

**OUTDOOR ETHICS TASK FORCE**  
**National Council, Boy Scouts of America**

MINIMUM ELEMENTS FOR  
BSA LEAVE NO TRACE TRAINING CONTINUUM

This guide outlines the minimum elements for conducting each of the levels of Leave No Trace training in the Boy Scouts of America program:

- BSA Leave No Trace Master Educator course
- BSA Leave No Trace Trainer course
- BSA Leave No Trace 101
- Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop

**BSA-sponsored Leave No Trace Master Educator Course**

The Leave No Trace Master Educator course prepares individuals to become Leave No Trace Master Educators who will train Leave No Trace Trainers and others in the presentation of the Leave No Trace principles and outdoor ethics through Leave No Trace Trainer courses, BSA Leave No Trace 101 courses, and Leave No Trace Awareness Workshops. The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics (Center) Training Guidelines and the BSA/Center Agreement establish certain minimum requirements for these courses. This document summarizes the requirements for leading a BSA-sponsored Master Educator course:

Sponsor:

- Course must be sponsored by a BSA entity (National Council, Region, Area, or local council) and approved by the National Council's Director of Outdoor Programs.

Instructor credentials:

- A Leave No Trace Master Educator who is a nationally-approved lead instructor or a nationally-approved Co-Instructor in accordance with the *BSA Supplement to the Master Educator Handbook*.

Course length:

- Minimum of five days and five nights of instructional time, including three nights in the field.

Course syllabus:

- Center, *Master Educator Handbook*
- BSA, *BSA Supplement to the Master Educator Handbook*

Eligible participants:

- Any registered Scout or Scouter 18 years of age or older

Participants receive:

- Leave No Trace Master Educator status
- BSA/Center Leave No Trace Master Educator certificate
- BSA Leave No Trace Master Educator card
- 1-year membership to Center
- *BSA Supplement to the Master Educator Handbook*, *BSA Leave No Trace Trainer Course Manual* and *BSA Leave No Trace 101 Guide*.

## **BSA-sponsored Leave No Trace Trainer Course**

The Leave No Trace Trainer course prepares individuals to become Leave No Trace Trainers who will train individuals and groups in Leave No Trace principles and outdoor ethics through Leave No Trace Trainer courses, BSA Leave No Trace 101 courses, and Leave No Trace awareness workshops. The Center's *Training Guidelines* and the BSA/Center Agreement establish certain minimum requirements for these courses. This document summarizes the requirements for leading a BSA-sponsored Trainer course:

### Sponsor:

- Course must be sponsored and approved by an appropriate BSA entity (National Council, Region, Area, local council, local council committee, district committee or Council Outdoor Ethics Advocate).

### Instructor credentials:

- A Leave No Trace Master Educator must serve as the lead instructor; an experienced Trainer or a Master Educator may serve as the co-instructor. Other Trainers may be used to co-instruct or assist in the training, particularly for larger groups.

### Course length:

- Minimum of 16 hours of instructional time. Overnight camping in an outdoor environment is strongly recommended.

### Course minimum elements:

- Must include history of Leave No Trace, information about the Center, minimum of thirty minutes instructor-supervised instruction per principle, minimum thirty minutes of instructor-supervised instruction on wildland ethics, experiential training on camp cleanup and human waste disposal, at least two other experiential elements (e.g., non-lecture), frontcountry issues segment; and the trainees must give presentations with brief critiques from lead/co-instructor. Scouting elements (required) include: Why Leave No Trace in Scouting (20 mins); Leave No Trace in BSA Advancement and Awards (10 mins); BSA Leave No Trace resources for teaching (10 mins); and Age and Program Appropriate Outdoor Activities (30 mins).

### Recommended elements:

- Authority of the resource

### Course syllabus:

- BSA, *BSA Leave No Trace Trainer Course Manual*
- BSA, *Teaching Leave No Trace*, No. 21-117

### Eligible participants:

- Any registered BSA member 14 years of age or older

### Participants receive:

- Leave No Trace Trainer status
- Center Leave No Trace Trainer certificate
- BSA Leave No Trace Trainer card

## **BSA Leave No Trace 101**

The BSA Leave No Trace 101 course trains individuals and groups in the Leave No Trace principles and skills. The course aims to generate a general awareness of Leave No Trace principles and to impart several practical skills enabling participants to make ethical decisions in the outdoors. This document summarizes the requirements for leading a BSA-recognized Leave No Trace 101 course:

Instructor credentials:

- Leave No Trace Trainer or Master Educator

Course length:

- Three hours or more, see minimum course elements below

Course minimum elements:

- Must include history/need for Leave No Trace, minimum of 10-15 minutes Trainer instruction per principle, at least two principles with experiential elements (e.g., non-lecture, one of which should be sanitation/human waste disposal). Scouting elements (required) include: why Leave No Trace in Scouting (10-15 mins); Leave No Trace in BSA Advancement and Awards and Leave No Trace resources (10 mins);

Course syllabus:

- BSA, *BSA Leave No Trace 101 Course Guide*
- BSA, *Teaching Leave No Trace*

Eligible participants:

- Any one

Participants receive:

- Leave No Trace Awareness Card

## **Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop**

Within scouting, a Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop may be the best choice when there isn't adequate time to teach the full Leave No Trace 101 course. The Leave No Trace Center's *Awareness Workshop Guidelines* define the instructor requirements and core components which must be included in the Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop. The Awareness Workshop introduces the principles of Leave No Trace, and emphasizes skills and techniques essential to Leave No Trace minimum impact outdoor ethics and education. The recognition for completion of the Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop is a certificate available from the Center, and there is no BSA-specific recognition for the workshop.

## **Other Leave No Trace instruction or activities**

Within scouting, there are also many opportunities for shorter Leave No Trace instruction and activities which don't meet all the requirements of an Awareness Workshop. These can be fun and valuable learning experiences, but there is no official recognition for these events.