

tread lightly!®

LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION



To find out how you can become involved and make a difference contact Tread Lightly! at:

298 24th Street, Suite 325

Ogden, Utah 84401, USA

800.966.9900, Fax: 801.621.8633

E-mail: treadlightly@treadlightly.org

Other materials available through

Tread Lightly! include:

Guidebooks, T-shirts, hangtags, teaching manuals, maps, decals

Tread Lightly!® is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower generations to enjoy the outdoors responsibly through education and stewardship. Tread Lightly!'s educational message, along with its training and restoration initiatives are designed to instill an ethic of responsibility in outdoor enthusiasts and the industries that serve them. The program is long-term in scope with a goal to balance the needs of the people who enjoy outdoor recreation with the needs of the environment.

Tread Lightly!'s

Tips for

Responsible

CAMPING



Travel and recreate with minimum impact

Respect the environment and the rights of others

Educate yourself, plan and prepare before you go

Allow for future use of the outdoors, leave it better than you found it

Discover the rewards of responsible recreation

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TRAVEL AND RECREATE WITH MINIMUM IMPACT

- ▶ While traveling to your favorite camping spot, stay on designated roads and trails to reduce impacts.
- ▶ Cutting switchbacks and taking shortcuts can destroy vegetation and cause erosion.

RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

- ▶ Camping supplies in natural colors blend with the natural surroundings and are less intrusive to other camper's experience.
- ▶ Whenever possible, use existing campsites. Camp on durable surfaces and place tents on a non-vegetated area. Do not dig trenches around tents.
- ▶ Camp at least 200 feet from water.

For cooking, use a camp stove. They are always preferable to a campfire in terms of impact on the land.

- ▶ Observe all fire restrictions. For campfires, use only fallen timber. Gather firewood well away from your camp. Do not cut standing trees.
- ▶ Let your fire burn down to a fine ash. Ensure your fire is completely extinguished.
- ▶ Do not wash in streams and lakes. Detergents, toothpaste and soap harm fish and other aquatic life.
- ▶ Wash 200 feet away from streams and lakes. Scatter wash water so that it filters through the soil.
- ▶ In areas without toilets, use a portable latrine if possible and pack out your waste, otherwise it's necessary to bury your waste. Human waste should be disposed of in a shallow hole (6"- 8" deep) at least 200 feet from water sources, campsites or trails. Cover and disguise the hole with natural materials. It is recommended to pack out your toilet paper. High use areas may have other restrictions so check with the land manager.

EDUCATE YOURSELF, PLAN AND PREPARE BEFORE YOU GO

- ▶ Check the weather forecast for your destination. Plan clothing, equipment and supplies accordingly.

- ▶ If you will be using private property contact the land owner(s) for permission.
- ▶ Inquire about regulations in your area at the local land management office.
- ▶ Obtain a map of the area and carry it along with a compass or a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit.

ALLOW FOR FUTURE USE OF THE OUTDOORS, LEAVE IT BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT

- ▶ Take all your garbage out with you.
- ▶ Leave your campsite better than you found it or as if you were never there.
- ▶ Leave natural surroundings as you found them.
- ▶ Keep the area natural by leaving fallen logs, rocks, etc. where you found them.

DISCOVER THE REWARDS OF RESPONSIBLE RECREATION

- ▶ Camping provides the opportunity to get away from it all and builds family traditions.
- ▶ Help preserve the beauty and inspiring attributes of the great outdoors for yourself and generations to come by camping responsibly.
- ▶ Do all you can to protect the forest and lands that mean so much to you.

