NOAC 2024

CU Boulder

SEEK NEW HEIGHTS

Outdoor Ethics, Conservation, and Order of the Arrow

Learning Objectives

1. Knowledge of the BSA Outdoor Ethics program which includes the Outdoor Code, Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly! and the Land Ethic.

2. Knowledge of the BSA Conservation program including the DCSA.

3. Understood the importance of outdoor ethics in outdoor activities.

Goals

- The goal of this BSA Outdoor Ethics presentation is to:
  - Reaffirm the concept of Outdoor Ethics
  - How these skills and activities apply for the Order of the Arrow.

- As the servant leaders of Scouting, our Arrowmen can:
  - Teach youth and adults at all program levels
  - Understand how we can care for the land
  - Be better stewards of our camps and the properties we use for all activities

Big Footprint

- IMPACTS
- IMPACTS
- IMPACTS

Vegetation Impacts

- Vegetation loss
- Spread of non-native species
- Tree damage

Soil Impacts

- Soil compaction
- Soil erosion
- Loss of organic litter

Wildlife Impacts

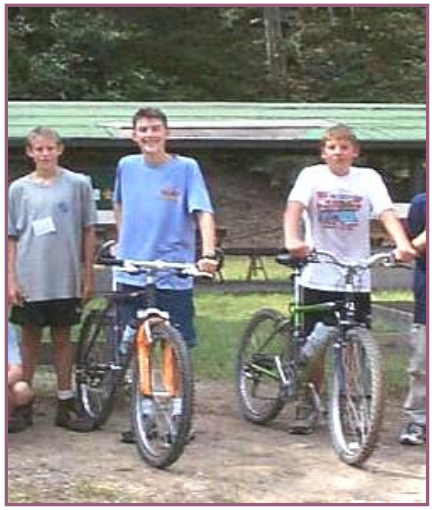
- Disturbance of wildlife
- Altered behavior
- Reduced health & reproduction

Campfire Impacts

- Sterilize Soil
- Fire Stains & Nubbins
- Ecosystem Zapper
- Universal Garbage Can

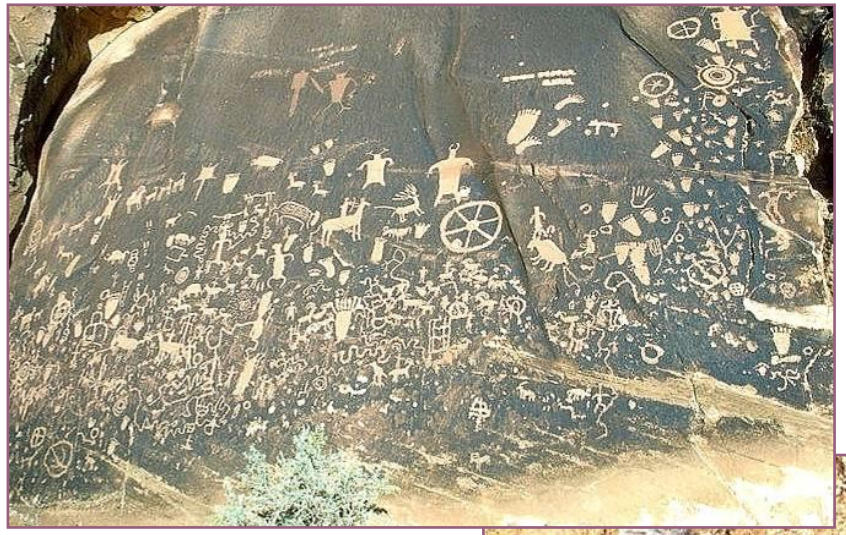
Social Impacts

- Crowding
- Conflicts
- Noise



Cultural and Historic Impacts

- Theft of artifacts
- Damage to historic structures
- Damage to cultural features



Public Perception

- Common perceptions by Federal land management agencies about BSA units on federal land:

- *Scouts out of control*
- *Too much noise*
- *Group sizes too big*
- *Camping skills badly out of date*
- *Inappropriate play damages the backcountry*
- *Don't keep appointments to do service work*
- *Completely soak up popular campsites or shelters*
- *Unskilled campers using areas that call for expert skills*
- *Using inappropriate areas (hi-use, fragile) to train new campers*

“Elephant in the Woods”

- The BSA is the elephant in the woods.
- **Can Arrowmen help reduce these impacts?**

- PC: The Elephant Sanctuary of TN

Our Native American Connection

"Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents –it was loaned to you by your children."

Native American proverb

Wise Words from Meteu

"You who love the haunts of nature,

love the moonlight on the water,

love the sunshine on the meadow,

love the shadow of the forest,

love the wind among the branches ever murmuring, ever sighing,

love the rushing of great rivers…"

Scouting’s National Honor Society

As Scouting’s National Honor Society, our purpose is to:

- *Recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and through that recognition cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition.*
- **Promote camping, responsible outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship as essential components of every Scout’s experience, in the unit, year-round, and in summer camp.**
- *Develop leaders with the willingness, character, spirit and ability to advance the activities of their units, our Brotherhood, Scouting, and ultimately our nation.*
- *Crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.*

What is an Ethic?

- What does ethics mean?
- How can we become a more ethical person?

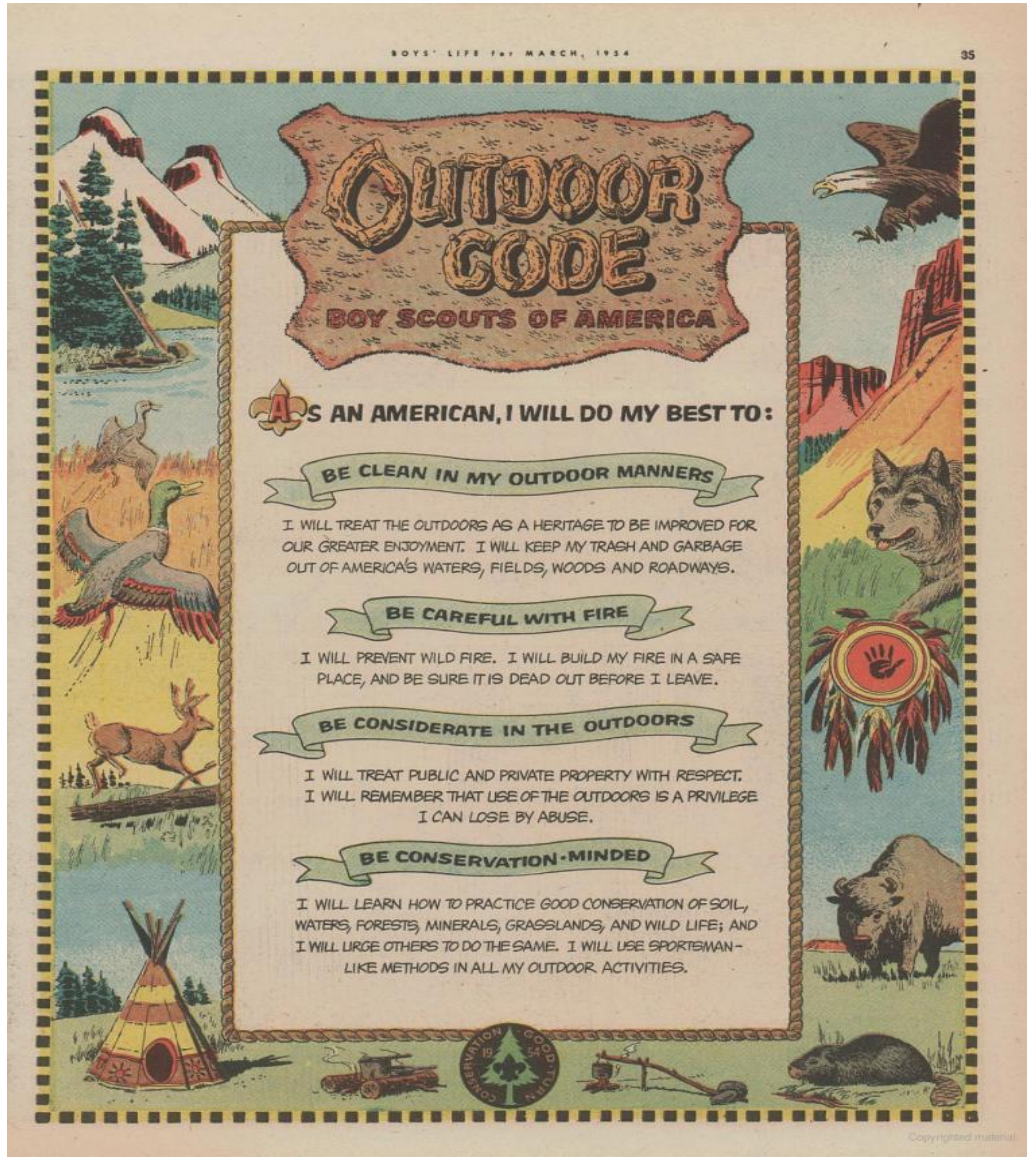
So What is an Ethic?

- The Obligation
- The Admonition

The Outdoor Code

- An Ethic for scouts for 70 years!

- 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



BSA Outdoor Ethics Program

This program exemplifies

“Self Reliance and Service”

Have been a hallmark of the Aims and Methods of Scouting and the Order of the Arrow.

Outdoor Ethics Components

LEAVE NO TRACE	Leave No Trace	Primary Set of Principles
tread lightly!.org	TREAD Lightly!	Primary Set of Principles for Mechanized Activities
A Sand County ALMANAC AND SKETCHES HERE AND THERE By ALDO LEOPOLD	The Land Ethic	Spirit of Conservation and Environmental Stewardship

LEAVE NO TRACE

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- TREAD Lightly! focuses on people that use or are affected by motorized and mechanized vehicles

- https://www.treadlightly.org/

- **T**ravel responsibly
  - Stay on designated roads, trails and areas.
  - Cross streams only at designated fords
- **R**espect the rights of others
  - Yield the right of way to those passing you
- **E**ducate yourself
  - Use maps and regulations from public agencies
- **A**void sensitive areas
  - Stay on designated routes, avoid meadows & wetlands
- **D**o your part
  - Model appropriate behavior, dispose of trash responsibly
  - Minimize the use of fires
  - Repair degraded areas

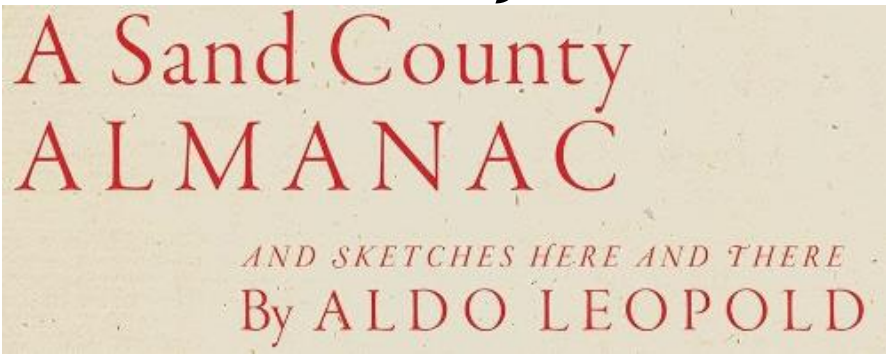
Why TREAD Lightly!

- BSA Motorized Sports Programs
  - Motorboating
  - Snowmobiles
  - ATV's

- TREAD Lightly! can help us implement these programs in a safe and ethical manner

The Land Ethic

- The Land Ethic is offered by Aldo Leopold in 1949 in *A Sand County Almanac*.



- He reflected on the interaction with man and the land.

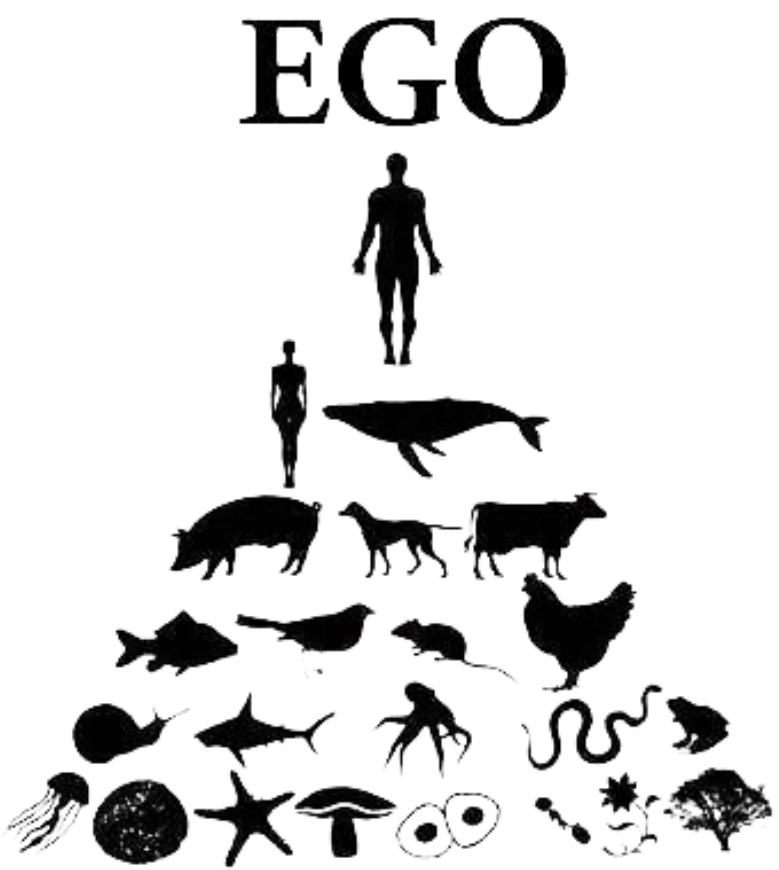
- "The Land Ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the new community which includes soils, waters, plants and animals, or collectively referred to as, **the LAND.**"

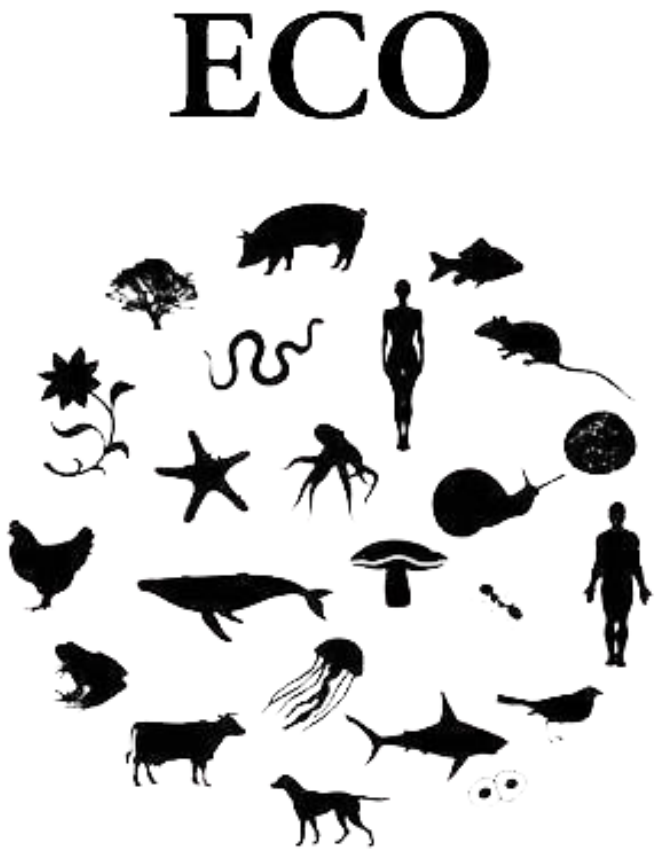
The Land Ethic

- The Land Ethic grows strongest when we have:
  - Experienced the LAND
  - Grown to love and respect it
  - Have labored to enhance or restore it
  - As Leopold would have put it, when we have practiced "conservation" defined as restoring the capacity of the Land for self-renewal.

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

The Land Ethic





Outdoor Ethics Awards

- Awareness Award
  - An introduction to some of the key concept of Outdoor Ethics
- Action Award
  - Take your interest to the next level!
- https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/outdoor-ethics/awards/scouts-bsa/

Distinguished Conservation Service Award (DCSA)

- Replaced the Hornaday Medal program in 2021
- Youth Award
  - Distinguished Conservation Service Award
- Adult Award
  - Distinguished Conservationist
- Organization Award
  - DCSA Certificate

Distinguished Conservation Service Award (DCSA)

- DCSA Youth
- Available to Scouts BSA, Venturing, & Sea Scouts
- *Numerous requirements including 2 high level conservation projects that have been approved by your Council Conservation Committee*

- Distinguished Conservationist (Adult)
- *Available to any adult who has contributed at least 20 years of conservation based work at the regional, national, or international level.*

DCSA

- Recognition for those who earn this award includes a knot and a medal.
- Youth medal can be pinned to shirt.
- Adult medal on a ribbon to be worn around the neck.

BSA Outdoor Ethics Training Continuum

- Awareness Workshop
- BSA Outdoor Ethics Orientation
- Leave No Trace Basics
- Leave No Trace Level 1 Course
- Leave No Trace Level 2 Course

BSA Outdoor Ethics Training Continuum

- Tread Trainer Course
- Master Tread Trainer Course

How Does This Apply To Our Use Of Our camps?

As we set up our ceremonial sites, what are our key concerns?

- Location of our candles and torches?
- Where we will find the wood we need for the fire lay?
- Is the fire ring large enough?

- *ARE THESE THE RIGHT QUESTIONS?*

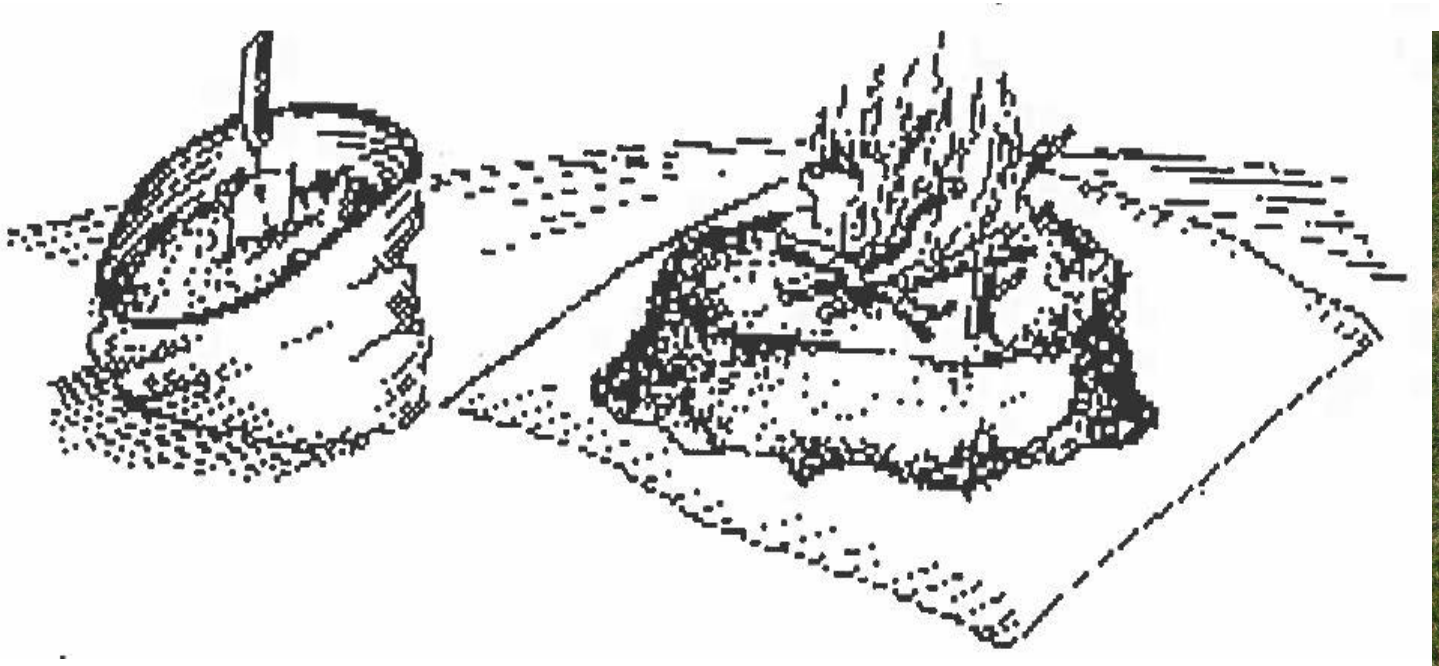
Our Camp Use

- Today, let's talk about Campfire Impacts.
- We should always use existing fire rings (if available).

Pan Fire

- Could this work?

Mound Fire



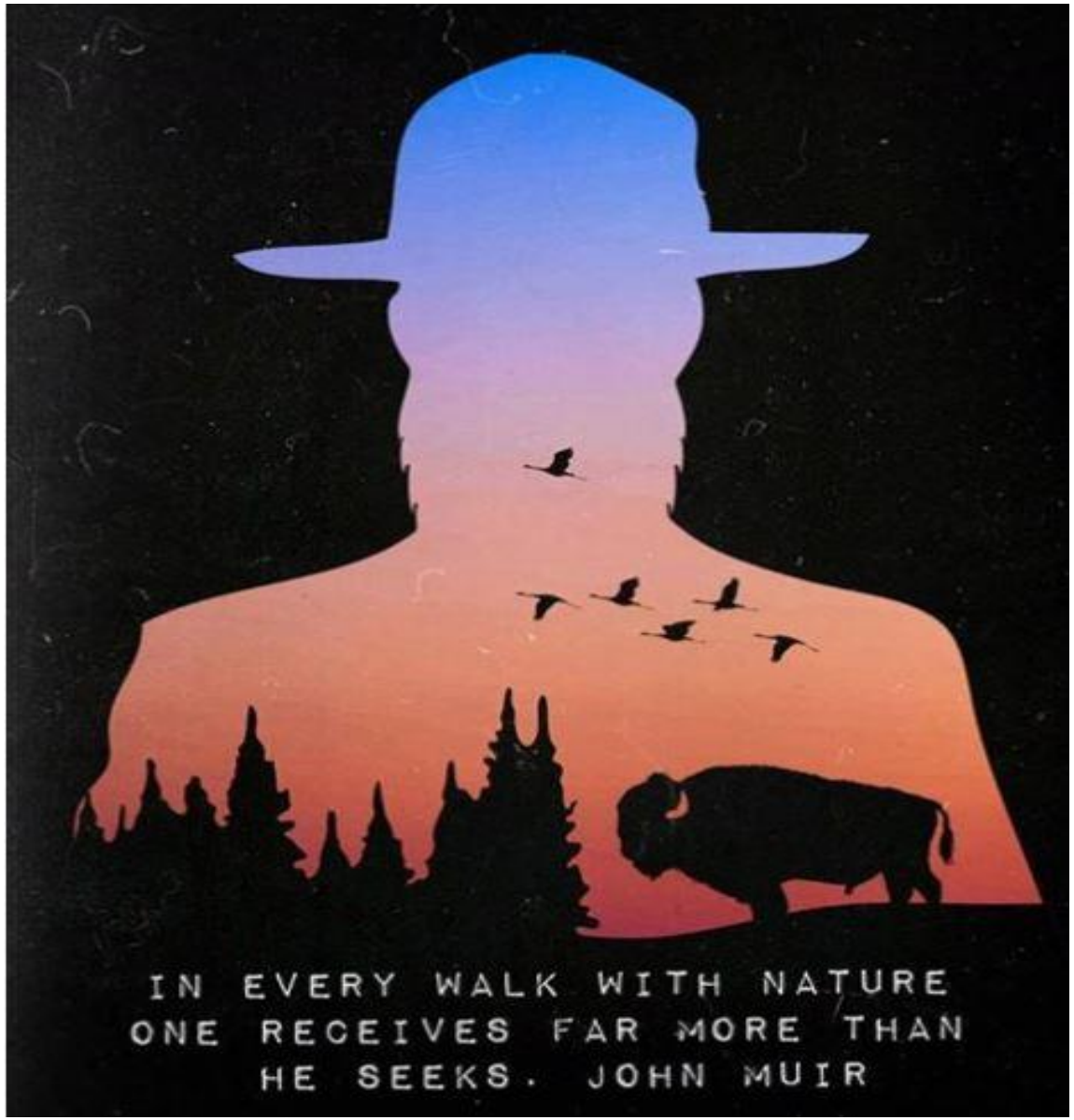
Mound Fire

- Innovative method of building a Leave No Trace fire
- Items needed
  - A garden trowel
  - Large stuff sack
  - A ground cloth/tarp

- Lay the tarp out
- Turn the stuff sack inside out
- Fill with mineral soil
- Spread the soil into a mound 4 to 6 inches high
- Flatten the top and build your fire

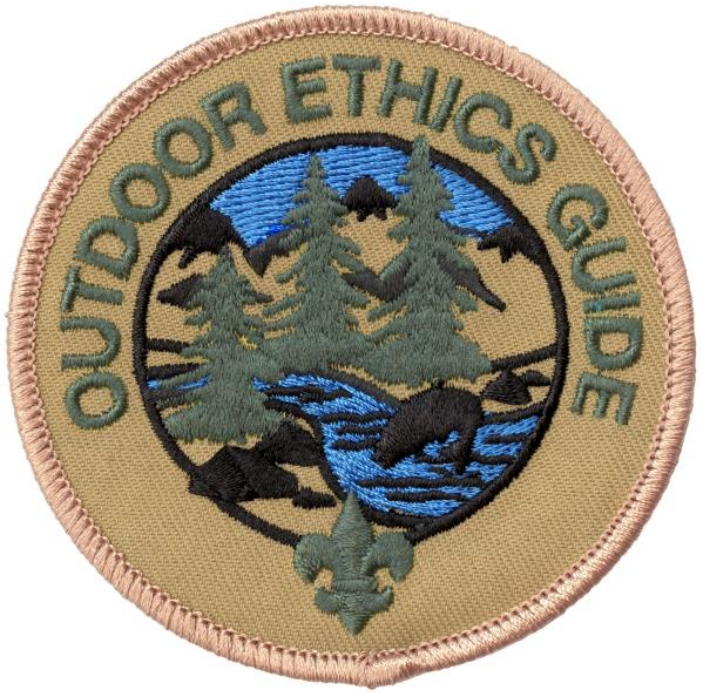
Ceremonial Pan Fire

- The use of fire as a visual aid doesn't mean you need to leave a trace.
- We can do both!


IN EVERY WALK WITH NATURE
ONE RECEIVES FAR MORE THAN
HE SEEKS. JOHN MUIR

Our Role

- The OA should be setting the example in Outdoor Ethics and Environmental Stewardship
- OA Members should be Outdoor Ethics Guides.
- The OA should bring the Outdoor Ethics message and training to our units, our summer camps and practiced wherever we camp.



Our Role

- Scouting principles promote responsible use of natural and human resources such as:
  - forests
  - water
  - land
  - outdoor ethics
  - good stewardship of BSA lands for today and tomorrow

We have an obligation to plan for the future when it comes to our properties.

Our Role

- Integrating Conservation Projects
  - Improve camp trails
  - Enhance program offerings at camp
  - Distinguished Conservation Service Award projects can happen on BSA properties

Our Role

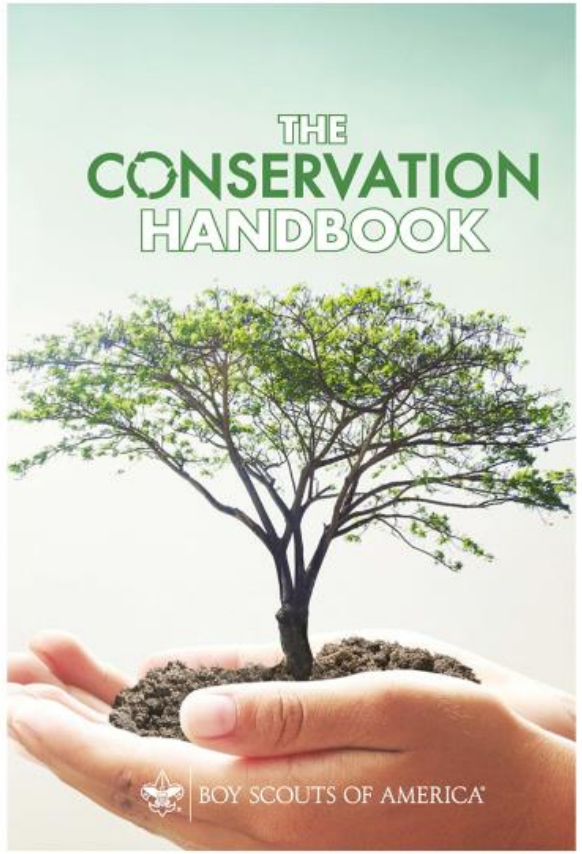
- Training Youth and Adults

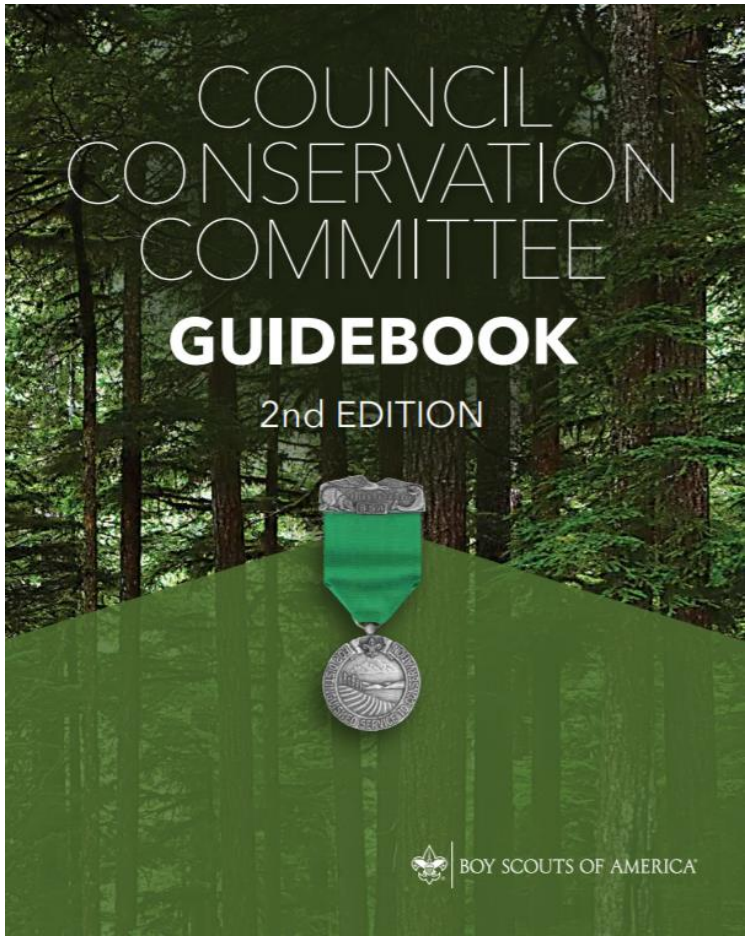
- A good forest management plan includes not only taking care of the forest but also training those who are going to help maintain it.

Our Role

- Improving the experience of young people by giving back to camp through service

Resources For Success





What Can We Do?

- Learn More about Outdoor Ethics!
- Train OA Members in Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly
- Promote Outdoor Ethics Awareness
  - Roundtables, camporees, etc.

New Initiative!

- Scouting for Clean Waterways!
- In celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Conservation Good Turn for America.
- One of Scouting America's SDGs!

What Can We Do?

- Provide Outdoor Ethics Training to Units
- Encourage Conservation Projects
- Support the Outdoor Ethics and Conservation Programs at Summer Camp and OA High Adventure
- What Else?

References and Resources

Publications:

- *101 Ways to Teach Leave No Trace* (www.lnt.org)
- Leave No Trace "PEAK Packs" (www.lnt.org)
- *Leave No Trace in the Outdoors* by Jeff Marion (www.lnt.org)
- Quotes from various Boys' Life magazine articles (http://boyslife.org/)
- TREAD Lightly video series (www.treadlightly.org)
- *Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold (www.lnt.org)
- *Soft Paths* (www.lnt.org)
- Leave No Trace pamphlet Series (www.lnt.org)
- TREAD Lightly! pamphlet Series (www.treadlightly.org)
- National Parks LNT DVD (www.nps.gov)
- OE Guide Handbook (http://www.scouting.org/Home/OutdoorEthicsGuide.aspx)
- BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award Toolbox for Council Conservation Committees (Scouting.org)
- Council Conservation Committee Guidebook (2nd Ed)
- The Conservation Handbook

Web sites:

- LNT.org - The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics
- treadlightly.org - Tread Lightly!
- www.aldoleopold.org - The Aldo Leopold Foundation
- http://www.outdoorethics-bsa.org/ - BSA Outdoor Ethics Program
- https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/outdoor-ethics -National site for BSA Outdoor Ethics
- https://www.scouting.org

Questions?

SCOUTING AMERICA
OUTDOOR ETHICS

SCOUTING AMERICA
OUTDOOR ETHICS & CONSERVATION

SCOUTING AMERICA
CONSERVATION

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Thank You!

Takeaway Challenge

Develop new ways to integrate Outdoor Ethics & Conservation into Order of the Arrow programs back home!