

Roundtable Hot Topic

Outdoor Ethics

Warmer weather beckons Scouting units across the nation to head out into the great outdoors - after all, 75% of Scouting is "Outing!" As we guide and introduce Scouts of all ages to the challenges and treasures that await all of us outside our four walls, it's important to focus on instilling in our Scouts the importance of Outdoor Ethics. The rank requirements for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA and Venturers have an increased emphasis on Outdoor Ethics. A core focus of each of these programs is the BSA's Outdoor Code. It has been suggested that each Scouting unit add the Outdoor Code to either its opening or closing ceremonies. This practice will help reinforce the Outdoor Ethics Code across all the units that Scouting embraces.

"As an American I will do my best to -
Be clean in my outdoor manners
Be careful with fire
Be considerate in the outdoors
Be conservation minded"



Scouts around the world are known for our love and interaction with the outdoors. Scouts are looked at by others as the model of how to behave and how to interact with the world when there's no roof overhead. As leaders, it's our job to give the training, tools, and resources to be the example of cleanliness, consideration, and conservation - and most important of all - safety!

Here are some great resources to help engage Scouts of all ages with the principals of Outdoor Ethics:

[The Outdoor Ethics Guide](https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/outdoor-ethics-guide/) - <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/outdoor-ethics-guide/>

[Leave No Trace](https://lnt.org/) - <https://lnt.org/>

[Tread Lightly](https://treadlightly.org/) - <https://treadlightly.org/>

Scouts BSA members can earn the Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award, and Scouts and Scouters alike can earn the Outdoor Ethics Action Award. Click the link for the requirements -

<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/outdoor-ethics/awards/scouts-bsa/>

Did you know? There are new youth protection camping guidelines. Click here for the updated information: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/yp-faqs/>