



# EarthTeach Forest Park

A Fairly Big Place & A Very Big Idea!

## Resource & Use Guide

*“The Way Foundation is a public charitable trust whose primary purpose is to develop and sustain EarthTeach Forest Park as a cultural resource with attitude. We are encouraging a thorough redefinition of our society's core beliefs in relation to nature, wildness, self and other. “*

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The Way Foundation  
A non-profit 501(c)3 charitable trust

Community Office:  
76 Dewey Street Ashland, OR 97520  
info@earthteach.org  
541-482-4572

[www.earthteach.org](http://www.earthteach.org)



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**EarthTeach Forest Park**

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Thank you for choosing EarthTeach Forest Park for your program. We are honored to have you enjoy the Park and look forward to your visit. This guide is intended to help you prepare for your time in the park as well as assure that your visit to EarthTeach runs as smoothly as possible.

We have seen a lot of growth in programs hosted at EarthTeach and that calls for some changes in our care and presentation of the Park. Even if you have been to EarthTeach many times, please read through this guide and the terms of agreement carefully, as a number of procedures have been added or modified.

We recommend that you share the information in this guide with your participants and, if applicable their parents/guardians before arrival. Please duplicate any materials you find helpful. The guide also contains a checklist of items that need to be sent to the EarthTeach office ahead of your arrival. As the coordinator of your event, please see that your group is well informed and understands these materials.

Included in the Guide:

- **Successful Visits at EarthTeach**
- **Group-Use Essential's Checklist**
- **General Information Sheet**
- **ETFP Agreement to Participate Form**
- **ETFP Waiver and Liability Form**
- **Synergo Agreement to Participate Form (for groups utilizing the challenge course)**
- **Directions to EFTP & Map of EFTP**
- **ETFP Leave No Trace Resource Pages**

If you have questions, please contact us via email: [info@earthteach.org](mailto:info@earthteach.org) or call (541) 482-4572. See you at the Park!

Sincerely,

Martha Phelps Cotton  
EarthTeach General Manager

## Successful Visits to EarthTeach Park

### ***What is the key to my group having a successful visit?***

There are two very important items that will lead to a successful stay at EarthTeach Forest Park. **The first** is having a well-planned agenda prior to your group's arrival and communicating that agenda with the ETFP staff. A well-planned agenda includes completing and submitting all required documents by the requested deadlines.

**The second item** is preparing your group for their stay at ETFP by sharing expectations and park's policies before departure to ETFP. Included in this Guide is a **General Park Information Sheet** to share with participants, prepared and attentive parents and volunteers. If you are bringing children and youth to ETFP, dedicated and prepared parent volunteers will be a key element of your success. Plan a meeting with your volunteers to go over the schedule and let them know what the trip is all about!

### ***What are our responsibilities while at EarthTeach?***

Your group is responsible for the supervision of its participants at all times. Participants should not be left alone to wander around at any time (unless that is the express intent of your event and which requires an entirely different level of preparation and supervision). Your group leaders will provide the proper supervision at all times throughout the day and night. For youth activities, we ask for the following ratios based on the ages of the children on the trip to be met: 1 adult for every 5 campers 4-5 years of age; 1 adult for every 6 campers 6-8 years of age; 1 adult for every 8 campers 9-14 years of age; and 1 adult for every 10 campers 15-18 years of age.

Your group is responsible for setting up and taking down the group use or camping area that you are using. Having set up and break down crews assigned before your arrival can be very beneficial. An ETFP staff member will be available to assist you with this task. **A Cleaning Checklist** to help you with this process is in the Guide.

### ***Safety Recommendations:***

- 1) It is the responsibility of the group leaders to treat or transport any injured or ill participants. ETFP staff will orient you to our emergency procedures during your group introduction to ETFP.
- 2) We recommend that each group have with them at least one responsible adult who is currently certified in CPR and First Aid.
- 3) It is the responsibility of your group to have come prepared with your own first aid kit. EarthTeach does not provide first-aid supplies.

### ***How can parents reach ETFP in case of an emergency?***

If someone needs to get a hold of a participant or chaperone through ETFP offices, they can call the Park's line at 5410-482-4572. If it is after hours, during the weekend, or no one answers, they can page the staff member on duty at 541-601-4718.

### ***How do we get to ETFP?***

A map and directions are included at the end of this Guide.

## ETFP Group-Use Essential's Check List

The following is to help make sure that your group's necessary documents have been signed and submitted to ETFP in a timely manner.

### **Information Regarding Required Documents:**

**1) Proof of Insurance Coverage /Certificate of Liability Insurance:** Each group that comes to camp is required to be covered by a policy of comprehensive general liability insurance in the amount of one million dollars, insuring the group, The Way Foundation and EarthTeach Forest Park against any liability arising during the group's stay. The policy will specifically name The Way Foundation and EarthTeach Forest Park as "additional insureds." The certificate of liability insurance must indicate the exact dates that the group will be at EarthTeach Forest Park or be a blanket policy for one year. **The insurance document must be mailed, or faxed, to camp at least two weeks prior to arrival on camp. Groups will not be allowed to stay at camp without it.**

**2) Agreement to Participate Forms, Liability Waivers, Release Waivers:** Included in this packet are copies of EarthTeach Agreement to Participate form, ETFP Liability Waiver and ETFP Release Forms (and for group participation in a Challenge Course program facilitated by Synergo staff) Synergo Agreement to Participate forms. If you have questions on whether these waivers are required for your group, please call to make sure. Any participant who arrives without these completed forms and waivers will be ineligible to participate in the specified program. It is the responsibility of the group leader to make sure each participant has all of these forms and that they have been properly filled out and signed by guardians when applicable. Completed forms can be turned into ETFP at the time of group's arrival; however, to avoid the possibility of a participant having to sit out of a day's activities, we strongly urge you to double check all forms and submit them in advance.

### **3) License Agreement for EarthTeach Forest Park**

For larger groups using the park in long-term fashion and on an annual basis. ETFP will notify you if #3 is necessary for you organization.

### **Timeline & Checklist:**

***Thirty (30) days before arrival at the park, to secure reservation, please send the following to the ETFP office:***

- Commitment Agreement signed and a deposit of 10% your total balance (required to officially secure reservation).
- A brief description of your group's schedule and plans for their stay at the park.

#### ***For your own planning:***

- Distribute any parent letters to parents/guardians of all minors.
- Distribute ***ETFP General Camp Information Sheet, ETFP Agreement to Participate forms and ETFP Liability and Waiver forms*** to all guests
- Designate a First-Aid Provider

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***Two weeks prior to arrival, please send to the ETFP Office:***

- Proof of Insurance Certificate (Required document. See aforementioned details).
- License Agreement for EarthTeach Forest Park (Required document for applicable groups only.)
- Final attendance numbers and written request for any additional on site service needs.
- Verify arrival time, assign a group member to direct participants if your entire group is not arriving all at once.
- Verification of First-Aid Provider

***One week prior to arrival, please send to ETFP office:***

- Balance paid to The Way Foundation / EarthTeach Forest Park

***Arrival at ETFP:***

- Agreement to Participate, Waiver, and Liability forms for ALL participants and group leaders (including Synergo Challenge Course forms, if applicable). (Required documents. See aforementioned details.)
- Verification of First Aid provider, signed statement affirming such.
- Sign affidavit of presence in park without First Aid provider, if this is the case.

Additional Notes:

## EarthTeach Park General Information Sheet

(Please refer to the LEAVE NO TRACE Resource Pages as noted)

**Group Arrivals and Departures:** Arrival and departure times are set up between the organization's group leader and ETFP staff. Please confirm these times with your group leader to avoid conflicts with other Park guests. Please ensure arrangements to have a designated person meet early or late arrivers

**Parking and Vehicular Access:** Parking is limited and permitted in designated areas only. ETFP encourages carpooling or the use of buses for large groups. Please lock vehicles. ETFP is not responsible for damage or theft to vehicles at the Park. To minimize damage to the Park's interior roads in wet weather and fire danger in the dry season, as well as honor the Park's intent, **driving beyond the boundary of either parking lot is by permission only.** (For more info. LNT Resource Page #1)

**Closed Gates:** The gates keep open-range cows from messing up the Entrance Acres and springs. Please do not leave them open. If you find them open, please close them! (LNT Resource Page #3)

**Phones:** Cell phone reception is not reliable in the Park. ETFP has one landline (without long distance) on site for emergency use only. (LNT Resource Page #3)

**Drinking Water:** Although the Park has five streams, several brooks and many pristine springs, we strongly advise against drinking from them without filtration. Carry your own water. For groups and extended periods contact the office regarding availability of potable water dispensers.

**Recommended - What to Bring:** Appropriate clothing for the high elevation and the season (layers are a good idea, as temperatures can change quickly ALL times of the year), active footwear, sunscreen, personal water bottle, rain gear, and flashlight (if visiting late in the day - evening. DO NOT bring firearms or personal electronic devices. ETFP is not responsible for the damage or loss of any personal items brought to the Park. Please leave valuables at home

**Campfires:** Fires are permitted in designated fire pits only and may be secured by reservation. ETFP does have firewood available but recommends that groups bring fire-starters such as kindling, newspaper and matches. The Park, and therefore its visitors, adheres to strict observation of seasonal fire regulations. . (LNT Resource Page #2)

**Supervision:** All minors (under the age of 18) must be supervised by a parent or guardian, group leader or chaperone for the duration of their stay at ETFP. Be aware that all emergencies and discipline issues are to be handled by the group leaders. If reasonable supervision of children is not provided, ETFP reserves the right to ask any or all of the group's participants to immediately leave Park property without providing a refund. (LNT Resource Page #3)

**Hunting and Firearms:** Strictly prohibited!

**Wood Cutting:** Cutting wood or any kind must be authorized and supervised by Park staff. If in doubt, leave it alone. (LNT Resource Page #2)

**Camping and Group Program Areas:** General camping is available only to Park members and by advance reservation. The following areas are off-limits without proper ETFP or hosted program staff supervision and instruction: the gatehouse and workshop, yurt, challenge course, Catfish Lake, Cattail Marsh and any water sources deeper than three feet. If in doubt, don't go out. (For more info. LNT Resource Pages #1, 2, & 3)

**Trash Alert:** Except for special events, there are no trash receptacles in the Park. Please retain and take your refuse with you when you leave. Your organization will be billed a minimum of \$50.00 or lose your deposit if we clean up after you. No exceptions! Leave No Trace!! (LNT Resource Page #2)

**Sanitation:** Five chemical toilets are strategically located between the Celebration Meadow and the Labyrinth. We ask that you sit to pee in the portapotties—Please DO NOT USE THE URINALS. In the further reaches of the Park, be prepared to bury or contain human waste as warranted. Be prepared to carry out your toilet paper, too! . (LNT Resource Page #2)

**Cleaning Responsibilities:** Groups are expected to clean their camping and meeting spaces upon departure and check out with ETFP staff. Group cleaning responsibilities, as outlined in Checklist of Cabin

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Cleaning, that are not fulfilled prior to group departure may be subject to a cleaning fee of \$50 per hour of cleaning required after your group has left camp.

**Food:** Check with your group leader to where your group’s “kitchen” will be located (apart from camping areas). All group food should be kept in animal-safe containers Please do not store any food or candy in tents as you may have an uninvited nighttime guest.

**Quiet Hours:** In respect to the other groups that may be enjoying ETFP during the same dates as yours, it is essential that all guests comply with the Park’s quiet hours policy. Whether you are inside a tent or structure or outside, ETFP quiet hours are from 10 pm to 7 am. *(LNT Resource Page #3)*

**Pets:** Dogs are welcome to be your companion in the Park but you must be prepared to prevent any belligerent or rambunctious engagement with people, other dogs or wildlife; i.e. under control AT ALL TIMES. Pet poop should be buried or gathered up so as not to be stepped upon. ETFP reserves the right to ask owners and their dogs to immediately leave Park property at any time without refund. Other “pets” are not allowed at ETFP. *(LNT Resource Page #3)*

**Health Care:** Sudden illnesses, medical problems, minor injuries and distribution of medications are the responsibility of the group leaders. ETFP cannot be relied upon for medical service, first aid supplies, over the counter medications or emergency transport during your stay. Groups are responsible for providing their own liability insurance. The Way Foundation and EarthTeach Forest Park do not insure individuals or groups while they stay at ETFP.

**Alcohol, Drug and Smoking Policy:** As a youth camp facility, our policy prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs on Park property. Additionally, the group is responsible for the safe removal of any intoxicated guests. Due to our vast forest acreage, smoking is only permitted in one designated area located in the small parking lot. *(For more info. LNT Resource Page #3)*

**Other Groups in Camp:** Be aware that no exclusive use of the Park is implied unless specified on an ETFP Rental Agreement. Other groups may be at ETFP during your stay and every effort has been made to accommodate compatible groups during the same time period. All guests at ETFP are expected to respect the privacy of others by only entering camping and meeting spaces specifically reserved for your group. *(LNT Resource Page #3)*

## HAZARD HIGHLIGHTS

Don’t attract bears by carelessness with food.

Get out of the woods overstory if it is windy—mistletoe weakened branches break out of fir trees and come down hard. On the other hand, if there is lightning, don’t be in the open.

Watch out for remnants of barbed wire—long ago some meadows here were hay fields and pioneer’s potato patches.

If the ground shakes (earthquake), look out for what might be coming from up-hill.

Don’t run from a mountain lion—face her, get ‘big’ and bold/noisy, but don’t challenge with eye contact and slowly move away if she doesn’t.

Although significantly diminished by the current prohibition, hunting on this ground had been allowed for decades so that hiking the outer and upper reaches of EarthTeach in September and October may put you at some risk.

Good news: You will not encounter any rattlesnakes here, and not likely poison oak, either (There are small patches here and there). Bad news: TICKS...check self, kids and the dog if you/they get off the beaten path.

## LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES of OUTDOOR ETHICS

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Minimize campfire impacts
4. Respect Wildlife
5. Be considerate of other visitors
6. Dispose of Waste properly
7. Leave what you find

For more information, please visit [www.earthteach.org](http://www.earthteach.org) or contact our staff at [info@earthteach.org](mailto:info@earthteach.org)



## DIRECTIONS TO EARTHTEACH FOREST PARK

From I-5 South, take OR Exit 66 Ashland/Klamath Falls (Exit# 14).  
Left turn on OR 66 (Ashland Street). Drive 0.7 miles and left turn on Dead Indian Memorial Road. (Check your odometer here). Drive 9 miles. Across from the mile marker nine, you will see the EarthTeach Forest Park banner hanging in the trees.

### **WINTER MONTHS (November – April):**

#### **SNOW:**

**If there is snow at the bottom of the main entrance, please do NOT attempt to drive up the driveway and please DO NOT block the bottom of the driveway.**

Continue up D. Indian Memorial Road to the school bus turn around on the right and either carefully park there without blocking access to mailboxes, or turn around there and pull off the road's shoulder on the right side (southbound, downward lane) of the D. Indian Road. From there, staying out of the road, safely walk to the Park's entrance and WALK up the driveway.

#### **NO SNOW, BUT WET CONDITIONS:**

After entering the park through the main entrance, please park in the small parking lot. Thank you for NOT driving any further into the Park. Vehicles create a lot of road damage during the rainy-muddy periods

#### **THE REST OF THE YEAR (May–October)**

The first driveway marks the MAIN entrance to the Park. A left turn off D. Indian Rd. and up the driveway 50 ft. to the left gives visitors access to the handicap only parking area. If you are able bodied and / or are a part of a group larger than three vehicles coming to the Park, please do not use this as a drop off or parking area. Permission is required to drive any further into the Park from this point.

The SECOND entrance to the Park is about 75 yards further up the road from the main entrance (almost immediately across from the school bus turn around and mailboxes). A left turn off the road at this gate, up 50ft and left across a small natural bridge, gives visitors access to a larger open parking area that is ideal for dropping off and loading gear (for safety reasons) and longer term parking. Signs posted guide visitors from the second parking area to the garden, gatehouse, Celebration Meadow, labyrinth and beyond.

Pick up of large group gear for delivery to campsites may be arranged by contacting the Park's On Site Manager, Pete Cotton @ (541) 482-4572.

***For more information, please email: [info@earthteach.org](mailto:info@earthteach.org)***

## **LEAVE NO TRACE RESOURCE PAGE #1**

### **Traveling and Camping In EarthTeach Forest Park**

#### **Travel on Durable Surfaces:**

The goal of backcountry travel at EarthTeach is to move through the Park's backcountry while avoiding damage to the land. Understanding how travel causes impacts is necessary to accomplish this goal.

Travel damage occurs when surface vegetation or communities of organisms are trampled beyond recovery. The resulting barren area leads to soil erosion and the development of undesirable trails. Backcountry travel may involve travel over both trails and off-trail areas.

#### **Travel on Trails:**

**Concentrate Activities When Traveling in Heavily Used Areas.** Park management uses old logging roads as trails in backcountry areas to provide identifiable routes that concentrate foot traffic. Constructed trails and roads are themselves an impact on the land; however, they are a necessary response to the fact that people travel in the back country. Concentrating travel on the old logging trails reduces the likelihood that multiple routes will develop and scar the landscape. It is better to have one well-designed route than many poorly chosen paths.

Trail use is recommended whenever possible. Stay within the width of the trail and not short cut trail switchbacks (trail zigzags that climb hill sides). Provide space for other hikers if taking breaks along the trail. The principles of off-trail travel should be practiced if the decision is made to move off-trail for breaks.

(Hikers in the same group should periodically stop to rest and talk. Avoid shouting to communicate while hiking. Loud noises usually are not welcome in natural areas.)

#### **Choosing A Campsite:**

Be sure to obey regulations related to campsite selection. EarthTeach has carefully designated camping areas, especially for group use. If unsure of the location of your site, please check with Park Management before setting up camp. Avoid camping close to water and trails and select a site which is not visible to others. Even in popular areas the sense of solitude can be enhanced by screening campsites and choosing an out-of-the-way site. Camping away from the water's edge also allows access routes for wild life.. Allow enough time and energy at the end of the day to select an appropriate site. Fatigue, bad weather, and late departure times are not acceptable excuses for choosing poor or fragile campsites.

Generally, it is best to camp on sites that are so highly impacted that further careful use will cause no noticeable impact. In popular areas, these sites are obvious because they have already lost their vegetation cover. Also, it is often possible to find a site which naturally lacks vegetation, such as exposed bedrock or sandy areas.

On high-impact sites, tents, traffic routes, and kitchen areas should be concentrated on already impacted areas. The objective is to confine impact to places which already show us.

When breaking camp, take time to naturalize the site. Covering scuffed areas with native materials (such as pine needles), brushing out footprints, and raking matted grassy areas with a stick will help the site recover and make it less obvious as a campsite. This extra effort will help hide any indication where you camped and make it less likely that others will camp in the same spot. The less often a pristine campsite is used the better chance it has of remaining pristine.

## **LEAVE NO TRACE RESOURCE PAGE #2**

### **Campfires and Waste Management at EarthTeach Forest Park**

#### **Human Waste**

Proper disposal of human waste is important to avoid pollution of water sources, avoid the negative implications of someone else finding it, minimize the possibility of spreading disease, and maximize the rate of decomposition.

In group use locations in the Park, portable toilets are required. Solid human waste must be packed out from some places, such as near springs and lakes. Park management can advise you of specific rules for the area you plan to visit.

#### **Toilet Paper**

Use toilet paper sparingly and use only plain, white, non-perfumed brands. Toilet paper must be disposed of properly! It should either be placed in plastic bags and packed out. Natural toilet paper has been used by many campers for years. When done correctly, this method is as sanitary as regular toilet paper, but without the impact problems. Popular types of natural toilet paper include stones, vegetation and snow. Obviously, some experimentation is necessary to make this practice work for you, but it is worth a try! Placing toilet paper in plastic bags and packing it out as trash is the best way to Leave No Trace. Toilet paper should not be burned. This practice can result in wild fires.

#### **Tampons**

Proper disposal of tampons requires that they be placed in plastic bags and packed out. Do not bury them because they don't decompose readily and animals may dig them up.

#### **Urine**

Urine has little direct effect on vegetation or soil. In some instances urine may draw wildlife which are attracted to the salts. They can defoliate plants and dig up soil. Urinating on rocks, pine needles, and gravel is less likely to attract wildlife. Diluting urine with water from a water bottle can help minimize negative effects.

#### **Campfires**

Fires vs. Stoves: The use of campfires, once a necessity for cooking and warmth, is steeped in history and tradition. Some people would not think of camping without a campfire. Campfire building is also an important skill for every camper. Yet, the natural appearance of many areas has been degraded by the overuse of fires and an increasing demand for firewood. The development of light weight efficient camp stoves has encouraged a shift away from the traditional fire. Stoves have become essential equipment for minimum-impact camping. They are fast, flexible, and eliminate firewood availability as a concern in campsite selection. Stoves operate in almost any weather condition, and they Leave No Trace.

#### **Should You Build A Fire?**

1. The most important consideration to be made when deciding to use a fire is the potential damage to the Park.
2. What is the fire danger for the time of year and the location you have selected? Are there administrative restrictions from the Park and/ or National Forest Service?
3. Is there sufficient wood so its removal will not be noticeable?
4. Does the harshness of alpine growing conditions for trees and shrubs mean that the regeneration of wood sources cannot keep pace with the demand for firewood?
5. Do group members possess the skill to build a campfire that will Leave No Trace?

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## **Lessening Impacts with Fire:**

Camp in areas where wood is abundant if building a fire. Choose not to have a fire in areas where there is little wood at higher elevations, in heavily used areas, or in desert settings. A true Leave No Trace fire shows no evidence of having been constructed.

### **Existing Fire Rings**

The best place to build a fire is within an existing fire ring in a well-placed campsite. Keep the fire small and burning only for the time you are using it. Allow wood to burn completely to ash. Put out fires with water, not dirt. Dirt may not completely extinguish the fire. Avoid building fires next to rock out crops where the black scars will remain for many years.

### **Fire Pans**

Use of a fire pan is a good alternative for fire building. Metal oil drain pans and some backyard barbecue grills make effective and inexpensive fire pans. The pan should have at least three-inch-high sides. It should be elevated on rocks or lined with mineral soil so the heat does not scorch the ground.

### **Firewood and Clean Up**

Standing trees, dead or alive, are home to birds and insects, so leave them intact. Fallen trees also provide bird and animal shelter, increase water holding capacity of the soil, and recycle nutrients back into the environment through decomposition. Stripping branches from standing or fallen trees also detracts from an area's natural appearance.

1. Avoid using hatchets, saws, or breaking branches off standing or downed trees. Dead and down wood burns easily, is easy to collect and leaves less impact.
2. Use small pieces of wood no larger than the diameter of an adult wrist that can be broken with your hands.
3. Gather wood over a wide area away from camp.
4. Burn all wood to white ash, grind small coals to ash between your gloved hands, thoroughly soak with water, and scatter the remains over a large area away from camp.
5. Replace soil where you found it when cleaning up a mound or pan fire.
6. Scatter unused wood to keep the area as natural looking as possible.
7. Pack out any campfire litter. Plastic items and foil-lined wrappers should never be burned in a camp fire.

### **Safety**

1. Provide adequate supervision for young people when using stoves or fires.
2. Follow all product and safety labels for stoves.
3. Use approved containers for fuel.
4. Never leave a fire unattended.
5. Keep wood and other fuel sources away from fire.

Thoroughly extinguish all fires.

## **LEAVE NO TRACE RESOURCE PAGE #3**

### **Leave What You Find / Wildlife / Other Visitors**

Allow others a sense of discovery by leaving rocks, plants, archaeological artifacts and other objects of interest as you find them. The activities for this Leave No Trace principle deal with cultural artifacts; however, leave what you find involves many aspects of outdoor use. The following information addresses a variety of ways to respect natural settings.

#### **Minimize Site Alterations:**

Leave areas as you found them. Do not dig trenches for tents or construct lean-tos, tables, chairs, or other rudimentary improvements. If you clear an area of surface rocks, twigs or pine cones, replace these items before leaving. On high impact sites, it is appropriate to clean up the site and dismantle inappropriate user-built facilities, such as multiple fire rings and constructed seats or tables. Consider the idea that good campsites are found and not made.

#### **Avoid Damaging Live Trees and Plants:**

Avoid hammering nails into trees for hanging things, hacking at them with hatchets and saws, or tying tent guy lines to trunks, thus girdling the tree. Carving initials into trees is unacceptable. The cutting of boughs for use as sleeping pads creates minimal benefit and maximum impact. Sleeping pads are available at stores catering to campers.

Picking a few flowers does not seem like it would have any great impact and, if only a few flowers were picked, it wouldn't. But, if every visitor thought "I'll just take a few", a much more significant impact might result. Take a picture or sketch the flower instead of picking it. Experienced campers may enjoy an occasional edible plant, but they are careful not to deplete the surviving vegetation or disturb plants that are rare or are slow to reproduce.

#### **Leave Natural Objects and Cultural Artifacts:**

Natural objects of beauty or interest such as antlers, petrified wood, or colored rocks add to the mood of the backcountry and should be left so others can experience a sense of discovery. In National Parks and some other areas it is illegal to remove natural objects.

The same ethic is applicable to cultural artifacts found on public land. Cultural artifacts are protected by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. It is illegal to remove or disturb archeological sites, historic sites, or artifacts such as pot shards, arrowheads, structures, and even antique bottles found on public lands.

#### **Respect Wildlife:**

Learn about wildlife through quiet observation. Do not disturb wildlife or plants just for a "better look". Observe wildlife from a distance so they are not scared or forced to flee. Large groups often cause more damage to the environment and can disturb wildlife so keep your group small. If you have a larger group, divide into smaller groups if possible to minimize your impacts.

Quick movements and loud noises are stressful to animals. Travel quietly and do not pursue, feed or force animals to flee. (One exception is in bear country where it is good to make a little noise so as not to startle the bears) In hot or cold weather, disturbance can affect an animals ability to withstand the rigorous environment. Do not touch, get close to, feed or pick up wild animals. It is stressful to the animal, and it is possible that the animal may harbor rabies or other diseases. Sick or wounded animals can bite, peck or scratch and send you to the hospital. Young animals removed or touched by well-meaning people may cause the animals parents to abandon them. If you find sick animals or animal in trouble, notify a game warden.

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Considerate campers observe wildlife from afar, give animals a wide berth, store food securely,

and keep garbage and food scraps away from animals. Remember that you are a visitor to their home.

Allow animals free access to water sources by giving them the buffer space they need to feel secure. Ideally, camps should be located 200 feet or more from existing water sources. This will minimize disturbance to wildlife and ensure that animals have access to their precious drinking water.

Washing and human waste disposal must be done carefully so the environment is not polluted, and animals and aquatic life are not injured. Swimming in lakes or streams is OK in most instances but in desert areas, leave scarce water holes undisturbed and unpolluted so animals may drink from them.

### **Other Visitors to the Park:**

One of the most important components of outdoor ethics is to maintain courtesy toward other visitors. It helps everyone enjoy their outdoor experience

Many people come to the outdoors to listen to nature. Excessive noise, unleashed pets and damaged surroundings take away from everyone's experience. So, keep the noise level down while traveling. Other than two-way radios for group safety, please leave your electronic games and devices at home so that you will not disturb others. Also keep in mind that the feeling of solitude, especially in open areas, is enhanced when group size is small, contacts are infrequent and behavior is unobtrusive. To maximize your feeling of privacy, avoid trips on holidays and busy weekends or take a trip during the off season. Take rest breaks on durable surfaces well off the designated trail. Keep in mind that visitors to seldom used places require an extra commitment to travel quietly and lightly on the land. Keep noise down in camp so not to disturb other campers or those passing by on the trail. "Goofing off" or "pranks" are undesirable social behavior and may lead to serious or fatal injuries. Also "events" need to fit the setting - save game playing for the city park. Bright clothing and equipment, such as tents can be seen for long distances are discouraged. Especially in open natural areas, colors such as day-glow yellow are disturbing and contribute to a crowded feeling; choose earth-toned colors (ie. browns and greens) to lessen visual impacts.

Mountain biking is strictly prohibited at EarthTeach Forest Park.

Keep pets under control at all times. Bowser is not in the wildlife category. Dogs running free can be unwelcome, frightening people or leaving behind unwanted "presents". Please pick up dog feces from camps and trails.

Close gates behind you, and leave the land undisturbed for others to enjoy. It is up to us to keep EarthTeach healthy, beautiful and open for recreation, reflection and revitalization!

*The **Leave No Trace** program is a national education program that promotes minimum impact practices for human-powered recreationists. The goal of the Leave No Trace Program is to promote a consistent, unified message based on the seven Leave No Trace principles. All information presented on these Leave Not Trace Resource pages is copyrighted the Center for Outdoor Ethics and the National Outdoor Leadership School and through partnership with The Way Foundation and EarthTeach Forest Park. For more information about Leave No Trace, please visit [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org).*

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