

Hand Signs for The Outdoor Code and The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace

Outdoor Code Actions

As an American (put hand over heart as though saying the Pledge of Allegiance)

I will do my best to (Make the Cub Scout Sign or Scout Sign, as appropriate)

Be clean in my outdoor manners (rub hands together as though washing them)

Be careful with fire (wiggle your fingers like flames)

Be considerate in the outdoors (take a bow)

And be conservation-minded. (Superman pose and point to your head)

Leave No Trace Hand Actions for the Seven Principles

1. **Plan Ahead and Prepare:** Make the number one with the pointer finger on the right hand, and then 'take notes' on the palm of the left hand.
2. **Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces:** Make the "peace" sign with the right hand and extend the left hand and arm. "Walk" two fingers on the right hand down the left arm (trail) and 'pitch' the tent on the palm of the left hand.
3. **Dispose of Waste Properly:** Make the scout sign with the left hand and "dig a cat hole" with a three fingered 'shovel' in the palm of the left hand.
4. **Leave What You Find:** Make an "L" with each hand and then create a "frame", as though setting up for a photography shot.
5. **Minimize Campfire Impacts:** Extend all the fingers on the right hand, and set the right hand on the palm of the left hand, which is flat, like the ground. Wiggle the extended fingers like a flame.
6. **Respect Wildlife:** Pick your critter! Three fingers on each side of the head like the ears of a canine species. The fingers can be spread out to represent antlers. Make the sign language sign for "I love You" and make moose antlers.
7. **Be Considerate of Other Visitors:** Peace Sign and a high five, or "Hang Ten/Hang Loose" sign and a high five. When the "hang loose" sign is turned sideways, thumb pointing to yourself, pinkie pointed at the person you are talking to, it becomes the ASL sign for "me too". So, "High five-hey! Me too!"

Challenge: We don't have signs for the *Tread Lightly!* Principles! You are challenged to come up with five signs that will assist your scouts with remembering T.R.E.A.D.