



Leading the Way

Leave No Trace: Part 2

by Julian Celms

The hardest part about change is doing it. Sure, it's nice to talk about Leave No Trace (LNT), and how it's the right thing to practice when we're "out there". That doesn't make your job, as a leader, any easier. Well, this article and

the attached insert, *A Leader's Guide to Leave No Trace* will help. It's all part of a bigger plan. It's about leading youth who are going to be the caretakers of this world, and LNT principles will be their guide.

You may recall that in the April 2008 *Leader Magazine* we introduced the broad basics of Leave No Trace ethics. We had partnered with Toshiba Corporation to help provide some resources to our leaders in understanding, practicing and educating our members about LNT.

When Scouts Canada looks for program opportunities, we often ask ourselves, "What can we provide to our leaders as a resource"? After mulling over various ideas, we decided the attached LNT booklet would be a valuable resource for you. Please, tear it out. Keep it. And better yet, use it!

About this Booklet and Card

This is a fantastic resource with two parts:

1. A plastic "tracker" card with the Seven Leave No Trace Principles on it, along with some detailed "how tos" for each principle. Designed as a "carry with you" resource, you can clip it onto your backpack for an easy reference.

2. The 16 page, pull-out booklet, "*A Leader's Guide to Leave No Trace*" is a resource for you to use and keep. Take a sneak peek at some of the great ideas inside.

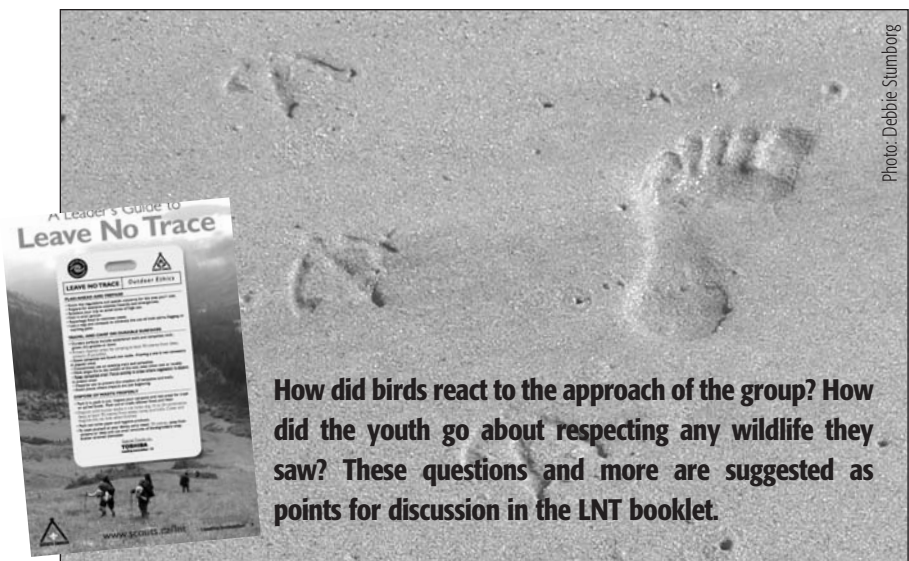
Getting Started

The booklet starts with an introduction to the concept of LNT, as well as a brief explanation of Experiential Education (what we often call Learning by Doing). We felt very strongly that providing a brief "what is this?" explanation about experiential education will be very valuable to you as a leader in the Scout Movement. Using this as a primer for all of the activities you do in Scouting can enhance and really help drive home the point of how Scouting can lead the way into the future.

The Seven Principles of LNT

Secondly, we have provided a detailed activity for you to use for each of the Seven Principles. Here's a quick rundown on what's inside:

- *Plan Ahead and Prepare.* This comes easy to us in Scouting, but also has a specific purpose in the LNT philosophy.
- *Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces.* Sometimes we take for granted what we step and travel on – use this activity to emphasize durability.
- *Dispose of Waste Properly.* Get your hands dirty with some carefully selected trash – do you burn, bury or pack out?
- *Leave What You Find.* Remember, everything we disturb has an effect on the environment.
- *Minimize Campfire Impacts.* Humans have always had a fascination with fire and in Scouting we enjoy our fires while camping. But is it the best choice?
- *Respect Wildlife.* We hate loud stereos from our next door neighbors; ever thought about what the birds think of us when we pass through?
- *Be Considerate Of Others.* Silence is golden. Strike up a conversation about being aware of our surround-



How did birds react to the approach of the group? How did the youth go about respecting any wildlife they saw? These questions and more are suggested as points for discussion in the LNT booklet.

Tear it Out,
Keep it,
Use it.

(If the booklet has been removed from this issue, please feel free to download the electronic version in PDF format at www.scouts.ca/lnt)

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Thanks!

We'd like to thank Toshiba Corporation for their support with promoting Leave No Trace in Scouting. We look forward to working with them and developing more resources for our leaders!



Photo: Bryan Mierau

ings and how we can make our trips pleasant for everyone we are near.

Tear it Out, Keep it, and Use It

There are so many ways to discuss and practice LNT principles hands on, we could fill up a whole issue of *The Leader*. But, we had only 16 pages – so we picked ideas that reflected the broad principles and could be adapted for many of our sections.

Do us a favour. Make the most of this resource. Talk to your other leaders and ask them “Did you take out that cool LNT resource book and card from this month’s magazine?” For those who missed it, the booklet will also be available on Scouts Canada’s web site at: www.scouts.ca/lnt.

What’s Next?

As you may have noticed, we have added a beefed up LNT section on Scouts Canada’s web site. This is just the beginning. We will continue to put great leader centred resources for you to easily practice and lead using LNT principles. Check back often.

We will be training a handful of Scouters from across Canada to become LNT trainers. With this group, we expect a commitment to develop new resources and assist with aiding the Training Network in adding appropriate LNT emphasis to the outdoor skills courses they are currently putting together.

We’d like to express our thanks to the support we’ve received from Toshiba, and to two Scouters: John Nisbett from Halifax and Nick Stebbing from Vancouver, who have spent many hours putting this resource together for you. Lead the way with Leave No Trace principles to a better world. \

– Julian Celms is the Program Director for Beavers, Cubs and the Outdoors.

Leave No Trace Web Sites

For more information on *Leave No Trace*, what it means, research that has gone into figuring out why some techniques reduce impact more than others and ideas for activities on how to present the seven principles to your youth, the following are good resources.

Leave No Trace Canada <http://www.leavenotrace.ca/>

Leave No Trace Centre (US) <http://www.lnt.org/>

Leave No Trace Dude
<http://www.leavenotrace.com/default.shtml>

Boy Scouts of America web site:
<http://www.scouting.org/>, (Click on Site Map, go to Leave No Trace, and click on Teaching Leave No Trace.)

Scouting and LNT: Why Is This So Important?

The impact of travel in wilderness areas is becoming more and more apparent. In our programs, we talk about planning camps and activities in a Leave No Trace fashion. The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace provide a strong foundation to continue to enjoy the wilderness for centuries to come.

To be blunt, our 75,000 youth go outside often. For many of them, Scouting will be their primary education on how to behave outdoors; where we set the camping attitudes they will use for the rest of their life. It’s up to us to lead the way.

Is it the same everywhere? You may have heard some debate about Leave No Trace practices depending on where you live. The principles on the enclosed card, and the enclosed suggestions on how to practice them, are generalized.

Special environments require us to adapt the LNT principles differently. For example, in glacier environments, catholes are a poor choice for disposing of human waste. Packing it out is the appropriate approach. Scouting members are great at practicing the first principle, “Plan Ahead and Prepare”. If you are planning on visiting a different environment, a bit more research will provide you with the right information to make the right choices.



Leave No Trace Canada

Did you know? Scouts Canada has been a partner with Leave No Trace since 1999, and is pleased to transfer its membership to the new Leave No Trace Canada.

Important Note:

WRONG NUMBER!

On the Leave No Trace plastic card included in the May issue, the wrong number was printed on the reverse side of the card. The correct number for Leave No Trace Canada is **1-877-238-9343**.

