult trainings. Councils can work with federal natural resource agency partners of *Linking Girls to the Land* to provide staff to assist with Leave No Trace trainings. For more information on *Linking Girls to the Land* federal partners, visit <http://www.epa.gov/adopt/linkinggirls/contacts.html> or contact GSUSA, 1-800-223-0624 or [linkinggirls@girlscouts.org](mailto:linkinggirls@girlscouts.org).

**Girl Scouts and the Leave No Trace Ethic.** As part of the Girl Scout Law, Girl Scouts have been taught since 1912 to “use resources wisely” and to leave a place better than they found it. But they don't have to be in the back country to practice this. The Leave No Trace ethic is just as relevant to the backyard, the local park and the Girl Scout camp. Leave No Trace builds awareness, appreciation, and respect for the outdoors. It builds girls' courage, confidence, and character, so that they can plan and be prepared for the situations they encounter in the outdoors, enjoy their recreation experiences, and have minimal impact on the Earth. When Girl Scouts practice Leave No Trace skills and ethics, they literally make the world a better place.

The seven **Leave No Trace Principles** are rooted in both science and common sense:

- Plan ahead and prepare - “Know Before You Go”
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces - “Choose the Right Path”
- Dispose of waste properly – “Trash Your Trash”
- Leave what you find – “Leave What You Find”
- Minimize campfire impacts – “Be Careful with Fire”
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors - “Be Kind to Other Visitors”

Leave No Trace has educational materials that have been adapted for different regions, ecosystems, and activities, including: North America, Northeast Mountains, Southeast, Pacific Northwest, Sierra Nevada, Alaska Wildlands, Deserts and Canyons, Western River Corridors, Tropical Rainforest, Lakes Region, Rocky Mountain, Mountain Biking, Rock Climbing, Sea Kayaking, Horse Use, Fishing and Caving.

In addition, Leave No Trace is providing more suggestions for the care of the front country, such as our local parks, trails and Girl Scout Camps.

## **Trainings, Opportunities, Grants and Materials Available**

**Awareness Workshops**, for adults and children, facilitated by a Leave No Trace Master Educator or Trainer, may vary in length from one hour to one day. Many pre-designed programs and activities are available from the Center. Awareness Workshops and discussions are appropriate program for outdoor days, camporees, leader weekends, and camp. Certificates are available for completion of the event.

**Trainer Course** is a 16 hour experiential course for older girls and adults. Although it is outdoors, it does not necessarily include a back country trip. Trainers and at least one Master Educator facilitate this course. Cost varies depending on the venue but usually runs about \$50, and each Master Educator does her own scheduling. Some courses are listed on the Leave No Trace Web site, [www.LNT.org/training/trainercourses/index.html](http://www.LNT.org/training/trainercourses/index.html). A certificate and pin are usually awarded to those completing the course. Participants who complete this course are able to facilitate other Trainer and Awareness Courses.

**Master Educator Course** is a 5-day comprehensive course for adults that provides an overview of Leave No Trace techniques through practical application in a field setting. The first day is spent in a classroom, introducing the course, reviewing gear, and packing. The remaining four days are spent on a short hiking, sea kayaking, horse packing, rafting, or canoeing trip learning and practicing the principles of Leave No Trace. A certificate and sometimes a pin are presented to those finishing the course.

Tuition is \$500-\$830. **Partial scholarships** are available through the Center. Visit the "Grants and Scholarships" page on the web site for more information <http://lnt.org/programs/grants.php>. The two scholarship deadlines are April 15 and August 15. Applicants must be enrolled in an approved Leave No Trace Master Educator course before applying for a scholarship. Scholarship recipients are expected to conduct Leave No Trace Trainer Courses and Awareness Workshops regularly to Girl Scouts and others, and to report on such courses to the Center. For more information, visit [www.LNT.org/training/mastereducator.php](http://www.LNT.org/training/mastereducator.php).

**Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers** provide **free** Leave No Trace trainings ranging from one hour workshops to large scale events. Trainings can be tailored to Girl Scout staff, leaders, or a girl audience and should be

scheduled 6 to 8 months in advance. *Note: There is a \$65/person fee for the Trainer Course.*

**State and National Park and Land Management** personnel often present Leave No Trace mini-workshops and trailhead discussions in their areas. Contact the ranger station for more information.

**Educational Materials** are available for Girl Scout staff, volunteers and older Girl Scouts to help teach Leave No Trace principles in the Girl Scout outdoor training curriculum.

- The **PEAK (Promoting Environmental Awareness in Kids)** program for children 6 to 12 years old includes activities for leaders and program aids to share Leave No Trace with younger girls. A new series is now available for teens and the PEAK program is also available in Spanish. A PEAK activity is an excellent experiential lesson for outdoor leader training. Not only do leaders learn about Leave No Trace, they go home with a ready made activity. For more information on obtaining a PEAK pack, visit [www.LNT.org/programs/peak/index.html](http://www.LNT.org/programs/peak/index.html). Federal and state natural resource agencies often have PEAK packs available for loan; the Center also has a **"Packing with PEAK" grant** available for individual members/partners of Leave No Trace.
- **Teaching resources and activities** may be downloaded **free** from the Center's web site. Some resources include: a how-to guide for running *Awareness Workshops* and the *Awareness Workshop Guidelines*. Visit at [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org).
- **Resources available for purchase** include videos, *Skills and Ethics* Booklets, plastic reference cards ("hang tags"), pins, patches and stickers, activity guides, including the new "101 Ways to Teach Leave No Trace", and brochures. Visit <https://store.LNT.org/buy>. Several of these materials are available in Spanish.

**Grants** are available for individuals and organizations seeking Leave No Trace educational materials and/or training. Visit <http://www.lnt.org/programs/grants.php> for an online application and more information.

- **Packing With PEAK** grants provide PEAK packs to youth-serving organizations and individuals.
- **Tools for Teaching Grants** provide Leave No Trace educational materials, training, and information for use in educational programs.
- **Connect Grants** provide direct support and training grants for organizations and people that serve culturally diverse communities.

Many **Girl Scout Councils (GSC)** include major Leave No Trace activities in their environmental and outdoor program. For example,

- Spanish Trails GSC started giving Trainer Courses in 1998.

- In 2003, Girl Scouts Heart of Central California's (formerly Tierra del Oro) travel opportunity for teens trained all participants as Trainers. This council also has a useful volunteer training course and module.
- Fair Winds GSC and San Fernando Valley GSC train most of their camp staff as Trainers.
- San Gorgonio GSC holds Trainer Courses taught by older girls for older girls.

Girl Scouts of the USA piloted a Leave No Trace Action Camp for Girl Scout Juniors (grades 4-5) with Girl Scouts Heart of Central California in November 2007. The pilot program content and models, incorporating the new Girl Scout Leadership Experience, will be available to all councils soon.

### **More Information**

- For general information, Master Educators Scholarships, or to schedule the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers contact the Outreach Manager at the Center for Outdoor Ethics, 1-800-332-8222 or visit [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org).
- For information on how to incorporate Leave No Trace into your Girl Scout council program and training, contact Liz Williams, Girl Scouts Heart of Central California, 916-669-3231 or email [liz.williams@girlscoutshcc.org](mailto:liz.williams@girlscoutshcc.org).
- To join the Girl Scout Leave No Trace Task Force, contact Marj Eby Chair, Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania, 215-643-3924 or email [marjeb@gmail.com](mailto:marjeb@gmail.com).
- To network with other Girl Scouts interested in Leave No Trace, join the Yahoo Group  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/girl\\_scout\\_leave\\_no\\_trace\\_task\\_force](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/girl_scout_leave_no_trace_task_force) or email [girl\\_scout\\_leave\\_no\\_trace\\_task\\_force@yahoo.com](mailto:girl_scout_leave_no_trace_task_force@yahoo.com).