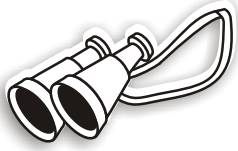


LEAVE NO TRACE!

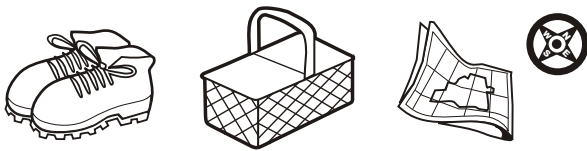
Here's how:



1.

ALWAYS BE PREPARED!

The animals and plants that live in the wild have everything they need to survive...fur coats, sharp eyes, fast feet, etc. When you visit wild places, make sure you do, too. Bring clothes and footwear to protect you from cold, heat or rain. Learn how to use maps, and bring one for the place you are visiting. Read about the forests and deserts and how to prepare for a visit. Make sure an adult knows your plans, or is with you.



2.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT PATH!

Deer and other wildlife use trails, and so should you. Shortcutting or stepping off the trail can hurt plants and young trees, and can also cause the soil to wash away. Use campsites that are already there, and that are at least a half a football field away from water.



3.

BRING BACK OUT WHAT YOU BRING IN!

Never toss litter on the ground. Potato chip bags take up to 20 years to rot away. Soda cans take 500 years, and plastic soda bottles and styrofoam NEVER will go away!



4.

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND!

Take only photographs and memories, and leave only footprints. Make sure that the next person to visit the area can also enjoy the pretty flowers, rocks, and interesting artifacts.



5.

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE!

Fire can both save and destroy life, so use it wisely. Camping stoves are much better for cooking food, so ask adults to use them when possible. If you need to build a fire, check with a forest ranger first to see if it's OK. Build your fire where stone or steel rings have already been established. Only collect wood from the ground, and never break branches from, or chop at, live trees. Never try to burn glass, metal, or plastic litter in your fire.



6.

RESPECT WILDLIFE!

It is never a good idea to feed human food to wildlife. Although you think you are helping them, you are actually hurting them. Never approach wildlife, no matter how friendly it may appear. Take photos from a safe distance. Never allow your pets to chase wildlife.



7.

RESPECT OTHER VISITORS!

Visiting a natural place is much different than visiting a ballpark or playground. People visit natural places to hear the wind blowing through the trees, the birds singing, or other natural sounds. Some just like to enjoy the quiet. Try hard not to shout or make loud noises, walk quietly instead of running, and be sure to keep noisy pets at home.

