



LEAVE NO TRACE

Before completing this charm, girls should have completed the Wild Wonders Patch and Sense of Place charm.

Review the Leave No Trace principles, understand and practice:

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
3. Dispose of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Minimize campfire impacts
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate of other visitors

PRINCIPLE 1

Plan ahead and prepare:

- » Learn how to walk safely on the city streets (with traffic and those without sidewalks), country roads and trails. What are the rules that keep us safe? How do we stay safe on trails? What is the buddy system and why do we use it? With your troop, take a walk and practice what you've learned.
- » Learn how to plan and prepare. How do you dress to be prepared on a hike?
- » Pack up for a day hike. Where are you going? What is the terrain like? What is the weather like? Make sure you have packed efficiently and took into consideration space and weight.
- » Take a hike with your troop. Each girl should have a daypack complete with the "Ten Essentials." What is the concept of "pack it in, pack it out" and why is it an important principle? Practice this on your hike.
- » Plan out your camping trip. Where will you go? What do you need?

PRINCIPLE 2

Travel and camp on durable surfaces:

- » Be sure you're camping in an established campsite and hiking on marked trails.
- » Go on an overnight camping trip with your troop.
- » Include a hike on your camping trip. You should be able to practice all 7 principles of Leave No Trace.

PRINCIPLE 3

Dispose of waste properly:

- » Minimize the trash you create and remember to pack it all out. Be sure to use established privies, port-a-potties, or restrooms.
- » Find out how litter can damage our environment. What can be done about it?



WILD WONDERS

PRINCIPLE 4

Leave what you find:

- » Enjoy nature while you are in it, but do not take it home with you. Take pictures.
- » How can you minimize your impact on the natural world? What does it mean to “leave what you find”?

PRINCIPLE 5

Minimize campfire impacts:

- » Be mindful of the fires you build. Be sure they are allowed and in established campfire areas. Follow all safety rules when using fire.

PRINCIPLE 6

Respect wildlife:

- » What is “wildlife?” What are ways that we can show respect for wildlife?
- » Watch nature from a distance, try not to disturb the animals you see on the trail. Protect your food to avoid any unwanted animal friends.

PRINCIPLE 7

Be considerate of other visitors:

- » Remember, you are not the only one on the trail or the only group using the campsite. Be mindful of your noise levels and your mess.
- » What does it mean to have good manners when out-of-doors?

Additional activities for Juniors and Cadettes (GRADES 4-8):

- » Learn what the 3-tub dishwashing method is. Practice it at your next troop meeting. (scrape before washing, broadcast method for water disposal)
- » Review how to be safe with fire. What do you need to know before you go? What is important to remember about fires and nature?

Additional Activities for Seniors, Ambassadors (GRADES 9-12 + ADULTS):

- » Learn how Leave No Trace applies when you are far from civilization. How is camping and hiking in the backcountry different from camping and hiking in the frontcountry? How do you deal with trash, bodily waste, wildlife, fires, and water?
- » Put your skills to the test. Plan a backcountry camping trip. Create as little waste as possible. How can you reduce your trash?
- » Help some younger sister Girl Scouts learn and practice Leave No Trace.

RESOURCES

The following resources will help in the completion of this charm.

- » Leave No Trace teaching guides – Int.org/teach/concepts-and-plans-teaching-leave-no-trace
- » “The Ten Essentials” packing list – rei.com/learn/expert-advice/ten-essentials.html
- » Leave No Trace interactive online course for girls ages 7-12 – Int.org/teach/peak/peakonline

BADGE CONNECTIONS

By participating and completing this Charms program, you are also on your way to earning Girl Scout badges. Purchase specific badge requirement packets at girlscoutshop.com/ARIZONA-CACTUS-PINE-COUNCIL.

- » Daisy = Safety Award
- » Brownie = Bugs, Hiker

- » Juniors = Flowers, Camper
- » Cadettes = Trees, Trailblazing
- » Seniors = Sky, Adventurer
- » Ambassadors = Water, Survival Camper
- » Girls 14 years and older & Adult trainings available = TCC 1, TCC 2, First Aid & CPR, Backpacking

RECOMMENDED NEXT CHARMS:

- Naturalist
- Cabin Camping

WILD WONDERS