

# 13 Ways to Minimize the Impacts of Camping & Other Outdoor Activities

Many people like to go camping and also enjoy other outdoor activities such as fishing and biking. When you are out doing these activities though, it is a great idea to also think of how you are affecting the earth while you are enjoying yourself.

## The GREEN Policy: 13 Ways to Minimize Your Impact

When you are camping or doing other activities outdoors, you want to make sure you are not making it worse for others. By making sure you do these important things to reduce your waste, you will not only be helping others to enjoy their future outdoor activities, but also helping to keep the earth healthy.



### 1

#### Try Other Alternatives to a Campfire

If you do build a fire, be smart. Fires in the woods can not only be dangerous, but can also leave behind charcoal marks or black rocks.



### 2

#### Respect the Creatures Around You

Backpacking stoves use different kinds of gas such as butane, alcohol, white gas, or propane as fuel. These fuels will not leave any trace behind.



### 3

#### Dispose of Waste Properly

To ensure that you do not create any future problems, you will want to make sure you do not feed the animals.



### 4

#### Leave What You Find

When you do things such as wash your dishes, or use biodegradable soap, traces of the chemicals that are in these products can leech their way into the natural water supply. You should also use as small amount as possible when you bathe or wash dishes.



### 5

#### Plan Ahead

Nature is a very balanced place. If you are hiking or camping, you should make sure to stay on whatever path, or designated area, so you will not disturb the wilderness around you. Also, do not take anything from the area such as plants, rocks, or other natural objects



### 6

#### Use Existing Campsites

If you are going camping, and you are either going to a campground, or into the woods, you need to plan ahead. By planning ahead you can research the campground or area you will be staying at to see what kinds of rules they have.

Campgrounds have rules in place to help protect the environment, and by following the rules you will be making sure to keep the surrounding area beautiful and safe for future campers.



### 7

#### Bring Only What You Need

By using campsites that other people have used, you make sure to protect the existing and wildlife around you. Also, you will find that using an already existing campground has many benefits. Campgrounds that have been used before usually already have a fire pit or other area where you can start a fire.



### 8

#### Reuse, Reduce, Recycle!

Whatever outdoor activity you are planning, it is always smart to think about using reusable items for all of your needs.



### 9

#### Be a Responsible Hiker

Pick up your wrappers, make sure to use a small gas stove, if you do have human waste, make sure to bury it (you're not the only one on the trail). Also, pack light so you don't feel the need to expel gear along the way.



### 10

#### Watch Your Emissions

If you are going boating or fishing, it is a good idea to take a kayak or row boat instead of a motor boat. These options help you keep the environment safe by making sure your emissions don't poison the local waters.



### 11

#### Make Sure Equipment is Eco Friendly

The canoeing and kayaking gear of the past was made using PVC, which is a chemical that can degrade quickly and harm the environment. Instead of buying gear and equipment that are made with PVC, you can buy your items that are made of eco safe materials.



### 12

#### Picnic Responsibly

You can make sure you bring only the food you are going to eat. Also, make sure you bring reusable plastic silverware, and a trash bag, so you can clean up the mess around you.



### 13

#### Climb Responsibly

Climbing is all about preservation. It's important to preserve the crags and rocks so that future climbers can use them safely and effectively. Generally, you should keep in mind that you shouldn't alter the rocks while you're passing through.



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