

# Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace

We might be distancing ourselves from people, but there are many suggestions to get outside! Why not work on your scouting skills while we are home with our families! To simply break the monotony, go for a walk, whether in your neighborhood or in nature. While you are outside you can talk with your kids about the outdoor code and leave no trace principles for kids. Also, by teaching these skills to your young children, you begin to build a child who will be conservation minded throughout their life.

So what is The Outdoor Code? What is leave no trace?

*The Scouts, BSA Outdoor Code states: As an American, I will do my best to Be Clean in my outdoor manners, be careful with fire, be considerate in the outdoors and be conservation minded.*

Now those are some big words for little brains but you just have to give them examples that tie back to their own live. You could talk about being careful with fire when you remind them of the fire at their cub scout campout or even just the birthday candles on their last cake. Kids can be reminded of being clean with their outdoor manners but making sure they take all of the trash that they create and even picking up other's trash.

As for the leave no trace principles for kids-a simple way to sum it up is this, *"Take only pictures, leave only footprints"*.

Kids love to collect things from the woods. Rocks, sticks and any other treasure that they find interesting. How many of us have done the laundry only to find a few treasured rocks in pair of small pants? While this is fun and interesting, we need to encourage kids to enjoy nature where it is, but to leave it where it lies. This allows the other smaller animals such as bugs and worms to keep their habitats in place. However, arm your kids with a camera and see what they decide to take pictures of, then look back through them together.

However you choose to get outside, remember leave no trace and the outdoor code.

