



Leave No Trace **River Corridor** **Ethics**

www.leavenotrace.ca

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Learn about the waterway you plan to visit, including specific issues, regulations and permits.
- Use a map or guidebook to plan your trip.
- Schedule your trip so that you encounter appropriate water conditions for your group's ability. Prepare for extreme weather, hazards and emergencies. Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Repackage food to minimize waste.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surface

- Durable surfaces include established trails, campsites, rock, gravel and sand.
- Protect the riparian area by camping at least 70 meters from the river's edge.
- Good campsites are found not made. Altering a site is not necessary.
- Select a campsite large enough for your group.

In popular areas

- Concentrate use on existing trails, campsites and launching/landing areas.
- Focus activity where vegetation is absent.
- When portaging or hiking, walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when muddy.

In pristine areas

- Disperse use to prevent the creation of new launching/landing sites, campsites and trails.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled food. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.
- Use the washroom facilities provided by the manager.
- If facilities are not available use a portable, reusable toilet system to pack out solid human waste.
- Otherwise deposit solid human waste in a cat hole dug 15-20 cm deep and at least 70 meters from water, camp and trails. Pack out all toilet paper and other sanitary products. Check local regulations.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 70 meters away from the water's edge and use small amounts of biodegradable soaps. Scatter strained grey water.

Leave What You Find

- Appreciate ancient structures, artifacts, rock art and other natural objects, but leave them undisturbed.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you found them. Avoid building structures, furniture or digging trenches. Avoid introducing non-native species, including live bait, by cleaning equipment between trips.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Minimize campfire impacts by using stoves for cooking and candle lanterns for light.
- Minimize trampling in the riparian area by keeping fires 70 metres from the water's edge.
- Where fires are permitted, use designated fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires. Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Consider bringing your own firewood or charcoal.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then pack out or scatter the cool ashes.

Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Following or approaching them can harm them and can be dangerous.
- Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviours and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife by storing food and trash securely.
- Control pets at all times or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young or when food is scarce.

Be Considerate of Others

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Respect industrial/commercial users of the area by avoiding work sites.
- Leave larger camps for larger groups.
- When possible, avoid camping or eating near major rapids where scouting and portaging take place.
- Non-motorized crafts usually have right-of-way over powerboats; slower boats should keep to the right.
- Noise travels exceptionally well over water, let nature's sounds prevail.



Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics

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Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups. Split larger parties into groups of 4-6.
- Repackage food to minimize waste.
- Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 70 meters from lakes and streams.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.
- ***In popular areas:***
 - Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
 - Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
 - Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.
- ***In pristine areas:***
 - Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.
 - Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 15-20 cm deep at least 70 meters from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 70 meters away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

Leave What you Find

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-active species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, butt out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them. Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviours, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely. Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.