



Travelling on Durable Ground

The Crean Award:

Discovery:

Patrol Activity
The Environment

Terra Nova:

Patrol Involvement
Environment

Endurance:

Patrol Activity

Polar:

Patrol Activity

SPICES

Social
Character
Spiritual

Special Interest Badges

Environmental

The Activity:

Objective:

To explore the Leave No Trace principle of travelling on durable ground

Activity Type:

Patrol Activity

Roles:

Activity Leaders



Scouter's Edition





Planning: Travelling on Durable Ground

One of the principles of Leave No Trace is to ***Travel and Camp on Durable Ground***. This activity* will help your patrol explore and understand what this can mean for you on hikes and adventures in the outdoors.

In this activity, you will make and travel through an imaginary backcountry landscape. You will imagine it is a well-used area with a developed trail and that it is a rarely used area. How will the patrol choose to travel in each situation?

Materials

- A large (approx 40cmx60cm), shallow box or container with an open top. An outdoor sandbox or similar area will also work well.
- Collect enough sand, dirt, or similar material to fill the box to a depth of about 1 inch.

- Small paper cut-outs or other objects to simulate natural features such as animals and vegetation (trees, shrubs, grasses, etc.).
- Small stones and flat rocks to simulate boulders and rocky surfaces.

Preparation

- Prepare the 'landscape' before the meeting by creating a flat, featureless layer of slightly damp sand or soil in the bottom of your box.
- Have scouts make small cutouts or bring toy objects from home to simulate natural features.

*This activity is a modified version of one produced by the Boy Scouts of America. goo.gl/oMuXTD





Do: Travelling on Durable Ground

1. Build your 'landscape'

Using the cut-outs, pebbles, rocks, and other objects, have the scouts create an outdoor world into which they will enter on an imaginary hike. Your landscape should include a "stream" or "river," "trees," a "meadow," and at least one "flat, rocky area." Mark a trail, with twists and bends around the features, across the landscape.

2. Scenario 1: On-Trail

Present the following scenario: The patrol is planning a trip through this landscape. The trail and destination are visited yearly by many hikers and campers. The goal of the group is to leave as little trace as possible while traveling from the starting point to the final destination.

Maybe have a scouter at hand to help make sure everyone understands what's involved.

Each scout should indicate the route he/she would take by letting the "fingers do the walking" in the sand. Also, have each scout identify one spot for a break along the way.

Have a short discussion:

Why did you choose the route you did? Did it protect the land and help prevent new trails from beginning?

Why are hiking trails made? Constructed trails concentrate hiker activity and help prevent the forming of informal trails—which increase the impact on vegetation and may cause soil erosion. Where should the group stop for breaks? Taking breaks off-trail can help preserve solitude for others; however, always take breaks on durable surfaces.





Do: Travelling on Durable Ground

3. Scenario 2: Off-Trail

Erase the trail from your landscape; but leave a starting point and a destination. Present the patrol with a new scenario: Imagine the group is planning a trip through an area rarely visited—it has no trail. The group's goal is to reach the end point while leaving as little evidence of its passing as possible. How should group members travel to their destination? Again, each scout should indicate a route by letting her/his "fingers do the walking" in the moist sand.

Have a short discussion:

Why did you choose the route that you did? Traveling off-trail will present scouts with difficult decisions. It is important to help people develop critical thinking skills by weighing the effects of alternative off-trail choices.

Should they spread out or walk in the same path? *Where should the group stop for breaks?* Find durable surfaces such as large rocks, sand, or gravel when stopping for breaks.

Key points with participants.

- Avoid hiking off-trail in highly sensitive areas, especially with large groups. Consider changing your travel plans.
- If hiking off-trail, spread out and travel on durable surfaces to avoid making new paths that destroy vegetation and lead to erosion.
- If hiking off-trail, don't mark your path with trail markers that may encourage others to follow. The likelihood of permanent damage increases as more people trample the same area.





Leave No Trace

Travelling on Durable Ground

- Use existing trails.
- Avoid taking shortcuts.
- Walk single file. Avoid widening trails.
- Avoid hiking off-trail in highly sensitive areas.
- If hiking off-trail, spread out and travel on durable surfaces .





Review "SPICES"

Social

- Relationships
- Communication Skills
- Other Cultures
- Community Involvement
- Promise & Law

Physical

- Eat Well
- Personal Hygiene
- Balanced Lifestyle
- How Body works
- Physical Limitations
- Health Choices
- Access Help

Intellectual

- Achieving Goals
- New Ideas/Creativity
- Learn from Decisions
- Team Member

Character

- Promise & Law
- Friends & Friendships
- Plan before do
- Ensuring Fairness
- Respect
- Differences & Views
- Following Dreams
- Live the Scouting Spirit

Emotional

- Aware of feelings
- Asking/Giving Help
- Responsibility for Emotions
- Controlling Emotions
- Going Further
- Beliefs & Values
- Developing Talents

Spiritual

- Promise & Law
- Impact on Environment
- Reflection
- Changing Beliefs





Review

Leave No Trace

Did the activity help understand this part of LNT?

Will you think about these things planning your next hike?

Activity

What worked well in this activity?

What could have gone better?

Next Step?

How can your patrol implement these ideas on our activities?

What else can we do to explore these ideas?





Scouter Notes

Review this activity can involve two parts. The first is reviewing the activity itself. While dealing with abstract ideas, it tried to do so in a very practical, and hopefully, fun way!

Have a quick discussion about it:

How did it go? What worked? What could have gone better? Did everyone get involved?

The second looks at the areas of **SPICES** that may have been touched on during the activity. Firstly, from the **Character** area this helps scouts to think carefully about the activity. By imagining their route and potential implications, they can better plan hikes and activities. Also, by following the principles of Leave No Trace, the scouts are living the scouting spirit in a very practical and applied way. Maybe they can make the link between the two?

Secondly, this activity directly relates to the **Spiritual** learning objectives about ensuring you have a positive impact on the environment. Scouts will have to assess even how their moving through an area may have a negative impact on the landscape, vegetation and wildlife. They will also have to plan to ensure they make a positive impact in the future.

Also, it would be helpful to print out page five as a poster to remind scouts about what they learned during the activity. It may also be occasionally necessary to gently remind them of these ideas when they are planning activities.

