

# DOCUMENTING NATURE WITHOUT damaging it!

Our friends at Leave No Trace have put together the principles below to follow while you're out snapping photos and capturing audio clips. This will help you enjoy the nature around you with minimal impact to the ecosystem.

- ▶ **Plan Ahead and Prepare:** Know the rules, access rights and specifics of the area you're visiting. Package any snacks, drinks, etc. in reusable containers to minimize waste.
- ▶ **Travel on Durable Surfaces:** Stay on the trail to avoid trampling plants and insects, breaking branches or compacting the soil.
- ▶ **Dispose of Waste Properly:** Take all of your garbage home. That includes apple cores and other organic waste, which can take a long time to break down and might introduce non-native plants to an ecosystem. Better still, bring a bag with you, gather up any trash you find and leave the area looking better than when you arrived!
- ▶ **Leave What You Find:** Leave the flowers, berries, etc. where you found them so that everyone, including the species that depend on them, can enjoy them.
- ▶ **Respect Wildlife:** Protect wild creatures by keeping your distance (and keeping your dog on a leash if you're bringing it along). Use your camera's zoom function to get the perfect shot without causing any stress to your photo subject. Once you've got your shot, move along quickly so the creature can get back to its business.
- ▶ **Share your snacks with your friends, not with wildlife.** Your food can harm wildlife and teach them to become dependent on humans.
- ▶ **Be Considerate of Others:** Be a good guest. Park in designated spots only and respect private property and any trail closures.



Photos (clockwise): Group On Hike by Laura Robson;  
People At Gould Lake by Danielle Goodvin; Volunteer Takes Photo by NCC