

Council Outdoor Ethics Advocate Responsibilities

Outdoor Ethics is the umbrella term for how a scout relates to the outdoors. Scouting's statement of Outdoor Ethics is the Outdoor Code. The Outdoor Code is supported by the principles and skills of Leave No Trace and the Land Ethic; it is also supplemented by the principles and skills of Tread Lightly! as needed.

The Council Outdoor Ethics Advocate (hereafter, COEA) is a volunteer position that coordinates the council's Outdoor Ethics program for BSA youth and adult members. This program is meant to enrich a member's Scouting experience, help reduce our impact on the land consistent with Scouting's Outdoor Code and help ensure continuing access to public lands for Scouting purposes.

The COEA should coordinate with the council's Outdoor Programs, Training, Camping, Conservation, and/or Program committees. Where appropriate the COEA or designee may also serve on at least one or more of these committees.

Prior training as a Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor (Master Educator) or Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor (Trainer) is preferred but it is not required if the individual commits to obtaining the training. The COEA position is appointed by the council leadership.

Responsibilities:

Specific responsibilities expected of a COEA include, but are not limited to the following:

Recruiting:

The COEA is responsible for leading efforts to identify and recruit motivated scouts to become candidates for:

- Leave No Trace Level 1 or Level 2 Instructors
- Master Tread Trainer or Tread Trainer

This role may also include identifying subject experts such as environmental educators to support topics such as Stewardship and the Land Ethic

District Committees may appoint a district outdoor ethics representative or advocate to help the COEA recruit other volunteers to become Outdoor Ethics Educators (OEEs) and to assist delivering Outdoor Ethics program. OEE's include Leave No Trace Level 1 & 2 Instructors, Master Tread Trainers, Tread Trainers, or similar environmental educators.

Training:

The COEA serves as the primary point of contact for facilitating and ensuring quality Outdoor Ethics training in the council. The COEA makes training available to youth, adults and council training teams by arranging for OEEs to lead Outdoor Ethics training. It is recommended that these OEEs be part of the council Outdoor Ethics committee or team.

Program Promotion:

The COEA is responsible to lead, manage, and promote of the Outdoor Ethics program in the council. The COEA ensures the Outdoor Ethics Awareness and Action awards for Scouts BSA, Venturers, and their leaders are promoted and publicized throughout the council.

The COEA serves as an Outdoor Ethics resource to the local council, council committees, and district representatives or advocates. The COEA also supports unit leaders to increase awareness of Outdoor Ethics in advancement opportunities for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venturers.

The Council Outdoor Ethics Advocate plays an important role by enriching the program experience --- and hence member retention --- for youth and adult members.

Council Outdoor Ethics Committee or Team

The committee or team serves as a vehicle for implementing the Outdoor Ethics program. It is made up of those people in the roles identified above such as district representatives or advocates, OEEs, a professional advisor, or representatives from the council committees and community partners. The committee or team is led by the COEA or an appointed designee.

Reporting:

The COEA is responsible for collecting information about Outdoor Ethics programs conducted in the local council and reporting to the National Outdoor Ethics & Conservation Subcommittee annually. The COEA also reports progress to the Zone Outdoor Ethics Coordinator as specified. The COEA oversees the proper reporting of training courses within the local council and keeps a data base of OEE's who become part of the Outdoor Ethics Committee or Team. The COEA also ensures that the listing of Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructors (outdoorethics-BSA.org/contacts/OEcontacts.php) is up to date.

COEA Resources:

- BSA Outdoor Ethics resources are available online at <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/outdoor-ethics/resources/>
- Lists of COEA, Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructors in each council are available online at www.outdoorethics-bsa.org/contacts/OEcontacts.php.
- Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor and BSA Leave No Trace Basics training cards are available online at www.outdoorethics-bsa.org/resources. Or use the general Training Recognition cards available from national Supply Group.
- *Teaching Leave No Trace*, is available online at <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/troop-resources/leave-no-trace/teaching-leave-no-trace/>

In addition to these BSA resources, all COEAs should make use of the extensive resources of Leave No Trace, available at www.lnt.org

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