



Minimum Impact Camping Post-visit

Classroom Activities

Brief Synopsis

The Minimum Impact Camping class at Eagle Bluff instructs students on the ways to minimize harm to the natural world while camping. Students will continue developing this philosophy by researching a place to go camping and picking up litter in their community.

Ages: Designed for 6th grade or older

Time Considerations: One fifty minute class period per activity plus a homework assignment.

Materials:

- Scavenger hunt sheets for each student

Outcomes:

- Students will research a place to go camping and summarize how they would reduce human impacts while camping.
- Students will practice the “Leave No Trace” philosophy by participating in a litter collection survey.

Minnesota Academic Standards:

Language Arts: I.A-C, II.A-E, III.A-B

Social Studies: K-3 V.A-C, 4-8 V.B-D

Backpacker Magazine’s website and online resources:
<http://www.backpacker.com>

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources camping site; contains links to state parks, state forests, and waterways. <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/camping/index.html>

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources list of state parks and state forests: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/findapark.html>

Iowa Department of Natural Resources camping page:
<http://www.iowadnr.gov/parks/camping/index.html>

United States Department of the Interior National Parks page: <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/index.htm>

The National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds web page; the “Kids Pages” section provides additional activities. <http://www.gocampingamerica.com>

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Set-up

Not every student may have the opportunity or desire to go camping. Many of the lessons taught during the Minimum Impact Camping class can be reinforced upon their return without actually camping.

Activity 1: Plan Ahead

Background: Students research a place to go camping and identify ways that they would minimize their impacts while camping.

Procedures:

1. Make class time available to research places to go camping; a list of websites is listed in the left column.
2. A summary of the “Leave No Trace” principles can be found at <http://www.lnt.org> for inclusion into their report.
3. Students can share their report with the class if time allows.

Activity 2: Leave No Trace Scavenger Hunt

Background: During the Minimum Impact Camping Class at Eagle Bluff the students were taught to “leave no trace” when cleaning up their campsite. This principle can be applied to many situations (both indoor and outdoor). While traveling to and from school, home, or during a search of the school grounds, students will attempt to “collect” as many traces of human carelessness as they can in an attempt to restore the natural beauty of their surroundings. Before recycling or properly disposing of their litter, the students will record what they found by groups (see additional page). Back in the classroom points will be awarded based on the frequency of items found. This activity is loosely based upon the scavenger hunt activity from the www.gocampingamerica.com kids pages.

Procedures:

1. Print off copies of the scavenger hunt page located in the appendix.
2. Allow class time to gather litter or assign as a homework project.
3. Instruct students to keep track of the quantities of litter collected and then to properly dispose or recycle what they find.
4. If litter is found that is not listed on the page add the litter and quantity in the blank rows.
5. As a class list all the litter found and rank them by quantity.
6. As a class assign a point value for each type of litter. The litter that was found the most will be worth one point. The litter that was found the least will be assigned the most, i.e. if 30 different kinds of litter were found the litter that was found the least would be worth 30 points.
7. Students then multiple their litter quantities by the class point values and total their litter points.



Leave No Trace Scavenger Hunt



Do Not pick up used chewing gum, needles, broken glass, or cigarette butts!

Things to find	Quantity	Multiplied by Point Value	Total
<i>Sample Litter</i>	5	X 7	35
Aluminum cans			
Aluminum wrappers			
Bottle caps/tops			
Cardboard			
Fast food wrappers			
Paper			
Paper bags			
Plastic bags			
Plastic bottles			
Plastic straws			
Plastic wrapper			
Soda fountain cups			
Gum/candy wrappers			
Ads/junkmail			
Newspaper			
Coffee cups			
Glass bottles (unbroken)			

Additional Items