

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

Beach Ball

Purpose:

Help participants understand the importance of leaving what they find.

Supplies:

One blow up beach ball with questions related to this principle. Write the questions listed below on the ball. Write them going in different directions so it is easy to determine where a question starts and ends. Be sure to include the number so you can refer to the answer sheet if necessary. Up to 60 questions will fit on a 24" beach ball. Develop more questions that are more site specific for your area.

Directions:

"I am going to toss this ball out to you. I would like you to keep batting it around until I say STOP. The one holding the ball will tell me the number and read the question by their right thumb. You will then answer the question and we will discuss it. Okay, here we go.

Toss the ball out to the participants. Stop it about every 4 to 5 hits and go through the question and answer process. You have the answers to the questions listed below for reference.

1: Have I experienced a "sense of discovery" when I found a rock, plant, archaeological artifact, or other item when outdoors? Describe that feeling.

Have participant, or another, describe how they felt (excitement, wonder, gratitude, etc.).

2: Should we dig trenches around our tents or construct lean-tos? Why?

No. They are lasting evidence of our presence long after we leave.

3: Is it okay to clear an area of surface rocks, twigs, or pine cones for our tent?

Yes – but we MUST replace them before we leave the site so others can't tell we had been there.

4: Complete this statement: Good campsites are _____ and not _____?
found made

5: Is it okay to dismantle inappropriate user-built facilities such as multiple fire rings and constructed seats or tables?

Yes. Do not dismantle all fire rings as that only invites others to build a new one with new rocks and impact a new area.

6: Is it okay to hammer nails in trees to hang things? Why?

No. It can introduce disease into the tree causing it to die. It also gives evidence of our being there at some point in the past.

7: Does tying our tent guy lines or laundry lines cause any harm to the tree or bush we tie to?

It can. It is best never to do it but if we do we should wrap the trunk with padding and use a wide strap to spread the impacted area. If we are prepared to do it correctly there should be no damage.

- 8: Is it okay to carve our names into trees or scratch them into rock outcroppings, etc.? Why?
No. They tend to be permanent and ruin the experience for future visitors.
- 9: Does it matter if we pick a few flowers to decorate our campsite? Why?
Yes. If only one person picked flowers it wouldn't matter. But there are millions of outdoor visitors and it wouldn't take long to pick all the flowers. In many area that would mean no flowers in future seasons.
10. Can experienced campers enjoy an occasional edible plant?
Yes. But they must not deplete the surrounding vegetation or disturb plants that are rare or slow to reproduce.
- 11: Is it legal to remove natural objects such as antlers, feathers, petrified wood, colored rocks, etc?
It is illegal to remove them from many state and federal managed lands. It is always illegal to have feathers from many birds. Check local rules, regulations, and guidelines before taking anything.
- 12: Do we cause an impact when we take pick up a feather and take it with us? What impact?
Yes. Think of the sense of discovery you had when you first saw the feather. If you take the feather no one else will be able to enjoy the same excitement when they find it.
- 13: Do cultural artifacts have any legal protection?
Yes. The Archaeological Resources Protection Act.
- 14: Is it legal to remove or disturb archeological sites, historic sites, or artifacts such as pot sherds, arrowheads, structures, or antique bottles found on public lands?
No. You could go to jail – don't do it.
- 15: List five examples of things we may do that detract from the natural outdoors.
Dig tent trenches, carve on trees and rocks, build camp projects, cut tree branches, remove artifacts.
- 16: List three ways to enjoy natural artifacts without taking them home.
Take photos – Make a drawing – Write a description
- 17: What happens when cultural resources are removed from a site?
A part of the puzzle related to the ancient culture is lost and may impact our true understanding of the past culture.
- 18: Describe the characteristics of an archeological or historical (cultural) resource.
It appears old and weathered. Normally in poor condition and easily damaged or destroyed.
- 19: Have you ever visited a site that had been vandalized or damaged by others? How did that make you feel?
- 20: What does “Leave What You Find” mean to you?.