

The Outdoor Code

I will do my best to -

- **Be clean in my outdoor manners.**

I will treat the outdoors as a heritage.

I will take care of it for myself and others

I will keep my trash and garbage out of lakes,
streams, fields, woods, and roadways.

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I will do my best to -

- **Be careful with fire.**

I will prevent wildfire.

I will build my fires only where they are appropriate.

When I have finished using a fire, I will make sure it is cold out.

I will leave a clean fire ring, or remove all evidence of my fire.

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I will do my best to -

- **Be considerate in the outdoors.**

I will treat public and private property with respect.

I will use low-impact methods of hiking and camping.

and

The Outdoor Code

I will do my best to -

- **Be conservation minded**

I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, wildlife, and energy.

I will urge others to do the same.

Seven Keys to Low-Impact and No-Trace Camping

Pretrip Plans

- Wear clothing that will blend into your surroundings.
- Obtain as much information as possible before venturing out.
- Learn the regulations/restrictions of the area prior to traveling.
- Avoid popular areas during times of high use.
- Select areas that are right for your activities.
- Plan 12 or fewer in your group or patrol.
- Make sure the area can accommodate/allow your group size.
- Repackage food into lightweight containers
- Be prepared to filter or boil all water during your trip.
- Leave a detailed itinerary with someone.
- Take along trash bags and use them.

Seven Keys to Low-Impact and No-Trace Camping

Travel

- Stay on designated trails and avoid any cross-country travel.
- If unavoidable, select hard ground or snow for cross-country travel.
- Do not cut across switchbacks.
- Read your map carefully to avoid having to build cairns.
- When encountering equestrians, step to the downhill side of the trail and remain quiet.

Seven Keys to Low-Impact and No-Trace Camping

Campsites

- Use designated or already impacted campsites when appropriate.
- Choose sites free of fragile plants.
- Hide your campsite from view, out of site of trails, streams, and lakes.
- Stay as few nights as possible in one place. Before leaving the area, naturalize it as much as possible.
- Select a campsite 200 feet or more from trails, lakes, streams, trails, and wet meadows.
- Avoid constructing structures or digging trenches.
- Do not ditch tents.

Seven Keys to Low-Impact and No-Trace Camping

Fires

- Use a lightweight stove for cooking rather than building a fire.
- If having a campfire, use existing fire rings instead of building new ones.
- Build fires only where appropriate, away from trees, rocks, shrubs, and meadows.
- Make sure the fire is dead out.
- Scatter the ashes and naturalize the area.
- Use only dead and down wood. Never cut green trees or bushes.
- Know the fire restrictions for the area.
- Replace sod or ground cover to erase burn scars.

Seven Keys to Low-Impact & No-Trace Camping

Sanitation

- Burn food scraps completely in a fire or put them in a plastic bag and carry them out.
- Pack out everything that you pack in.
- Do all washing 50 feet (about 75 steps) away from camp and water sources.
- Dig latrines 200 feet or more from camps, trails, and water sources.
- Bury sump holes and latrines when you are through with them, and restore ground cover.

Seven Keys to Low-Impact and No-Trace Camping

Horses and Pack Animals

- Keep groups small and carry lightweight equipment.
- Keep the number of animals to a minimum.
- Select a campsite that has enough feed for your stock.
- Keep stock 200 feet or more from lakeshores.
- Bring pellets, grain, or weed-free hay to areas where feed is limited or grazing is not allowed.
- Remove (or scatter) manure; Remove excess hay and straw.
- Use hitchlines, hobbles, and pickets to constrain pack animals. Hobble or picket in dry areas.
- Tie to sturdy trees or rope.
- Move picket pins and temporary corrals several times per day.

Seven Keys to Low-Impact and No-Trace Camping

Courtesy

- Hikers step off a trail to let horses pass.
- Do not pick wildflowers. Enjoy them where they are, then leave them for others to see.
- Keep noise down when you are around other campers and hikers. Leave radios and tape players at home.
- Attempt to be as courteous to others as possible. Excessive noise, unleashed pets, and damaged surroundings distract from the quality experience in the backcountry.
- Please remember that visitors can help preserve these sites for future generations by not disturbing them in any way.