

TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES

Beach Ball

Purpose:

Help participants understand the importance of traveling and camping on durable surfaces and how to identify durable surfaces.

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: What is the definition of a durable surface?

A surface we cannot harm by being on it.

2: Give 5 examples of a durable surface:

Established trails and campsites

Rock

Gravel

Dry Grasses

Snow

3: When does damage occur to surface vegetation?

When it is trampled beyond recovery.

4: Why do land managers build trails and campsites?

To concentrate impact and reduce damage to the environment.

5: What is another name for a trail?

Ribbon of Death - because nothing grows there.

6: What is a pristine area?

An area without developed trails or campsites.

7: What is a "Ghost Trail?"

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

8: How can we avoid forming a Ghost Trail?

By spreading out when traveling in pristine areas and never taking the same route twice.

9: How can we minimize the number of trips from camp to get water?

By using a collapsible water container that carries more.

10: Should we camp by water sources? Why?

No. It stops animals who need the water from getting to it, it is a visual impact to other campers, and we can pollute the water easier.

11: How far away from water sources should we camp? Why?

200 feet. So we don't

12: How far away from trails should we camp? Why?

200 feet.

13: Where do we find cryptobiotic crust?

In the desert and other dry areas.

14: What is cryptobiotic crust?

Crypto consists of tiny communities of organisms that appear as a blackish and irregular raised crust.

15: Why is cryptobiotic crust important?

It retains moisture and prevents erosion in the desert.

16: Where do we camp in a river corridor? Why?

On established sites located on:

Beaches

Sandbars

Below the high-water line

17: Is it okay to damage our natural resources because we are tired, run into bad weather, or get started later than we had planned? Why?

No. There is never an excuse to cause avoidable impact to the land. Proper prior planning will prevent avoidable impacts.

18: What is a riparian area?

The area surrounding lakes, streams and other water sources which are easily damaged by careless use.

19: Should we walk single file or side by side down a trail? Why?

Single file to avoid making the trail wider.

20: Complete this sentence: Good campsites are found,

not made.