

Principle 1: Plan Ahead And Prepare

Beach Ball

Purpose:

Help participants understand the importance of planning ahead and preparing.

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: Does it matter when you go on an outing?

You will enjoy the outing more and cause less impact when avoid times of high use.

2: How do you know what size of group is appropriate for where you are going?

Visit with the land management agency responsible for the area you will be using. Learn what the rules and regulations are.

3: Should you prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and/or emergencies? Explain your answer.

Any of the above issues can cause you to put your safety at risk as well as cause a greater impact.

4: How can reviewing a topographic map prepare you for what you can expect?

You will discover the true distance to cover, elevation gains, how steep the area is, streams or rivers to cross, etc.

5: Is it okay to use flagging, paint marking or rock cairns to mark your trail? Why?

No. Some can leave a permanent impact and all will affect the experience of other visitors.

6: What is principle number one?

Plan Ahead and Prepare.

7: How many Leave No Trace principles are there?

An unplanned trail that is used more than once which shows the effect of trampling which encourages others to follow the same route.

8: Why is it so important to plan ahead and prepare?

To ensure the safety and well being of everyone on the outing and to minimize avoidable impacts.

9: What are five things you should always have with you when outdoors?

Food, water, extra clothes, matches, compass.

10. How can we avoid unexpected situations?

Plan ahead and prepare.

11: What are the four federal land management agencies we can use to plan our activities?

Bureau of Land Management – Forest Service – National Park Service – Fish and Wildlife Service.

12: What other resources are there to help us prepare?

Local and state agencies and private property owners if we will be on their property.

13: Should we repack our food before hitting the trail?

Yes

14: Why should we repack our food?

It will save us from packing out extra trash and food that was not used.

15: What should we put our food in when we take it out of the original packaging?

Plastic bags and reusable plastic containers.

16: Is it important to match our destination with the goals, skills and abilities of everyone on the trip?

Yes – it is necessary for the safety of everyone and to minimize avoidable impacts.

17: What could be the result of poor planning?

Participants could walk off a cliff at night, get lost or not be able to cook their food.

18: How does our poor planning create problems for others?

Often our lack of planning creates safety issues that put others at risk as they help us. More often we create what should have been an avoidable impact on nature.

19: Can people receive a ticket if they are caught doing something that is against regulations even if they didn't know about the regulation?

Yes – ignorance of the law is no excuse for breaking the law.

20: How do we show respect for other users when we are prepared?

When we are prepared others may not even know we are around and enjoy their outdoor experience more.