

Leave No Trace Overview: Council Outdoor Ethics Advocate

The **council outdoor ethics advocate** is a volunteer position that coordinates the local council's Leave No Trace training and similar outdoor ethics programs for BSA youth and adult members. This training is meant to enrich the Scouting experience for the members, help reduce our impact on the land consistent with Scouting's historic message, and help ensure continuing access to public lands for Scouting purposes. The **council outdoor ethics advocate** should coordinate with the council's Training, Camping, Conservation, and/or Program committees. Where appropriate, the **council outdoor ethics advocate** may also serve on one or more of these committees. Prior training as a Leave No Trace Master Educator or Trainer is preferred, but it is not required if the individual commits to obtaining the training.

Responsibilities:

Specific responsibilities expected of a **council outdoor ethics advocate** include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Training.** Serves as the primary point of contact for facilitating and ensuring quality Leave No Trace outdoor ethics training for local council youth and adult leaders by coordinating Master Educators and Trainers to offer the training.
- **Recruiting.** Responsible for leading efforts to recruit Leave No Trace Master Educator and Trainer candidates. The BSA Leave No Trace Task Force has established a goal that each local council recruit and train one or more Master Educators per council and one or more Trainers per district.
- **Program Promotion.** Responsible for leading and managing the promotion of the Leave No Trace program throughout Scouting by publicizing the Leave No Trace Awareness and Achievement Awards for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers, and their leaders and by serving as a resource to local council, district, and unit leaders.
- **Reporting.** Responsible for collecting information on Leave No Trace training conducted in the local council and reporting it to the National Council annually.

The **council outdoor ethics advocate** can play an important role by enriching the program experience—and hence member retention—for youth and adult members.

Training Responsibilities

The council outdoor ethics advocate has the following responsibilities for training:

- Serves as the primary point of contact for facilitating Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics training for local council youth and adult leaders by coordinating Master Educators and Trainers to offer training courses.
- Responsible for delivery of quality Leave No Trace training, and ensuring that official Trainer cards are issued to qualifying individuals.

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- With the approval of the local council, the council outdoor ethics advocate may apply for the local council (or cluster of councils) to host a BSA-sponsored Master Educator course using Request for Authorization to Conduct BSA-sponsored Leave No Trace Master Educator Course, No. 21-114.

The advocate will ensure that the number of Leave No Trace Trainers courses and Leave No Trace awareness workshops is adequate to meet local program needs.

The advocate is also responsible for monitoring the quality of local council-sponsored courses to ensure that they meet BSA and Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics guidelines and that the BSA Trainer cards are issued only to individuals who legitimately complete a course. While the advocate is responsible for quality in general, primarily through recruitment of Master Educators and Trainers, the Master Educators and Trainers leading a course are ultimately responsible for its content.

Recruiting Responsibilities

The council outdoor ethics advocate is responsible for recruiting talented volunteers to serve in the important roles of Leave No Trace Master Educator or Leave No Trace Trainer. Availability of quality Leave No Trace instruction will require the support of volunteer trainers. Recruiting high-quality, enthusiastic volunteer trainers is the backbone to delivering an effective Leave No Trace message within the council.

- The BSA Leave No Trace Task Force has established a goal that each local council recruit, train, and thereafter maintain one or more Master Educators per council and one or more trainers per district by 2010.
- Where the number of Master Educators or trainers is inadequate to meet the local council's training needs, the advocate may coordinate with neighboring council advocates, the Leave No Trace state advocate, and other non-BSA-trained Master Educators and Trainers to identify and offer training opportunities to council members, either within the council or jointly with other councils or community organizations.

The council outdoor ethics advocate will fulfill the recruiting responsibility by identifying existing Leave No Trace Master Educators and Trainers within or near the local council and determining whether they will assist in training BSA members. Lists of Master Educators and Trainers are available from the National Council and the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. The advocate should strive to have one or more Trainer courses each year in the local council (based on local program needs) to ensure a continuing supply of fresh and enthusiastic trainers.

Program Promotion Responsibilities

The council outdoor ethics advocate is responsible for the promotion of the Leave No Trace and outdoor ethics programs in the local council area. These responsibilities include:

- Working with the council training committee to ensure that council and district

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training staffs are familiar with and reinforce Leave No Trace principles in all position specific and outdoor training

- Promoting the importance of Leave No Trace and similar outdoor ethics programs in Scouting
- Obtaining and promoting the Leave No Trace Awareness and Achievement Awards for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers, and their leaders
- Serving as a resource to council, district, and unit leaders to answer questions about Leave No Trace or other outdoor ethics programs or refer them to an appropriate Master Educator, Trainer, or program official for assistance.

A critical element in the success of Leave No Trace training is to ensure that the Scouting way is a Leave No Trace way. This can best be achieved if the Leave No Trace ethos pervades all BSA training events, even if Leave No Trace or similar outdoor ethics topics are not specifically on the agenda. Where possible, a Leave No Trace Trainer is available at each outdoor training course to integrate Leave No Trace principles into the course.

More generally, the advocate should promote the BSA Leave No Trace Awareness and Achievement Awards, Leave No Trace, and other similar outdoor ethics programs at roundtables and council and district events. The advocate should ensure that trainers have access to Leave No Trace Awareness cards, available from the national Supply Group, and that these cards are made available to BSA members who have completed appropriate training from an approved Trainer.

Reporting Responsibilities

The council outdoor ethics advocate plays an important role in tracking the progress of Leave No Trace and outdoor ethics programs in the Scouting movement. These responsibilities include:

- Collecting and reporting information on Leave No Trace training conducted in the local council and reporting it to the National Council annually
- Acting as a connection for statewide Leave No Trace efforts including Master Educator courses, Trainer courses, traveling trainer visits, etc.
- Maintaining contact with the BSA Leave No Trace Task Force and the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics regarding suggestions on how the Leave No Trace program can be made more effective

The most important reporting responsibility is the annual Leave No Trace progress report that the advocate will download from the National Council's Web site, prepare, and submit to the director of the Camping and Conservation Service. This form tracks the following information:

- Number of Master Educator courses offered in the local council, with participant roster
- Number of Trainer courses offered in the local council, with participant roster
- Number of Leave No Trace Awareness Cards issued by the local council

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- Number of active Leave No Trace Master Educators in the local council
- Number of active Trainers in the local council
- Name and contact information of the advocate

The advocate is also encouraged to provide information in the annual report on any Master Educators or Trainers who are no longer active so that they can be placed on the inactive list.

Lastly, as part of the larger Leave No Trace movement, the advocate is encouraged to communicate and work with the BSA's Leave No Trace Task Force, the Leave No Trace State Advocate, land manager Leave No Trace personnel, and the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics.

Resources

BSA offers a number of resources to assist the council outdoor ethics advocate in his or her role. These include:

- A list of Master Educators trained by the BSA, available by contacting the Director of Camping and Conservation at leavenotracecamping@netbsa.org
- Leave No Trace Trainer cards, No. 21-115, available from national Supply Group
- BSA Leave No Trace Awareness cards, No. 21-116, available from national Supply Group
- Teaching Leave No Trace, No. 21-117, available from www.scouting.org
- Assorted reporting forms and other resources available on www.scouting.org

In addition to these BSA resources, all council outdoor ethics advocates should make use of the extensive resources of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, available at www.lnt.org.