

Keys To Low-Impact Camping



Pretrip Plans

- Wear clothing that will blend into your surroundings
- Stow food in containers you will carry home
- Take along trash bags and use them
- Plan 12 or fewer in your group or patrol
- Select areas that are right for your activities
- Consider the characteristics of the group and physical makeup of each member



Travel

- Stay on the trail
- Avoid cutting across switchbacks
- Select hard ground or snow for cross-country travel
- Hike softly -- means to respect the natural world through which you are traveling
- Hiking is a walk in the woods -- it's not a race!!



Campsites

- Choose sites free of fragile plants
- Camp out of sight of trails, streams, and lakes
- Camp 100-200 steps away from any water supply
- Watch out for obvious hazards (dead branches above you)
- Don't be loud or keep up a lot of noise
- Do not dig ditches around your tent for drainage



Fires

- Build fires only where appropriate. Otherwise, use backpacking stoves (highly preferred)
- Use existing fire rings rather than making new ones.
- Burn small wood gathered from the ground.
- Make sure your fire is cold-out and touchable by your hand
- Replace sod or ground cover to erase burn scars
- Small fires have less impact than large ones



Sanitation

- Use biodegradable soap
- Use soap and detergent at least 100 steps away from streams, lakes, and springs
- Dig latrines at least 100 steps from camps, trails, and any source of water (for large groups).
- Dig a 6-inch deep hole for personal use
- Bury sump holes and latrines when you are through with them; restore ground cover.
- Pack out all garbage and trash



Courtesy

- Hikers step off the trail to let horses pass
- Leave the flowers, plants, & trees alone. Look, but don't pick!!
- Keep noise down when you are around other campers and hikers
- Leave radios and tape players at home