



## Red Rock Canyon NCA Environmental Education Program

### Leave No Trace

**Grades:** K-12

**Estimated Time:** 15-30 minutes

**Standards Met:**

- K-2 grade:
  - *Social Studies C13.[K-2].1*  
Identify and follow classroom and school rules that guide behavior and resolve conflicts.
  - *Social Studies G8.2.3* Identify how people shape the physical environment.
- 3-5 grade:
  - *Social Studies C13.3.3* Explain individual responsibilities in the classroom and the school.
  - *Social Studies G8.[3-5].3*  
Compare ways people modify the physical environment.
- 6-8 grade:
  - *Social Studies C13 [6-8].8*  
Identify and explain the rights, privileges, and responsibilities associated with Nevada and U.S. citizenship, including voting, holding office, jury duty, and military service, community service, and public service.
  - *Social Studies G8.[6-8].3*  
Describe the changes that result from human modification of the physical environment.
- 9-12 grade:
  - *Social Studies C13 [9-12].8*  
Examine the responsibilities of local, state, and national citizenship.
  - *Social Studies G8.[9-12].3*  
Develop possible responses to changes caused by human modification of the physical environment.

**Objective:**

Learn principles of Leave No Trace and minimize impacts on natural places

**Procedure:**

Start the activity by having a chaperone distribute the 12 activity cards at random along the trail, one every couple of feet, weighing down with rocks as needed. Have chaperone wait at the end.

While that is being done, talk to the students so their back is to the chaperone. Tell them that as they may have noticed, they aren't in their normal classroom today. While some things are the same, other things are different while learning out here. What are some of the differences? Tell them they are going to go on a small practice hike to learn some of the other differences.

Explain to students that while on this practice hike, they might see pictures on the ground that represents things they could see while hiking. If they saw it while hiking and would pick it up and take it with them, then they should pick up the card and take it with them. If they would walk by it and not pick it up, they should walk by the card and not pick it up. They can pick up as many cards as they want, but they need to hold on to them and keep them to themselves until you ask for the cards later.

Let students walk down the trail, single file, to the waiting chaperone. Space them out as much as possible.

When all students are done, walk down the trail. If necessary, pick up any remaining cards that were left.

Lead a discussion about the practice hike. Was it easy or hard? What did the people in the back see, if anything? What are some of the things the first person or first few people saw? Go through items that people picked up and show them to the class, adapting to what was picked up in what order. For the trash cards, if they were picked up early, ask the students in the back if they were

**Materials Needed:**

- Leave No Trace visual aids (attached)
- Activity cards (attached – best if laminated)
- Leave No Trace Principles (attached)

**Sources:**

Leave No Trace Principles have been reprinted with permission from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics: [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org)

Card activity original source unknown

Photographs by Stacy Dahl

*Submitted by Stacy Dahl and Anica Mercado*

glad they didn't have to see all the garbage on the trail. If they weren't picked up, ask students how it felt to see the garbage on the trail. Likewise, ask about the other interesting things people saw on the trail. Did the people in back get to see them? Do they wish they had?

Ask students what they think the purpose of this practice hike was. Are they the first people to hike this trail? Will they be the last? Go over Leave what you Find and Trash your Trash principles. Did they like seeing garbage? Should they leave garbage on the trail? What should they do if they find garbage? What about the interesting things people saw? If they take them home, would other people get to see them? What if the person that hiked the trail before them took it, would they get to see it? Should they take these things?

**Note:** *The rusty can is not considered trash.*

*Anything that is fifty years old or more is considered a historical artifact. If the age of an item is in doubt, it should be left; archaeologists and anthropologists need to see artifacts in the surroundings they were found to make accurate conclusions about the past societies they study. Depending on the age of your students you may or may not want to include the card in the activity or discuss this distinction.*

Explain that one of the differences about being outdoors is there are different rules. What are some of the rules for while they are on the field trip? Tell them there is something called Leave No Trace, a set of outdoor ethics, or rules, that are good for them to follow whenever they are outdoors. They just learned two of them, and there are seven altogether.

If you need to continue hiking to get to a discussion location, have students think about what the other five principles are while you hike there. Otherwise, have students sit and give them a few seconds to think about what the other five principles are. Then have them make guesses, going over the remaining five principles as they come up.

Finish with a review of the seven Leave No Trace principles and why they are important.

**Variation:** For middle and high school students, after going over the first two principles, count students off into five groups. Give each group one of the principles and have them prepare a short skit that will demonstrate that principle to the rest of the class. Have chaperones help as needed. You may want to print and cut a copy of the attached principles for the students to reference. Go over each principle as students present their skits.

**Suggested Locations:**

The card activity can be done along any point of the trail. Suggested locations for discussions or skits (if using):

<b>Pine Creek Trail:</b> 3 or 7	<b>Red Spring Boardwalk:</b> 1 or 4
<b>Fire Ecology Loop:</b> 3 or 4	<b>Moenkopi Loop:</b> 3 or 9

**Respect**

**Wildlife**

**Be Kind to**

**Other Visitors**

**Be Careful**

**With Fire**

**Choose the**

**Right Path**

**Know Before**

**You Go**

**Trash Your**

**Trash**



**Leave What**

**You Find**







# Leave No Trace Principles

## Know Before You Go

Be PREPARED! Don't forget clothes to protect you from COLD, HEAT, or RAIN. Use MAPS to show where you'll be going & so you won't get lost. LEARN about the areas you visit. Read books & talk to people before you go. The more you know the more FUN you'll have.

## Choose the Right Path

Stay on the MAIN TRAIL to protect nature and don't wander off by yourself. Steer clear of flowers or small trees. Once hurt, they may not grow back! Use existing camp areas – camp at least 100 BIG STEPS from roads, trails and water.

## Trash Your Trash

Pack it in. Pack it out. Put litter, even crumbs, in trash cans or carry it home. Use bathrooms or outhouses when available. If you have to "go" ACT LIKE A CAT and BURY POOP in a small hole 4-8 inches deep and 100 big steps from water. Place your toilet paper in a plastic bag and put the bag in a garbage can back home. KEEP WATER CLEAN. Do not put soap. Food, or poop in lakes or streams.

## Leave What You Find

Leave plants, rocks, and historical items AS YOU FIND THEM so the next person can enjoy them. Treat living plants with respect. Hacking or peeling plants can kill them. Good campsites are FOUND, NOT MADE. Don't dig trenches or build structures in your campsite.

## Be Careful With Fire

Use a CAMP STOVE for cooking. It's easier to cook on and clean up than a fire. Be sure it's OK to build a campfire in the area you're visiting. Use an EXISTING FIRE RING to protect the ground from heat. Keep your fire small. Remember, campfires aren't for trash or food. Do not snap branches off live, dead, or downed trees. Instead collect loose STICKS FROM THE GROUND. Burn all wood to ash and be sure that the fire is completely OUT & COLD before you leave.

## Respect Wildlife

Observe animals from a distance and NEVER APPROACH, FEED OR FOLLOW THEM. Human food is UNHEALTHY for all animals and feeding them starts bad habits. Protect wildlife and your food by storing your meals and trash. CONTROL PETS at all times, or leave them at home.

## Be Kind To Other Visitors

Make sure the FUN you have in the outdoors does not bother anyone else. Remember that other visitors are there to enjoy the outdoors. LISTEN TO NATURE. Avoid making loud noises or yelling. You will see more animals if you are quiet.