



QUALIFYING FOR LEAVE NO TRACE AWARENESS CARD Without Taking BSA Leave No Trace 101 Course

Objective:

To allow a Scout or Scouter knowledgeable in the principles of Leave No Trace to obtain the BSA Leave No Trace Awareness Card without the necessity of completing the BSA Leave No Trace 101 course.

Instructor:

The competency evaluation must be administered by a recognized Leave No Trace Trainer or Master Educator registered with the BSA.

Competency Evaluation Criteria:

- The competency evaluation must be administered individually by the Leave No Trace Trainer or Master Educator to the applicant.
- The applicant must demonstrate each of the following:
 - Describe what formal Leave No Trace training they have had and the extent to which they have practiced what they learned or taught others.
 - Recite and explain each principle of Leave No Trace;
 - Give an example of the practical application of each principle (e.g., why planning ahead and preparing is important for avoiding impact; examples of durable surfaces in the immediate area; when to concentrate and when to disperse hiking/camping activities; how to handle common human and camp wastes in camp; alternatives to a campfire usable with the unit type they work with; what to do if an arrowhead, flower, or other artifact is found; how to identify when we are not “respecting” wildlife; and what actions may not be considerate of other visitors);
 - Explain that Leave No Trace is based upon scientific research;
 - Identify the role of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, at least generally; and
 - Discuss the difference between a rule and an ethical principle and why that difference is important in the Leave No Trace program.
- The applicant should achieve a score of at least 21 correct answers on the attached evaluation of knowledge.
- The applicant should discuss and demonstrate, using available resources, the site selection, preparation, and closure of a cathole and discuss when it should be used.
- The applicant should discuss how Leave No Trace relates to core Scouting values in the Oath or Promise and Law.

Award of Leave No Trace Awareness Card:

The Leave No Trace Trainer or Master Educator, if satisfied that the applicant (1) understands the principles of Leave No Trace adequately, (2) has practical knowledge of the principles’

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application, and (3) can explain how the Leave No Trace principles are guidelines, and not rules, may issue the Leave No Trace Awareness Card to that individual.

Reporting:

Any Leave No Trace Awareness Card awarded by competency evaluation should be maintained on the Trainers list of individuals trained and then reported to the Council Outdoor Ethics Advocate and Training Committee or person responsible for individual records at least annually or upon request.

Evaluation of Knowledge of Leave No Trace Principles

Please answer the following questions as they relate to the most appropriate Leave No Trace practices in a **backcountry** setting.

1. Which of the following actions does **not** demonstrate consideration for other visitors?
 - A. Camping in an open meadow.
 - B. Taking breaks off-trail
 - C. Selecting campsites out of sight and hearing of other campers.
 - D. Camping in small groups.
2. Which of the following kinds of vegetation are the most likely to resist or recover from human trampling?
 - A. Forbs (erect-stemmed, broad-leaved plants)
 - B. Tree seedlings
 - C. Mosses
 - D. Grasses
3. What is the best way to dispose of human waste (feces)?
 - A. Deposit human waste in a small hole
 - B. Dig a large, deep hole and have everyone use it.
 - C. Deposit human waste on the ground away from campsites.
 - D. Deposit human waste on the ground and cover it with rocks.
4. For a group of twenty on a backcountry hike, it is best to...
 - A. Camp in small groups on separate campsites, and do not hang out or eat together.
 - B. Have the whole group camp on one site.
 - C. Split up and camp on separate campsites, but designate routes to a central area to eat and socialize.
 - D. Take the whole group into a remote area where others won't see the impacts.
5. The primary argument for leaving a deer antler instead of keeping it as a souvenir is...
 - A. So scientists can learn about deer behavior.
 - B. To avoid disturbing fragile ecosystems.
 - C. To allow others to enjoy the object.
 - D. So that its nutrients can return to the soil.
6. When camping in **popular** or high-use areas...
 - A. Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
 - B. Scatter your activity beyond established campsites to permit their recovery.
 - C. Find a vegetated area to pitch your tent.
 - D. Disperse your group over a wide area.
7. How should dirty dishwater be disposed?
 - A. Use it to put out the campfire.
 - B. Strain out food particles and scatter the dishwater.
 - C. Pour it into a stream.
 - D. Throw it in the bushes away from the eating area.

8. Of the learned responses that wildlife may exhibit around visitors, which is least desired?
- A. Avoidance
 - B. Attraction
 - C. Indifference
 - D. Fear
9. When cooking, it is best to...
- A. Cook only what you need and pack out the wrappers.
 - B. Eat the leftovers and bury the wrappers.
 - C. Burn all your leftovers.
 - D. Eat leftovers the next day and burn the wrappers.
10. When you are hiking on a trail with beautiful wildflowers, you should...
- A. Walk away from the trail and take a flower no one can see.
 - B. Stay on the trail and take only one flower.
 - C. . Pick only dry, wilted flowers and leave the healthy plants alone.
 - D. Never pick even one flower
11. The best time to visit a popular backcountry or wilderness area is...
- A. Late in the season.
 - B. During the week rather than on weekends.
 - C. Early in the season.
 - D. Any of the above.
12. If campfires are permitted, how should you gather wood?
- A. Saw downed logs into manageable lengths.
 - B. Break dead branches from trees.
 - C. Gather pieces of wood from the ground that can be easily broken.
 - D. Saw dead limbs from a fallen tree.
13. When traveling through **pristine** or remote areas, an advisable Leave No Trace practice is to...
- A. Travel in large groups to ensure group safety.
 - B. Walk around mud puddles and downed trees.
 - C. Travel away from visitor-created trails.
 - D. Always use preexisting trails.
14. What should you do with the ashes from your campfire?
- A. Bury the ashes in the ground.
 - B. Throw the ashes into a fast moving stream.
 - C. Scatter the ashes away from camp.
 - D. Leave the ashes in the fire pit.
15. When selecting a campsite, you should choose a site...
- A. In an open area.
 - B. Close to a water source.
 - C. Near the trail.
 - D. Away from lakes, streams, and trails.

16. When planning your food supply, you should...
- A. Leave food in original packaging and put it in stuff sacks or plastic bags.
 - B. Re-pack dried or freeze-dried food into lightweight plastic bags.
 - C. Minimize smells by ensuring food is in airtight cans or bottles.
 - D. Take only fresh food.
17. If you use an existing rock fire ring for your campfire, you should...
- A. Collect extra firewood to leave for other visitors.
 - B. Dismantle the ring after you're finished.
 - C. Move rocks and logs close to the ring to sit on.
 - D. Leave the fire ring free of excess ashes, burned wood and trash.
18. What should you do to avoid dangerous encounters with bears?
- A. Keep all food in your tent at night.
 - B. Carry a firearm with you.
 - C. Bury your garbage and leftover food in the ground.
 - D. Put your food and garbage in a bag and hang it.
19. When walking through an open gate on a trail, you should...
- A. Head towards the closest ranger station to report the open gate.
 - B. Prop the gate open so it doesn't close accidentally.
 - C. Close the gate behind you.
 - D. Leave the gate as you found it.
20. The only waste that is acceptable to leave in the backcountry is...
- A. Human waste.
 - B. Toilet paper.
 - C. Orange peels.
 - D. Burned garbage.
21. Wildlife are **least** sensitive to disturbance from recreationists...
- A. In late summer.
 - B. When raising young.
 - C. In the winter.
 - D. During the nesting season.
22. What is the best procedure for traveling off-trail through a **pristine** area?
- A. Give everyone compass headings and a map with the route marked on it.
 - B. Have the group walk in single file.
 - C. Create trail markers out of natural materials so that everyone can follow the same route.
 - D. Disperse over a wide area.
23. While hiking, what should you do when you encounter horseback riders?
- A. Ask the horseback riders to yield.
 - B. Get off the trail on the downhill side.
 - C. Get off the trail on the uphill side.
 - D. Stay on the trail; you have the right-of-way.

24. Which of the following actions should be taken when breaking camp?
- A. Brush off tents and ground tarps to avoid transporting non-native plant species.
 - B. Leave any leftover wood you have cut for the next campers.
 - C. Leave any makeshift furniture you have created.
 - D. Rake your site to clear debris.
25. What should you do when you see wildlife approaching your campsite?
- A. Put food on the ground to feed the animal.
 - B. Make lots of noise to scare the animal away
 - C. Be quiet and try not to startle the animal.
 - D. Sneak up close to the animal to get a good look.

**Evaluation of Knowledge of Leave No Trace Principles
ANSWER KEY**

Answers:

1	A
2	D
3	A
4	A
5	C
6	A
7	B
8	B
9	A
10	D
11	D
12	C
13	C
14	C
15	D
16	B
17	D
18	D
19	D
20	A
21	A
22	D
23	B
24	A
25	C