

Appendix B: Outdoor Ethics

The Outdoor Code

The Outdoor Code was added to the *Scouts BSA 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.

Principles of Leave No Trace*

The 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. The 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 courses to its members.

Plan Ahead and Prepare	Minimize Campfires
Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces	Respect Wildlife
Dispose of Waste Properly	Be Considerate of Others
Leave What You Find	

*See the Scouts BSA Handbook and the BSA Fieldbook for 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 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.

- Travel responsibly.
- Respect the rights of others.
- Educate yourself.
- Avoid sensitive areas.
- Do your part.

The BSA especially emphasizes following Tread Lightly! principles with its mechanized and motorized programs such as all-terrain vehicles and motorized watercraft.

Leave No Trace Principles for Kids

Know Before You Go.	Be Careful With Fire.
Choose the Right Path.	Respect Wildlife.
Trash Your Trash.	Be Kind to Other Visitors.
Leave What You Find.	

*See the Scouts BSA Handbook and the BSA Fieldbook for additional information on this.