

JANUARY – THE OUTDOOR ETHICS GUIDE

Music Full then Under

BRYAN: Happy New Year, everyone, Welcome to the January 2015 ScoutCast. I'm Bryan Wendell, senior editor of *Boys' Life*, *Scouting* and *Eagles' Call* magazines.

LEE: And I'm Lee Shaw, team leader for National Alliances. So, Bryan, how are we going to start the ScoutCast year?

BRYAN: Well, we've got some breaking news, Lee. The Leave No Trace Trainer is being replaced by the Outdoor Ethics Guide, but Leave No Trace, I understand, is still being implemented. So, let's all sit back as we hear Dave O'Leary help us dissect the role of the Outdoor Ethics Guide.

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BRYAN: Hey, Dave, welcome to ScoutCast. Can you start off by telling us a little bit about yourself?

DAVE: Thanks. I've been involved with the Boy Scouts for several decades now, primarily in the Northeast Region, but I've also volunteered in unit and district and council level roles in Michigan and California and other parts of the country. For the last several years I've served as the Outdoor Ethics coordinator for the Northeast Region, and starting about a year ago, I became the chair of the National Outdoor Ethics Task Force.

BRYAN: It seems like we've got the expert with us today. So let's start by bringing people up to speed, Dave. What was the role of the Leave No Trace Trainer, which is going away, right?

DAVE: So, the role of the Leave No Trace Trainer was a youth position in the troop and that job was to really bring the Leave No Trace message to all of the Scouts in the troop, in particular, helping Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Scouts complete the requirements for those advancement ranks that related to Leave No Trace.

LEE: Okay, Dave, so why the change?

DAVE: Many councils have seen over the last few years about implementation of a pilot program with ATVs or personal watercraft near camps. We're also seeing some other new programs come into Scouting. So, we've done a couple of things with our overall Outdoor Ethics program by bringing in Tread Lightly to help us understand how to reduce our impacts when we're using motorized vehicles. And we're really reinforcing the importance of the Outdoor Code in Scouts, something that's been with us for a long time, and then also reemphasizing our long traditions in conservation work, bringing those under a single umbrella of Outdoor Ethics. And so the Outdoor Ethics Guide position is a little broader than the Leave No Trace Trainer position was.

LEE: Okay,

BRYAN: I think it'd be helpful to zoom out a little bit and tell us what Outdoor Ethics is.

DAVE: Outdoor Ethics is our umbrella program that incorporates a few different aspects. We've had a long tradition of conservation work in Scouting that starts from the very beginning with Baden-Powell and the founders of the BSA. Then finally, that conservation tradition was really articulated more than 50 years ago when the BSA introduced the Outdoor Code. So, Outdoor Ethics is a program that acknowledges the history and the

traditions of Scouting about protecting our outdoor resources, our natural resources, and being aware of the impacts we have when we're out camping and hiking or paddling, and making sure that we minimize those impacts.

BRYAN: So there's really three parts to Outdoor Ethics, is that right? I just want to make sure everybody listening at home has a clear grasp on all that.

DAVE: The three main parts are the Outdoor Code, kind of our traditional statement of how we protect our outdoor natural resources when we're outside. And so the Outdoor Code is being reemphasized in the new Boy Scout program. Then Leave No Trace, the seven principles which we've had incorporated in the Boy Scout requirements since 2010. Then most recently, Tread Lightly is also being introduced as one of the requirements, an awareness of Tread Lightly for a First Class requirement in the new 2016 program. (Tread Lightly) focuses really on motorized recreation. We can certainly practice Tread Lightly when we're camping and hiking, but in the Boy Scout program we emphasize that for motorized recreation.

BRYAN: So those three – Outdoor Code, Leave No Trace, and Tread Lightly – they all kind of work together to create the Outdoor Ethics Guide, and they cover a broad range of activities, right? Because when we're going on ATVs, it's impossible to leave no trace, so that's when you use the Tread Lightly principles. Is that kind of how you look at it?

DAVE: Yeah, that's exactly right.

LEE: Dave, would you say one is more important than the other?

DAVE: They're all important, of course. The Outdoor Code is really the grandfather in this program; it has been around a long time. But the Leave No Trace

principles are really what we look to today as the modern guidance for how we minimize our impacts in the outdoors. What we see in that Leave No Trace is now incorporated very broadly into the Cub Scout program, and so we hope that all of those Scouts that come from Cub Scouts into Boy Scouts will already be quite familiar with Leave No Trace. And then we'll continue to reinforce the implementation of Leave No Trace principles as they join Boy Scouts and broaden their range of outdoor activities that they participate in.

LEE: Good. Well, thanks for helping us understand that. It certainly helps me out. So, Dave, what is the role of the Outdoor Ethics Guide?

DAVE: The Outdoor Ethics Guide is a youth leadership position in the troop. That Scout will be responsible for working with Scouts throughout the troop on any outdoor activity, especially in the planning phase to think about what impacts we might have when we're hiking or camping or for older Scouts when we're riding ATVs or things like that, that we understand what impacts might be involved in the place that we're going. And how do we plan properly to minimize those impacts: by bringing the correct equipment, by understanding the rules and regulations of the place we're going, things like that. And then when we're actually participating in the activity, being aware, and, making any adjustments, so we're setting up our tents in the correct place and staying on the trails, those sorts of things to minimize our impact when we're out, participating in any of these great outdoor Scouting activities.

BRYAN: So, Dave, if a Scouter listening has somebody in their troop who might be interested in becoming a Guide, how does he or she get that Scout ready? Is there like a certification or is it just, here is your badge, or how does that work?

DAVE: That's a great question. This is one of the places where there's been a lot of confusion over the last few years. So, to serve in the role of Outdoor Ethics Guide, the Scout goes through the process that you use in your troop, just as you would with appointing a Troop Scribe or a Troop Historian or any of the other youth leader positions. There is no training required to be appointed to the position, but there are a variety of courses available for the Scout that they could take prior to serving or they could take as part of their service in that Outdoor Ethics Guide role.

BRYAN: Gotcha.

LEE: Okay, Dave, you mentioned some courses. What other resources are available to either learn more about how to become an Outdoor Ethics Guide or about Outdoor Ethics in general?

DAVE: For Outdoor Ethics in general, we have a lot of great information available already in our Scout publications. In the current Fieldbook and the new Boy Scout Handbook that is coming out with the 2016 program also has a full chapter on Leave No Trace, provides information about Tread Lightly and the Outdoor Code. Also in many of the Merit Badge books, there's information about Leave No Trace as it applies to that particular activity. So we have all of those print materials.

Other resources can include the [Leave No Trace website](#), (and) the [Tread Lightly website](#). Both of those organizations are separate and distinct from the Boy Scouts so they're separate organizations and they have their own websites which have a lot of great information.

The Outdoor Ethics Orientation is a 60- to 90-minute overview of the BSA Outdoor Ethics programs. To find out about taking that course, you can reach out to your council Outdoor Ethics Advocate. It's a volunteer leader

within your council who can present that course or help connect you to find some, find somebody who can present the course.

You can also take what's called a Leave No Trace 101 course. It includes some hands-on activities to really understand implementing Leave No Trace. And then we also have courses that help Scouts learn how to teach Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly to other Scouts, and those are called the Leave No Trace Trainer and Tread Lightly or Tread Trainer courses, respectively.

Our task force has a website where people can find that information, who to contact within their council. We have a list of all the council Outdoor Ethics Advocates, the people who have taken the Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly to more extensive training so people can find experienced people.

BRYAN: So, Dave, what was that website? I want to make sure people get it down.

DAVE: Sure. You can find information about your council Outdoor Ethics Advocate and other resources for the Scout Outdoor Ethics programs at the website, outdoorethics-bsa.org. So there's quite a range of different opportunities available both to learn more about Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly and also how to teach it.

BRYAN: Yeah. We're going to have some well-educated Scouts out there, it sounds like. Now, the Outdoor Ethics Guide, Dave, is that a position of responsibility that can be counted toward rank advancement?

DAVE: Yes, exactly right. That's correct.

BRYAN: Excellent. Well, is there anything else, Dave that we should have asked you about or you want our listeners out there to know?

DAVE: Well, I certainly hope that all of the Scout troops out there are implementing the Outdoor Ethics Guide position. The Leave No Trace Trainer required quite a bit more training and we found that many troops were not using that position because the training bar was quite high. So, while the Outdoor Ethics Guide doesn't require training, it is very important. And if you look through again the Cub Scout requirements, the Boy Scout requirements, there's a lot of Leave No Trace and now Tread Lightly there. Especially as we're sending our patrols and troops out to camp and hike, whether it's in our own Boy Scout camps or on public land or someone else's private land, we really need to make sure that we're doing a great job of protecting those places that we care about and also protecting the reputation of Scouts, and that we do a good job of implementing these programs, the Outdoor Code, Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly.

BRYAN: There's a reputation to uphold, like you said, and these Outdoor Ethics Guides can make sure that Scouting continues to have that reputation of environmental responsibility. Well, Dave, we've got to go, but I want to say thank you so much for joining us on ScoutCast. You really have left a trace on our audience and it's great to have discussions like this to help people understand these complex issues. So, thanks again for joining us as we learned about the move from Leave No Trace Trainer to Outdoor Ethics Guide. Thank you so much.

DAVE: Yes, absolutely, and thank you.

LEE: We'll be right back with Reminders and Tips after this brief message from CubCast.

(CubCast – PREPPING FOR THE WEBELOS-TO-SCOUT TRANSITION)

LEE: ScoutCast listeners - that is a CubCast you should listen to as well to help you get those Webelos excited about joining your troop. But now it's time for Reminders and Tips.

BRYAN: Family Friends of Scouting, also known as FOS, that's a council-wide presentation conducted every year in every pack, troop, crew, team, ship, or post between the months of November and March. The Family FOS Campaign asks parents, families and alumni to consider financially supporting the Scouting program.

LEE: This effort offsets the cost of providing Scouting to your child, so if you haven't already done so, contact your district FOS chair for more details. Your support and participation in the Family FOS program in your unit is critical for its success.

BRYAN: Now I've got to talk about the January-February issue of *Scouting* magazine. There's a great article in there on how you can get your Scouting story in front of local media, potential Scouts and parents, with tips from the BSA's Visual Storytelling Workshops.

BRYAN: You might remember hearing about that in the October 2014 CubCast. It talked all about these Visual Storytelling Workshops, and now the *Scouting* magazine story has even more ideas for telling your unit's story.

LEE: And, Bryan, in this month's *Boys' Life* magazine, Boy Scout Troop 76 attempts to climb Mount Washington in New Hampshire in the middle of winter with cold, wind, and snow – snow and more snow. Can they make it all the way to the top? Also in this issue you'll find an exclusive interview with Pedro the Mailburro. He cracks me up.

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LEE: So that's it for January's ScoutCast. Thanks again to our guest, Dave O'Leary, for joining us.

BRYAN: And thank you for listening. Be sure to come back next month as we reflect on the nature of the Scoutmaster's Minute.

LEE: If there are other topics you'd like to hear about, be sure to let us know. Just send us an email to scoutcast@scouting.org or tweet [@bsascoutcast](https://twitter.com/bsascoutcast). With that I'm Lee Shaw –

BRYAN: And I'm Bryan Wendell. 2016 is shaping up to be your best Scouting year ever, and we, your ScoutCast family, are here to help.

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