

Girl Scouts of San Geronimo Council

Leave No Trace Council's Own Interest Project Patch



- *Online site for research for this I. P. is: www.lnt.org*
- *You must complete 5 Skill Builders, 1 Technology, 1 Service Project and 1 Career Exploration to earn this Interest Project Patch.*
- *While you consider what activities to do, keep in mind that you must do something to hit all seven principles of Leave No Trace. The seven principles are: Plan Ahead and Prepare, Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces, Dispose of Waste Properly, Leave what you Find, Minimize Use and Impact of Fire, Respect Wildlife and Be Considerate of other Visitors.*

Skill Builders:

- 1) Relating to the principle of Plan ahead and Prepare: Set up a family or troop outing.
 - Be sure to include road conditions from Cal Trans, CHP information on any accidents along the route you plan to take, weather conditions, and emergency preparedness information for your trip.
 - Create a check off list of all needed supplies and emergency preparedness needs from start to finish of the trip. Don't forget your 10 essentials.
 - Don't forget to check the safety status of the vehicle you will be using for this trip.
 - Check with the local authorities at your destination to see if any permits are required for activities you may have planned.
 - What is the difference between front country camping and back country camping?
- 2) Relating to the principle of Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces: Research on line how to choose the proper campsite. Have a discussion and share this information with your family or troop.
 - What is a durable surface?
 - What is Cryptobiotic Soil?
 - What does it mean to "Naturalize" a campsite when you are finished camping?
 - How far should you camp from water or a trail?
- 3) Relating to the principle of Dispose of Waste Properly:
 - Learn what it means to Pack it in and Pack it out, this will involve learning how to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
 - Plan and carry out a meal away from home with your family or troop by repackaging.
- 4) Relating to the principle of Dispose of Waste Properly:
 - Learn how to use the bathroom in the wilderness. Learn what a "cathole" is and how to make and use one.
 - What do you do with feminine products when you must use nature's bathroom?
- 5) Relating to the principle of Leave what you find:
 - Create a "Nature Journal" and record your findings on the following:
 - What is a cultural artifact and why is it so important not to disturb them?
 - What happens when we remove natural vegetation from the environment and relocate it?
 - What happens to the wildlife if we disturb their natural habitat?
- 6) Relating to the principle of Minimize Use and Impact of Fire: Learn how to:
 - Build and properly distinguish a campfire.
 - Build a mound fire and learn when it is appropriate to use one.
 - Find at least 3 forms of cooking suitable for the outdoors.

- 7) Relating to the principle of Respect for Wildlife: Create a Nature Journal and document the following:
 - Daytime observations of 4 different plants and 4 different animals.
 - Night time observations of 4 different plants and 4 different animals.
 - Research what happens to animals who become dependant on “people food.”
 - List how to properly store food.
- 8) Relating to the principle of Be Considerate of other Visitors:
 - Learn the proper etiquette for sharing trails, pathways and campsites with hikers, livestock, and mountain bikers.
 - Learn the consequences of bringing the family pet to a campsite. What effect does it have on other campers? On wildlife?

Technology:

- 1) Plan a day hike that will conclude during the evening hours:
 - Learn to read a map. • Learn to use a compass. • Learn to find your direction by the stars.
- 2) Visit a sporting goods store to comparison shop for the following items:
 - Sleeping bags • Hiking boots • Dehydrated food • Tents
 Create a comparison list to include what version of each product is appropriate for use in the snow as compared to the desert or the mountain areas.
- 3) Surf the internet to discover what clubs or organizations are represented online. Research what new camping gear is out there or what kind of education is available online to support the minimal impact movement. Share this information with a younger group of scouts.
- 4) Research the www.lnt.org website. Create a lesson plan to provide a mini training on the seven principles of Leave No Trace. Create a game for each of the principles.

Service Projects:

- 1) Deliver a mini training in your area to a younger group of scouts about the seven principles of Leave No Trace. Help a Brownie troop earn the LNT try-it or help a Junior troop earn the LNT badge.
- 2) Create a skit about one of the principles of Leave No Trace and teach it to a group of scouts. Perform it for your leaders.
- 3) Host a camping trip or a backyard campout for a group of first time campers and do hands on training of the Leave No Trace principles.
- 4) Plan a “front country” campsite or city park clean up. Check with your local ranger station or city parks department to get permission and have a campsite or city park clean up event in one of your local recreation areas.

Career Exploration:

- 1) Research about three different careers related to the environment. Find out what skills, education and training are needed.
- 2) Interview someone with a career related to the outdoors. What is it like on the “front lines” of nature? Ask them to share with you how different careers and agencies interact yet have the same goal of preserving the environment?
- 3) Research the “Children’s Forest” in the San Bernardino National Forest. Why is this such an important teaching tool for people interested in the outdoors? Share your findings with your family or troop.
- 4) What State and or Federal agencies have been established to help preserve the environment? Choose one and research it’s history. Share this information with your family or troop.