

Handbook for Outdoor Ethics Guide and Outdoor Ethics Guide Advisor



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Handbook for Outdoor Ethics Guide and Outdoor Ethics Guide Advisor

FORWARD

The purpose of this handbook is to guide units on developing a culture that effectively demonstrates responsible outdoor choices that reduce impacts of scouting activities. The handbook identifies the responsibilities of the Outdoor Ethics Guide, provides ideas on how to carry out this role, and lists resources. It also provides methods for leaders to support scouts selected for this position and a way to evaluate success.

The Outdoor Ethics Guide is a Troop or Team position of responsibility which counts for the leadership requirement for Star, Life, and Eagle ranks. It was instituted in the 2016 Boy Scout Handbook. This replaces the role of Leave No Trace Trainer which was also a Star and Life leadership position. Venture crews may elect to assign the responsibility of Outdoor Ethics Guide to a member, but it is not a leadership position.

Specific information on the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! are not addressed in this handbook. Information about specific skills and how to demonstrate them can be found in the 2016 BSA Handbook and the 2016 BSA Fieldbook. Information on these are also found at the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and Tread Lightly! websites.

“On breaking up camp leave two things behind you --1. Nothing 2. Your thanks.”
Baden Powell, October 1919

THE PRACTICE: MAKING RESPONSIBLE OUTDOOR DECISIONS

What is outdoor ethics? Outdoor ethics is the Scout's guide to making recreational choices that reduce impact to the land and preserve outdoor experiences for others.

Scouting's statement of outdoor ethics is the Outdoor Code. The Outdoor Code is augmented by the Land Ethic, supported by principles and ethical decision making skills of the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace, and supplemented by the principles and skills of Tread Lightly!.

The Land Ethic is a change in how we relate to the land. It helps us to move from a position of conqueror and user of the land to a member and citizen of the land. It implies that the land has a right to be respected and continue to exist. **"The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land."** Leopold, A. (1949) *A Sand County Almanac, and Sketches Here and There*. New York: Oxford University Press, p.204.

Ethical decision making as related to the outdoors, considers a desired action, what impact it has on the land, identifies alternatives and chooses the one of least impact. This is demonstrated by Leopold in his writing: **"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."** Leopold, A. (1949) *A Sand County Almanac, and Sketches Here and There*. New York: Oxford University Press, p.224-225.

The first step to embracing outdoor ethics is to recognize outdoor activities cause an impact to the land, water, natural resources, animals, and people. Once one accepts this one can then realize choices exist which increase, neutralize or remove that impact. Practicing outdoor ethics is the art of recognizing these choices and selecting the action that reduces impacts when possible.

THE OUTDOOR ETHICS GUIDE

The role of the Outdoor Ethics Guide gives you a unique opportunity to help others make choices that reduce impacts to our natural environment. This includes reducing impacts made by our passing as well as actions that impact the experience of others. The challenge for all of us is to:

Minimize what impacts you can.

Avoid those you cannot.

Preserve the quality of outdoor resources and recreational experience!

As the Outdoor Ethics Guide, you will have the opportunity to work with scouts new to the program as well as those with more experience. In some cases you may take the role of teacher, other times a coach. This handbook includes basic information to use in your role as well as resources to expand your knowledge. Use this handbook to help you become better aware of the responsibilities and options to use to help your unit understand how to make choices that reduce outdoor impacts.

SCOPE OF POSITION

As the Outdoor Ethics Guide you serve as a member of the Patrol Leaders Council representing outdoor ethics. To be successful, you need to understand the needs of your troop as well as the needs of the scout.

The candidate must be willing to take on the additional time and responsibility of being an Outdoor Ethics Guide. He will be the primary role model on how to behave in the outdoors. He must agree and willingly execute his roles and responsibilities. If questions or problems come up, he must be willing to go to the appropriate leadership for guidance and resolution.

A troop can choose to have several Outdoor Ethics Guides and assign portions of the responsibilities to each. As an example, a troop might choose to have an older scout attend the Leave No Trace trainer course and focus on high adventure planning.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS GUIDE

- Be First Class rank or higher.
- Have read Chapter 7, Outdoor Ethics, in the BSA Handbook and be able to explain it.
- Complete both online Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! Awareness courses.
- Attend an Outdoor Ethics Orientation or Leave No Trace Trainer course
- Be able to demonstrate how to reduce outdoor impacts

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OUTDOOR ETHICS GUIDE

The Outdoor Ethics Guide performs some or all of the following:

Trains others:

- Explains to Scouts the relevant requirements for the Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class ranks.
- Demonstrates how to practice the Outdoor Code, the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! to meet advancement requirements

Provides Leadership:

- Helps the troop plan and conduct an outdoor program that effectively practicing outdoor ethics.
- Mentors Den Chiefs in the Outdoor Code and practicing Leave No Trace Principles for Kids.
- Helps Life Scouts understand, plan and carry out activities or projects meeting conservation service hour requirements.

Supports Recognition:

- Encourages scouts and leaders to complete Outdoor Ethics Awareness and Action Awards

Completes Self Evaluation:

- Use tools to evaluate how well you carried out your responsibilities.

OUTDOOR ETHICS GUIDE DUTIES

As the troop Outdoor Ethics Guide, your primary duty is to help your unit members take steps to reduce impacts of their outdoor activities. To start, meet with your Troop Outdoor Ethics Advisor, or designated person, and identify the actions you will complete during your term. Fill out the Goal Setter with your advisor. See [Appendix A: Unit Resources- Outdoor Ethics Guide Evaluation Form](#)

1. Explain and Demonstrate Advancement Requirements

Outdoor Ethics Related Rank Requirements:



Tenderfoot 1c. Tell how you practiced the Outdoor Code on a campout/outing



Second Class 1b. Explain the principles of Leave No Trace and tell how you practiced them on a campout/outing different than the one used for Tenderfoot requirement 1c.



First Class 1b. Explain the principles of Tread Lightly! and tell how you practiced them on a campout/outing different than the one for Tenderfoot requirement 1c and Second Class 1b.

Outdoor Ethics Guide Actions

Explain Principles

- Meet with scouts within 30 days of rank advancement and
- Ask them to read the appropriate pages of Chapter 7 in their Scout Handbook.
- Help them make a plan for learning their outdoor ethics skills.
- At a meeting or outing have them explain each of the principles to you or another person.

Demonstrate Principles

- Before a campout/outing, make a plan for working with scouts and discuss it with them.
- Go through the steps of planning a patrol activity and identify situations that are addressed in the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace or Tread Lightly!
- Practice teaching these using the EDGE method.
- Make sure you bring any supplies or equipment you need to teach these skills.
- Setup stations or scenarios for scouts to show you how to demonstrate their new skills.
- Idea: Use your unit Duty Roster or similar tool to help others understand how principles relate to duties.

see [Appendix A: Unit Resources; Outing Duty Roster, The Teaching EDGE Method,](#)

see [Appendix B: Outdoor Ethics: Outdoor Code, 7 Principles of Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly!](#)

After the campout/outing ask scouts to tell you or a designated person what they did to demonstrate the principles. As arranged with your scoutmaster or Senior Patrol Leader, sign the scout advancement requirement when earned.

2. Help your Unit plan and conduct an effective Outdoor Ethics program

Boy Scout units have different outdoor program focuses. Some may be more high adventure oriented and others more activity oriented. Variation exists as to how often and how well units follow outdoor ethics. Your goal is to help your unit become one of the units that practices outdoor ethics in all of its outdoor events and outings, not just sometimes.

To get started, share with others in your unit what outdoor ethics means to you and the impact scouting activities have on the environment and others. Once they see you feel it is important they are more likely to become engaged. Review how implementing outdoor ethics principles can improve campsites, allow for less gear and lighter packs, and reduce impacts while enjoying the outdoors.

Outdoor Ethics Guide Actions: Develop your unit outdoor ethics plan: Below are suggestions for this role:

- Discuss developing an outdoor ethics plan with your Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader.
- Assess how well your unit is using the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace at a Patrol Leaders' Council meeting. (see [Appendix A: Unit Resources; Troop Assessment Form](#))
- Get patrol leaders' input on the results to help develop your outdoor ethics plan.
- Use your annual activity plan to identify opportunities to practice outdoor ethics.

Ask Patrol leaders to find out those who are aware of how to practice outdoor ethics and include them in presenting outdoor ethics to others. Lead activities, games and challenges to help your unit learn to practice outdoor ethics.

Once members understand how to practice outdoor ethics, develop a plan with your Senior Patrol Leader or Patrol Leaders to recognize and reduce impacts of your upcoming activity. You may want to use the Planning an Outing form (see [Appendix A: Unit Resources; Planning an Outing](#)). Assist your Senior Patrol Leader or Patrol Leader in implementing the plan with the patrol or troop members. Attend at least two campouts/outings and observe how well principles were followed.

After the event is completed, review the principles followed during the event. Take time to reflect on which were followed, which you could do better and those that weren't followed or skipped. Come up with ideas to help the unit follow outdoor ethics better next time.

Outdoor Ethics Guide Actions: Carry out the Plan:

Your unit likely is active in many different type of settings. No matter where they go the opportunity exists to reduce outdoor impacts. It is important that the plan for each activity includes how to reduce outdoor impacts.

Front country settings such as state parks or scout camps are most frequently. Ensuring the area is as good as or better than you found it is a way to be considerate of others. Generally your group is sharing an area with others, so planning needs to include addressing this. The size of your group, activities you plan to do, and time of day for doing them all can impact others. Parks now often have recycling programs or have reduced or eliminated garbage services. Be sure you unit is prepared to reduce what you bring, use recycling/disposal sites or carry it out.

When in a frontcountry setting be sure to:

- Be considerate of others.
- Manage your waste by reducing what you bring in.
- Only use a campfire ring, put out your fire and clean out the fire ring when cold.

Urban areas may have limited green spaces or park areas, often have dense populations and your activities may involve mass transit and use of technology.

When in a primarily urban setting your role is to:

- Help others consider how to minimize or avoid impacts on even the smallest spaces.
- Discuss with your group how one can follow outdoor ethics concepts when using these.
- Consider ways to reduce impacts on others where many people congregate as well as areas where one might go to enjoy the quiet.

Back-country camping, where you are more than a day from your car, requires your unit to be diligent in applying outdoor ethics. Your group is likely to have immediate impact on local animals, plants, bodies of water and other backpackers. Advanced planning and preparation are the keys to reducing outdoor impacts.

- Make sure participants are **prepared** by helping them learn the skills they will need before you go.
- Help ensure that the experience and skills match the challenges of the trek.
- Be sure to refer to your Boy Scout Handbook or trained adult leader on best practices to follow for the type of trek or adventure they are planning.

After the campout/ outing is completed, review the principles followed during the event. Take time to reflect on which were followed, which you could do better, and those that were not

followed or skipped. Come up with ideas to help the unit follow outdoor ethics better next time.

See links in [Appendix C. Websites: Leave No Trace teaching activities](#)

3. Prepare Den Chiefs to share principles

The 2015 cub scout rank advancement now includes requirements for scouts at each rank to repeat and/or explain the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace Principles for Kids. In addition each rank focuses on one or more of the individual principles.

Leave No Trace Principles for Kids is a version of Leave No Trace that is more easily understood. Cub scouts follow these at outings and campouts.

See [Appendix B: Outdoor Ethics, The Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace Principles for Kids](#)

Outdoor Ethics Guide Actions

- Explain to Den Chiefs that outdoor activity leaves impacts.
- Identify appropriate activities and games about these.
- Be sure you can explain it, keep directions short, and make it fun!
- Share appropriate activities and games about these with the Den Chief.
- Be available to assist the Den Chief.

Cub Scout Outdoor Ethics Rank Focuses:

Tiger: Be Considerate of Others/Trash your Trash

Wolf: Be Careful with Fire / Respect Wildlife

Bear: Leave what you Find / Be Kind to other visitors

Webelos and Arrow of Light: All

Learning the more advanced tactics of the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace begins when Arrow of Light Dens transition into Boy Scouts. As the Outdoor Ethics Guide you will introduce them to these and how to practice them in more detail.

Note: Not all of the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids are specifically addressed in the Cub Scout handbooks: Know before you go (Plan ahead and Prepare) and Choose the Right Path are not addressed. Also, only the Webelos the Den Leader handbook explains the principles.

4. Help Scouts to understand and plan conservation activities

Conservation is one of the foundations of the scouting program. This means taking care of the outdoors so healthy places continue to exist for many animals and plants, as well as human life.

To emphasize its importance, conservation-related service hours were added to Life Scout advancement requirements in the 2016 Boy Scout Handbook. Completing conservation service was also added to Cub scout, Boy scout, Venture, and Sea Scouts World Conservation Awards.

Outdoor Ethics Guide Actions:

- Ask you unit to obtain a Conservation Handbook for your library.
- Become familiar with what conservation is and types of projects that fit into the definition.
- See [Appendix C: Websites: Conservation Projects](#) for information on how to plan a conservation project.
- Discuss this with scouts working toward their Life Rank or refer them to someone familiar with conservation.
- Encourage your unit to conduct a conservation project or participate in one with other units.

5. Encourage scouts to complete Outdoor Ethics Awards and Merit Badges

The BSA Outdoor Ethics program includes recognition for completing training and practicing the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! principles. These include the Outdoor Ethics Awareness and Outdoor Ethics Action Awards. Both are available for Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venture Crew members, and their adult leaders to earn.

The Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award recognizes those that go beyond the basic scouting requirements of learning the principles. This includes taking online courses and training. The Action award is a more rigorous award involving teaching, holding the position of responsibility, outings and presenting information. (See [Appendix C: Websites: Awards](#))

Outdoor Ethics Guide Actions:

- Introduce scouts to the Outdoor Ethics Awareness and Action Awards.
- Tell the scout where to find the requirements and the urls for the online courses.
- Encourage scouts to review sections of the Boy Scout Handbook on cooking, hiking, and camping.
- Be available to address questions on meeting outdoor ethics requirements in merit badges.

6. Complete Self Evaluation

As arranged with your scoutmaster, Outdoor Ethics Guide Advisor or Senior Patrol Leader, complete your self evaluation and discuss it with them. Obtain sign off for completing portion of your leadership assignment you agreed to. Discuss the results at your Scoutmaster conference or follow your troop process for documenting completion of a leadership position of responsibility. (See [Appendix A: Unit Resources; Outdoor Ethics Guide Evaluation Form](#))

Outdoor Ethics Guide Advisor Handbook

Congratulations for stepping up to be the Outdoor Ethics Guide Advisor. This is a critical advisor position in the Unit's (Troop or Crew) health. It will challenge you to think about your outdoor experiences in new and positive ways. Your growth may, in some ways, be greater than the youth you are advising.

Our outdoor activities reflect Scouting's mission of making ethical choices. Scouting values the outdoors, the experience of the outdoors and strives to develop stewardship of the outdoors. As Scouts, we strive to care for and share the outdoors. We believe it is right when our actions support the health of the land and visitor experiences and wrong when they do not. Planning and Preparing Ahead to meet the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace on outings to reduce impacts supports Scouting's values. As the Advisor, you are in a unique position to demonstrate this and help other adults realize it.

Functions of the Advisor:

A strong outdoor ethics presence in scouting was intentionally imbedded into our outdoor experiences because we needed it. Your role is to help the Outdoor Ethics Guide answer many questions on how we actually practice the Outdoor Code. The main areas you will be guiding and engaging your Outdoor Ethics Guide are:

- Remove Barriers and Open Doors
- Planning
- Execution
 - Coaching
 - Scenarios
 - Teachable moments
 - Authority of the Resource
 - Conservation
- Evaluation

What you will need:

1. Knowledge on the outdoor ethics topic- If you are not a naturalist scientist, a scientist, biologist, land manager, and even if you are, you will need to get some outdoor ethics training. Start with the online Awareness courses for Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! Then take the BSA Leave No Trace 101 course. For a better understanding, attend the 16-hour weekend Leave No Trace Trainer course. For a more in-depth background and experience, attend the 5-day Leave No Trace Master Educator course. [See <http://outdoorethics-bsa.org//training/>] As the Outdoor Ethics Advisor, these courses will give you the tools you will need to be successful with your scouts.
2. A good understanding of the 8 Methods of Scouting. (<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/hispanic/pdf/521-042.pdf>)
3. A working knowledge of BSA's EDGE method.

4. A good understanding of Outdoor Ethic Guide Responsibilities
5. Finally, you will need a positive attitude and a strong commitment to the scout's success. This is the fun, contagious part for you because it creates a constructive culture for the unit. Whether you are a serious plodder or an outgoing person, the scouts will catch your commitment to outdoor ethics.

Explanation of your Functions:

- Remove Barriers and Open Doors:

Not all scout leaders have fully embraced the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace or the Tread Lightly! principles. For the Outdoor Ethic Guide to be successful, adult leaders need to realize the need to update outdoor practices and support methods to reduce impacts. Boys Scouts are not known as quiet, careful campers who respect the outdoors.

We are known for our large groups with loud, messy, careless and sometimes destructive behaviors. Even if Scouts were not the ones involved, because so many of us use public lands, others relate incidents to Scouting. In some places, Land Managers do not welcome scout groups because of the poor reputation and behaviors towards nature and other visitors. You may need to meet with the Troop or Crew leadership team and help them understand this is part of why practicing Outdoor Ethics is needed important.

As the Outdoor Ethics Guide Advisor, you may have opportunity to open doors for the Outdoor Ethics Guide. He/She may need to contact Leave No Trace Trainers or Master Educators for ideas and activities. They may want to work with a cub pack and need to know how and who to contact. Your role includes opening doors like this to help the Outdoor Ethics Guide be successful.

Authority of the Resource: http://Int.org/sites/default/files/ART_Wallace_Original.pdf

- Planning:

You will need to facilitate a planning session with your new Outdoor Ethics Guide to create clarity with him/her on the job scope and expectations. Use the Outdoor Ethic Goal Setter tool for this. Have the Guide commit to parts of the role that fit with his abilities. Let him/her take the lead but your guidance and advice can make the quality of his/her term good or bad at the very onset.

- Execution:

- Coaching: Execution starts with coaching. Help your Guide develop a plan to meet his goals. How is outdoor ethics going to be presented to the unit and at what events? At unit meeting or outings or both? How will they mesh? What will the presentations be? Games, scenarios or challenges are the most experiential and beneficial to the

scout. Lecturing tends to turn scouts off. Games are easy and already prepared; you may want to be familiar with the games in Teaching Leave No Trace Book found at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/TeachingLeaveNoTrace.aspx>. Challenges are just games that are timed or a competition with another patrol or crew. Plenty of examples exist at the <http://outdoorethics-bsa.org//resources/> and from the games you actually play and facilitate in your Leave No Trace Trainer course.

- Scenarios: We should spend a minute on scenarios or dilemmas. These would test the scout's or patrol's response to a certain type of behavior they saw or experienced and how best to respond to the event in the future. Again: <http://outdoorethics-bsa.org//resources/> will give many examples that can be used as scenarios that will benefit the scouts by getting them to think about impacts and how to recognize them. This will help them use lower impact activities outdoors and apply the outdoor ethics in a positive way.
- Teachable moments: The execution of games, dilemmas, scenarios all opens the discussion for a teachable moment. Developing an open culture of reflection and evaluation in the Troop or Crew to pause when the impact event happens in the field is important. Your role as the advisor is to help steer your Outdoor Ethics Guide to notice these events and use the field activity as a evaluation/reflection of what actually just happened. This is a very exciting moment.
- Authority of the Resource: The concept of the Authority of the Resources is very basic to the motivation involved in living the principles of Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly! and Conservation (The Land Ethic). This concept recognizes that the land itself has value and can be the reason (authority) for taking steps to protect it. This takes some pause to think and recognize the resource and what authority it actually has. This is a real tool to help guide the scout to a solid ethical decision that becomes a habit and life skill.
- Conservation: Conservation is the element the Outdoor Ethics Guide's job that really seals the deal. The Outdoor Ethics Guide exposes scouts to the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly! principles, and the Land Ethic, in the form of games, actual events, or scenarios. The troop or crew experiences their practice of these principles and reflects on their outcomes. It is this very process of activity and reflection in light of the principles involved that gives the unit or individual a connection to the land. Working on a conservation project allows scouts to act on this connection and practice the Outdoor Code. You will need to guide your scout in this phase to understand what a conservation project consists of. If possible, obtain a copy of the 2016 Conservation Handbook from your local Scout Shop. You may also want to be a resource to scouts working on Star requirements and help them consult the land manager or owner.

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Provide input on the techniques and plans needed to complete a conservation project or on finding appropriate resources

- Evaluation: The last step is to have the Outdoor Ethics Guide complete a self evaluation. Use the Goal Setter you started with for this. Review the document and discuss findings. Sign, date and give to the Scoutmaster or designated person.

This is a start for you. We wish you success in executing your role as Outdoor Ethics Guide Advisor. Your ability to get an agreed upon review timeline with your Outdoor Ethics Guide, the level of support from your adult leaders, and the quality relationships, fun adventures, additional training you get from your Council Outdoor Ethics staff will set you up for success with your scout. Remember to contact your Council Outdoor Ethics Advocate (COEA) if you have any concerns or questions.

<http://outdoorethics-bsa.org//contacts/>

APPENDIX A: UNIT RESOURCES

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Outdoor Ethics Guide Evaluation Form

Name: _____ I served as Outdoor Ethics Guide from _____ to _____
 (Date) (Date)

<i>Mark how you think you performed each duty.</i>	<i>Agreed to do</i>	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>Not Achieved</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Attended an Outdoor Ethics Orientation Course or Leave No Trace Trainer course				
Earned the BSA Outdoor Ethics Awareness or Action Award (during tenure or prior to taking position)				
Completed on-line Leave No Trace Awareness & Tread Lightly! courses				
Demonstrates and teaches the 7 Principle of Leave No Trace and principles of Tread Lightly! on two or more functions/events/outings.				
Led the troop in reciting and understanding the Outdoor Code during meetings.				
Assisted scouts in meeting advancement requirements which involve the Outdoor Ethics concepts at each rank.				
Conducted an effective Outdoor Ethics program by coaching PLC on addressing Outdoor Ethics practices as plan trips/outings/events				
Attend 25 % of outings and provide Patrol Leader Council feedback on Outdoor Ethics practices observed				
Encouraged and assisted troop members and leaders in earning the Outdoor Ethics Awareness and Action Awards.				
Facilitate reflection sessions after unit trips/outings assessing how well the unit followed Outdoor Ethics .				
Encouraged unit to conduct a conservation project or participate in one with another unit, the district or the council.				
Support Den Chiefs by sharing Outdoor Ethic information to use in their designated Den.				
Encouraged leaders and youth to attend an Outdoor Ethics Orientation Course, Leave No Trace Trainer course and/or Tread Trainer Course.				

Scout Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Turn in this self-evaluation to your Scoutmaster for approval on your position of responsibility.

Star Rank – Serves four (4) months as the Outdoor Ethics Guide.

Life/Eagle – Serves six (6) months as the Outdoor Ethics Guide.

The Teaching EDGE Method

TEACHING OUTDOOR ETHICS WITH THE EDGE METHOD: A SAMPLE FORMAT

Use the EDGE method as described in your Boy Scout Handbook. As part of your planning decide how you will Explain, Demonstrate, Guide, and Enable the scout to be successful.

EDGE stands for:

Explain

Demonstrate

Guide

Enable

Explain Outdoor Ethics: This can occur at a meeting or outing.

Use your Boy Scout Handbook to discuss the rank appropriate information: Outdoor Code, 7 Principles of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! principles.

Demonstrate: This can be done as part of planning a campout/outing at a patrol meeting. Select specific principles and show what one might do to practice them. Use materials from Teaching Leave No Trace, from the resource section of this handbook or make up a game or activity. Show how outdoor ethics, including the Outdoor Code, Leave No Trace, and Tread Lightly! fit into the outdoor program.

Guide: Guide scouts in practicing outdoor ethics at an campout/outing. Assist scouts in making choices that demonstrate the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace or Tread Lightly! principles.

Enable: Provide opportunity for scouts to demonstrate outdoor ethics at a campout/outing. Provide feedback as to effectiveness of their actions and improvement needed.

When finished teaching remember to Evaluate: Meet with scouts to review how Outdoor Ethics was practiced on a campout/outing. When requirements have been met, sign off outdoor ethics-related advancement records.

Troop Assessment Form

The first step in putting together a training program for your unit is to honestly understand where you are. Start by asking your Patrol leader Council participants the following questions. Identify the topic with the lowest scores. Create a plan to address and reassess.

When we go camping, on a scale of 1 (rarely) 3 (sometimes) to 5 (usually):

We educate ourselves, plan ahead for all circumstances and go prepared?

1 2 3 4 5

We travel and camp on durable surfaces and know what surfaces are not durable?

1 2 3 4 5

We know how to properly manage and dispose of human waste, food waste and wastewater?

1 2 3 4 5

We minimize site alterations and leave natural items and artifacts for others to discover?

1 2 3 4 5

We use lightweight stoves, camp fire alternatives and minimize our campfire impact?

1 2 3 4 5

We observe wildlife, avoid during sensitive times, protect feeding/nesting areas?

1 2 3 4 5

We are considerate of other campers, follow trail courtesy, break into small groups?

1 2 3 4 5

We travel on established trails for bikes/ATVs, clean boats and trailers, reduce engine noises?

1 2 3 4 5

We understand and follow the principles of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly!?

1 2 3 4 5

Outing Duty Roster

Outing Duty Roster and 7 Principles of Leave No Trace Identify how duties involve principles by putting an X in the row across from your duty.							
Date:		Outing:					
	Plan Ahead	Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces	Dispose of Waste Properly	Leave What You Find	Minimize Campfire Impacts	Respect Wildlife	Be Considerate of Others
Patrol Leader							
Cook							
Fire Builder							
Water Supplier							
Kitchen Cleanup							
Patrol Site Setup & Cleanup							
Activity Lead							
Other							

Explain what you did to reduce impacts and what to improve on:

Planning an Outing Worksheet

Planning your event is where using Outdoor Ethics starts. Each patrol leader needs to know how to reduce the impacts of their outdoor activities. As the Outdoor Ethic Guide you can help them understand how planning does this.

Use the following pages when you plan your outing with the Patrol Leaders Council or Patrol Leader. Review the Boy Scout handbook and consider impacts that may occur on your outing. Look at these topics and decide possible impacts and ways to avoid or minimize. Once you have identified an impact be sure to identify what is needed to do to reduce it. At the end of each outing take the time to reflect and see how well you reduced your impacts. Make a plan to address these such as holding outdoor ethic challenge activities or patrol competitions. Make it fun to learn and remember ways to reduce outdoor impacts. Your Outdoor Ethic Guide, Trainer or trained adult advisor can help you with this!

The skills and concepts of Outdoor Ethics apply every time a unit goes camping. Scouts working on advancement for 2nd class and enjoying activities such as hiking, climbing, orienteering, horseback riding, fishing, and geocaching should use the 7 Principles Leave No Trace to minimize their impact. When working on advancement for 1st class or participating in activities with motors or mechanical devices such as shooting sports, ATV's at council camps, or boating, Scouts can apply Tread Lightly! to minimize their impact.

Additional information on outdoor ethics can be found in the Boy Scout Handbook and the BSA Field Book. More information and training opportunities can be found at:

<http://www.outdoorethics-bsa.org>

Impact Reduction Planning Worksheet	
Purpose of Outing: Location of Event: Main Activity: Skills needed: Event Type: Overnight or Day Group size:	Date of Activity: Number Attending: Cost per Scout: Meeting Place: Transport:
Weather, Health, & Safety Who did you leave a plan with? First Aid kit, plan and nearest hospital Are attendees properly trained Weather forecast and appropriate plan Permits, maps and permissions obtained Camp or Ranger contact info Types of animals/insects	
Is it a sensitive time for wildlife/wetlands? Mating y / n Nesting y / n Young with adults y / n Extreme heat/cold y / n Excessive moisture y / n	Possible Impact and Action to take:
Site Considerations/Durable Surfaces Do you have a map Is it a high use area Tent sites / condition Established Trails / condition Established cook sites/tables/grills Availability of water and trash disposal	Possible Impact and Action to take:
Waste reduction, management and disposal: Menu plan Packaging and proportion control Cooking method: grills, fires, camp stoves Clean up / disposal method: Supplies to carry, filter or strain water Supplies to store, carry out trash Are bathrooms available?	Possible Impact and Action to take:

Impact Reduction Worksheet Continued

<p>Fires: Bans or limits Need for fire Fire ring or low impact plan Fire pit or mound clean up, ash disposal</p>	<p>Possible Impact and Action to take:</p>
<p>Other People Group size Activity and noise levels Proximity to others Viewing areas. Rest places People, horses or pack animals on trails</p>	<p>Possible Impact and Action to take:</p>
<p>Personal Property and Historic Items Presence of fences and signs Private property Natural and objects humans made Choices for crossing creeks</p>	<p>Possible Impact and Action to take:</p>
<p>Transport of Invasive Species Clothing, gear and shoes Use of live bait Role of firewood Trailers, ATVS and boats Tents, tarps and gear</p>	<p>Possible Impact and Action to take:</p>

APPENDIX B: OUTDOOR ETHICS

THE OUTDOOR CODE

The Outdoor Code was added to the Boy Scout Handbook in 1948. It was introduced in recognition of the importance of our relationship with nature and our responsibility to be conservationists. **Conservation** is the responsible stewardship of the environment to preserve natural ecosystems while ensuring that balanced consideration is also given to human needs.

The Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to -
Be clean in my outdoor manners.
Be careful with fire.
Be considerate in the outdoors.
Be conservation-minded.

(See Chapter 7 of the Boy Scout Handbook and the Boy Scout Fieldbook for the complete version and additional information on this.)

7 PRINCIPLES OF LEAVE NO TRACE

The 7 principles of Leave No Trace are a product of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. This organization teaches people of all ages how to enjoy the outdoors responsibly and is the most widely accepted outdoor ethics program used on public lands. Adopted in 1993 by the BSA, in its simplest form, Leave No Trace is about making good decisions to protect the world around you - the world we all enjoy. BSA, a partner of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics since 2005, is one of the organizations that can offer the Leave No Trace Master Educator and Leave No Trace Trainer course to its members.

The 7 principles of Leave No Trace
Plan Ahead and Prepare
Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
Dispose of Waste Properly
Leave What You Find
Minimize Campfires
Respect Wildlife
Be Considerate of Others

(See Chapter 7 of the Scout Handbook and the Scout Fieldbook for the complete version and additional information on this.)

TREAD LIGHTLY! PRINCIPLES

Tread Lightly! is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to promote responsible outdoor recreation through ethics education and stewardship. Tread Lightly!'s goal is to balance the needs of the people who enjoy outdoor recreation with the need to maintain a healthy environment. Initially focused on motorized and mechanized use in the backcountry, Tread Lightly! principles can be applied in all outdoor settings.

Tread Lightly! Principles

- Travel Responsible
- R**espect the Rights of Others
- E**ducate yourself
- A**void Sensitive Areas
- D**o your part

BSA especially emphasizes following Tread Lightly! principles with its mechanized and motorized programs such as All-Terrain Vehicles and Motorized Watercraft.

(See Chapter 7 of the Scout Handbook and the Scout Field book for the complete version and additional information on this.)

Leave No Trace Principles for KIDS

- Know before you go
- Choose the right path
- Trash your Trash
- Leave what you find
- Be careful with fire
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Others

APPENDIX C: WEBSITES

Boy Scouts of America

[Outdoor Ethics Resources, Training & Awards](#)

[Teaching Leave No Trace](#)

[Scouting Magazine March/April 2012 article](#)

[Troop Leader Meeting Plans & Ideas](#)

[Conservation Resources](#)

Leave No Trace

[Leave No Trace website](#)

[7 Principles of Leave No Trace](#)

[National Parks Service Leave No Trace Video](#)

Teaching Activities:

[Plan Ahead & Prepare](#)

[Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces](#)

[Dispose of Waste Properly](#)

[Leave What You Find](#)

[Minimize Campfire Impacts](#)

[Respect Wildlife](#)

[Be Considerate of Others](#)

[Interpretive Trail Walk](#)

Tread Lightly!

[Tread Lightly! website](#)

[Tread Lightly! principles](#)

Activities: [SEE: Stop, Evaluate, Engage](#)

The Land Ethic

[Explanation of the Land Ethic](#)

Training

[Find an outdoor ethics educator in your Council](#)

[Leave No Trace online Awareness Course](#)

[Tread Lightly! online Awareness Course](#)

Awards

[Outdoor Ethics Awareness & Action Award requirements](#)

[Other Conservation Awards](#)

“Try to leave this world a little better than you found it...”

-Robert Baden Powell