

# Leave No Trace

## Wild Beauty on the LAKE SUPERIOR Shore

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Over 10,000 people visit the Lakeshore backcountry every year. Minimizing our impacts on the park will help keep it in the unspoiled condition we seek. The Leave No Trace Principles of outdoor ethics will help you reduce your effect on the park and fellow visitors. The principles form the framework of Leave No Trace's message:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

### Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups. Split larger parties into groups of 4-6. (Lakeshore regulations specify 6 maximum for each backcountry site.)
- Repackage food to minimize waste. Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.

### Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.
- Good campsites are found, not made. (Lakeshore regulations require you to camp in designated campsites.)
- Altering a site is not necessary. In popular areas: Concentrate use on existing trails and camp sites. Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
- Keep campsites small. Focus activity in

areas where vegetation is absent.

- In pristine areas: Disperse use to prevent the creation of camp sites and trails.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

### Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods.
- Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished. (Use backcountry toilets where available)



- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

### Leave What You Find

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting nonnative species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

## Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires. (In the Lakeshore, use fire rings provided.)
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out camp fires completely, then scatter cool ashes.



## Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely. (You are required to store food on backcountry food poles.)
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home. (Pets are not permitted in the Lakeshore backcountry)
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

## Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock. (Note: pack stock are not permitted within the lakeshore.)

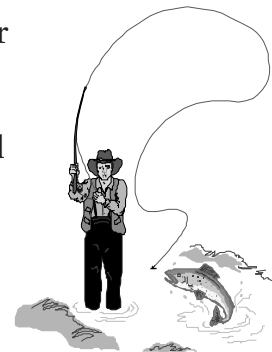
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

## A Few Things To Consider:

- Make a checklist before you pack for the trip. Do you have every thing?
- Keep a personal journal of your trip.
- Leave all music devices at home.
- Step off the trail, pause for a moment or sit down for a few minutes and let the natural sound of the Lakeshore seep into you.



- Draw a sketch of a portion of your trip.
- Leave your pet at home.
- Write a story or poem of your trip.
- If you fish, practice catch and release.



Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore  
N8391 Sand Point Road  
P.O. Box 40  
Munising, MI 49862  
906-387-3700  
[www.nps.gov/piro](http://www.nps.gov/piro)  
Int.org

