

Leave No Trace (LNT)

What is LNT?: a national educational program developed by the Federal land management agencies, whose objective is to improve the behavior of persons who travel, by whatever means, and camp on public lands. Participating agencies - National Park Service, USDA-Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Leave No Trace, Inc.: a non-profit organization established to manage this program, overseeing membership, marketing, fund raising, and program development.

National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS): a non-profit organization that has been selected to maintain the educational component by providing training, developing training materials, and supporting its graduates who teach LNT.

Scouting Ahead: a program initiated by Federal agencies to bring LNT to Scout Units. Re-named Project Leave No Trace (PLNT) in mid-1999.



Size: 4" dia.

LNT Program - Federal:

- ◆ Persons receive training from an authorized source in the seven principles of LNT - (11/2 days).
- ◆ Adults who have received this training may then train other members of their Unit, club, etc., using the approved LNT materials that they have been given.
- ◆ All persons trained in this two-step process then attend a separate certification event.
- ◆ All members of a group (maximum of 8 persons) that successfully pass the certification event are given the special LNT award and are recognized as LNT trained.
- ◆ The LAAC-High Adventure Team has Federal agencies' approval to provide this training.

LNT Program - BSA:

- ◆ Created by BSA-National Council.
- ◆ Registered youths and adults each complete the six requirements of the BSA program.
- ◆ As a person completes the requirements, he/she is eligible to receive the BSA "Leave No Trace Awareness Award".
- ◆ Literature and awards are available at the LAAC-Service Center.
- ◆ This program is independent of, and not a substitute for, the Federal agencies' program.



Professionals in the Federal agencies that manage public lands are even more concerned at the adverse impact of increased usage of them. They are (apparently) particularly unhappy that organized group users, such as the Boy Scouts, who should know better and should set a good example of outdoor conduct, are failing to do so. This voluntary program is their attempt to improve the situation. If it fails, it is certainly possible that, at some time in the future, a person who applies for a permit for an organized group to visit a location managed by one of these agencies will be required to submit proof of having completed training such as this. This is speculative, but it may come to pass unless we, as Unit Leaders, do a better job of practicing Leave No Trace.

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