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Welcome

to Leave No Trace Ireland's Eighth Newsletter...

Within the last 6 months Leave No Trace Ireland has:

- Distributed 2 e-newsletters
- Established a Leave No Trace Training Centre
- Held a Network meeting (Nov 2010)
- Held 2 Board of Directors' meetings (Nov 2010 & Feb 2011)
- Held an Education Advisory Group meeting (March 2011)
- Secured 2 new partners
- Organised the next Master Educator Course (June 2011)
- Secured €25,000 from the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs to develop a Leave No Trace National Curriculum Pack for Schools
- Produced and distributed the 2010 Annual Report
- Produced a Work Plan for 2011
- Re designed and reprinted 10,000 copies of the Leave No Trace Information Booklet



Funding Secured for School Packs

*An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe
agus Gaeltachta
Department of Community, Rural
and Gaeltacht Affairs*

Since the launch of Leave No Trace Ireland, 4 years ago, the organisation has achieved significant results in creating an awareness of the message of Leave No Trace.

However, an area which requires greater work is engaging with younger children through their academic studies. Feedback from Leave No Trace Ireland's partners and trainers has suggested the need to engage more with school children to make them aware of the message of Leave No Trace.

To facilitate reaching a younger audience, Leave No Trace Ireland has now secured funding from the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs to develop a Leave No Trace National Curriculum Pack for Schools. Ideally this pack will be sent to all schools in the Republic of Ireland and will contain items specifically tailored to children - a DVD, teaching manual and downloadable resources - photo cards, worksheets, puzzles, ethics cards, quizzes etc.

Leave No Trace Ireland's Education Advisory Group is currently considering the contents of the pack before any copywriting or design work starts.



'Dealing with fires' Workshop

As part of its last network meeting, Leave No Trace Ireland held a workshop on the application of Leave No Trace in relation to fires and how different organisations approach it. Despite a lower than expected attendance, the day was very successful and fuelled much discussion on the issue of fires and the environment.



The first speaker of the day was Alan Horner from the Irish Sea Kayaking Association (ISKA). Alan introduced how its ISKA members are encouraged to have an appreciation of the environment in which they operate and create as low an impact to that environment as possible. In doing this, the ISKA has embraced Leave No Trace as

part of its guidelines for good environmental practice. Alan then shared how sea kayakers can have a low impact when camping and described best practice guidelines for lighting fires in coastal areas and off-shore Islands. Alan also reported that although disheartened that no ISKA members had taken up the opportunity to attend a Leave No Trace Awareness Session, the ISKA Committee is committed to finding new ways to deliver the environmental message of Leave No Trace.

Colm Kavanagh from Scouting Ireland discussed the practices and techniques that have been used by Scouting Ireland over the past years to build fires. Colm explained that the main reason why Scouts build fires is to cook their food, so with this in mind he

talked the group through the use of cleared ground fire places, altar fires, tin can stoves and stoves used for wild camping and mountain trekking, as well as which ones work best in which conditions.

From an upland perspective, Helen Lawless from Mountaineering Ireland spoke about how vulnerable upland areas are to fires. Her presentation covered the causes of fires, the impacts of fire associated with upland fires and the costs.

The workshop finished with a demonstration from Master Educator Vincent McAlinden on how to build a mound fire.

Education Advisory Group

The Leave No Trace Ireland Education Advisory Group (EAG) was formally constituted in the summer of 2010. Its purpose is to advise the Board of Leave No Trace Ireland on the effective delivery of the Leave No Trace message, to contribute to the social and environmental knowledge base that underpins the Leave No Trace programme in Ireland and to generate educational resources for use on Leave No Trace training courses and awareness sessions.

The EAG's current work programme includes:

- Editing the Irish version of the '101 ways to teach Leave No Trace'. This is nearing completion and a completed PDF version will be available from summer 2011.
- Creating content for a Leave No Trace Ireland Trainers' Manual. After reaching consensus that a manual was needed to help Trainers organise and run good quality courses, the EAG has started work on creating this manual. The next EAG meeting will task volunteers with preparing the content.
- Compiling and issuing a tender for the creation of a teaching resource aimed at primary school children. An initial round of meetings with educators and primary school teachers considered 'how do you produce an enticing resource that is user friendly, is linked to the curriculum and can be delivered within budget?'
- Helping coordinate the 3rd Leave No Trace Ireland Masters' Educator Course, which will be held in Wicklow from 20th - 24th June 2011 and delivered by Ben Lawhon (Education Director of Leave No Trace America). The course is already full.

The majority of activity within the EAG is carried out by volunteers whom Leave No Trace Ireland would like to thank for all their hard work and time. For further notes on the EAG's first meeting in September 2010, please visit the public section of the forum on www.leavenotraceireland.org.

Training

Awareness Session Reports



Scout Centre, Lough Dan, Co. Wicklow

Report 1

Course Facilitators: Helen Lawless, Ruairí O Conchúir, David Lawton, Mealla Barry
Venue: Scout Centre, Lough Dan, Co. Wicklow

Date: 28th August 2010

Course Participants: Scout Leaders participating in a weekend to introduce a new hill walking skills programme to scouting.

Number of Participants: 28

Following a brief introduction the group was shown the new Leave No Trace Ireland DVD which generated a positive response. The participants were then divided into 4 groups which rotated around 4 bases in order to engage in activities to explore the different Leave No Trace principles. In response to concerns raised by the organisers of the session the practical sessions focused on:

- Leave No Trace Ethics
- Respect Farm Animals and Wildlife
- Travel and Camp on Durable Ground
- Dispose of Waste Properly

In the 'Travel and Camp on Durable Ground' base, laminated photographs of various surfaces used for walking and camping proved very useful especially in stimulating discussion and demonstrating the erosion on the hills from walking activities.

Within the 'Dispose of Waste Properly' base, participants tried to work out how long various common litters took to decompose using pictures on laminated card. Pictures of biodegradable items such as fruit skins were included - interestingly each group approached this task in a different manner

with all groups engaging in some interesting discussion. This activity was chosen because it would translate well if used with youth members of the organisation.

Following this, the management of micturition (going to the toilet!) was discussed. As most of the participants had been introduced to cat holes over the previous year and provided with spades, the 'Wag Bag' was introduced. This issue ended with each participant being provided with a laminated picture of a landscape e.g. Alpine, Forest, Bog, Beach and the questioned how they would best defecate in that landscape. Feedback from the participants to the organisers was that it was particularly refreshing to see the topic of human waste being tackled head on and not skirted around as it has been so often.

The 'Respect Farm Animals and Wildlife' base consisted of a session being delivered in 2 parts with the first part demonstrating the interconnection of all living organisms in an ecosystem through the Food Web game (available on www.leavenotraceireland.org).

The second part of the session was carried out using a role play activity called Animal Lives (available from www.leavenotraceireland.org). This very useful activity for young people raised their awareness of the impact of their activities in the outdoors.

The Leave No Trace Ethics base was situated at the edge of Lough Dan under a very large oak tree. The participants were first asked to outline their understanding of an ethics-based approach to something. The history and background of Leave No Trace was then reviewed.

Group members then collectively made a rope map of Ireland and individuals stood in their favourite place in Ireland, outlining why they had chosen the location and their preferred outdoor activity at this location. A discussion followed on competing recreational activities impacts on a shared resource base and pressures in certain 'honey pots' around Ireland. Finally, all participants acted out various roles from an ethics card game of activities, unbeknownst to their fellow group members. The activities included camping on a trail, quad biking, cutting timber from a tree for firewood and a farmer herding his sheep. Considerable discussion and debate on the ethics based approach of Leave No Trace was generated by this activity.

A question and answer session followed afterwards which re-enforced the importance of the 'Plan Ahead and Prepare'

principle. Alternatives to campfires were also discussed and shown. As a closing activity each participant was asked to identify 1 point from the session that struck them as interesting or useful and to state 1 thing they would do to practise Leave No Trace.

The organisers of the session provided feedback indicating that the response from participants was extremely positive. It is likely that the participants benefited from having exposure to 4 different trainers.

Report 2

Course Facilitator: Barry Murphy

Venue: Bagenalstown Scouts premises, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow

Date: 22nd November 2010

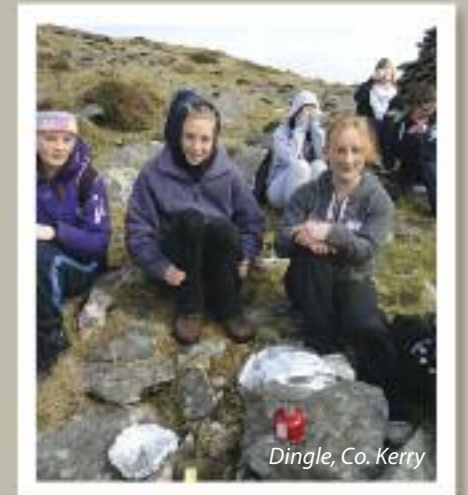
Course Participants: Scouting Leaders, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

Number of Participants: 80

The first group going through an awareness session consisted of 30 Beavers, aged from 4 - 8 yrs old. The group was brought outside to demonstrate the principle "Leave What You Find". To do this, a hard plastic box containing treats was used, with fewer items in the box than there were children present each child was asked to take only one item from the container. The last 6 children reaching the box had nothing left for them to take! The lesson stressed that if one flower is pulled or one rock is removed from a megalithic tomb, then there will be nothing left for future visitors. This exercise doubled up to represent the 'Dispose of Waste Properly' principle, by observing and highlighting if any of the children dropped their wrappers on the ground.

For the 40 Cubs and Scouts, aged from 8 - 15yrs, their highlight was demonstrating how to make a camp fire without scorching the ground. Using a fire blanket, a 12 - 15 cm thick dome was built of small stones and

gravel, with a volcano-like crater in the middle. Small dead and downed sticks were laid across the depression, where the fire could start.



Dingle, Co. Kerry

Report 3

Course Facilitator: Sinead Pollock

Venue: Dingle, Co. Kerry

Date: 2nd March 2011

Course Participants: Participants on the Girls Outside Programme

Number of Participants: 15

The group started its awareness session at 9am at their school in Dingle and after a quick introduction and briefing for the day it headed out onto the foothills of Mount Brandon. It then spent most of the day on the mountains, learning about the 7 principles of Leave No Trace through games, discussion and tasks.

Towards the end of the day participants went down into Dingle town and around the marina area to consider how Leave No Trace is and can in the future, fit into the local area. They finished the session back at their school where they had a final discussion which encouraged the girls to put their new knowledge into practice around the school and in the local area.

WITHIN LEAVE NO TRACE IRELAND:

- There are now a total of **22 Master Educators**.
- To date there has been **39 Trainer Courses** delivered.
- There are currently **221 people qualified** as Trainers of Leave No Trace across Ireland.
- There have been approximately **210 'Awareness Sessions'** delivered to date.

Details of all Training Courses and Awareness Sessions can be found on the 'training' section on www.leavenotraceireland.org

Failte Ireland Offer Training for Hub Areas



Towards the end of 2010 Leave No Trace Ireland and Failte Ireland agreed to provide Leave No Trace training to activity providers and other interested parties in Failte Ireland's activity hub areas in order to help these providers adhere to the hub charter "Adherence to Leave No Trace code of ethics".



All activity hub areas are characterised by the synergy between the natural strengths of an area from a tourism perspective and an enthusiasm from businesses to come together to develop a more holistic tourism experience. Work is ongoing in developing these hubs to ensure all the factors that provide a good tourism experience are addressed i.e. sustainable businesses and environment, food, accommodation and guides, this is where Leave No Trace training fits in well.

The first training sessions given were at the Cliffs of Moher Interpretative Centre, Co. Clare

on 26th February with 9 participants and at the Burren Outdoor Education Centre, Co. Clare on 2nd March with 19 participants. These sessions were delivered by Leave No Trace master educators William O' Halloran and Ruairí O Conchúir.

The first session took place at the Cliffs of Moher Interpretative Centre as they are a dedicated partner of Leave No Trace Ireland and spread the message to their significant amount of visitors. This session focused on the unique cliffs in this area and it was clear to see the need for the Leave No Trace principles to be followed in a place with such significant visitor numbers. The group also learnt how to light a Leave No Trace mound fire and how to promote Leave No Trace to their visitors.

The second session took place at the Burren Outdoor Education Centre in the heart of the Burren. This group consisted of a mix of different tourism providers from around the area.

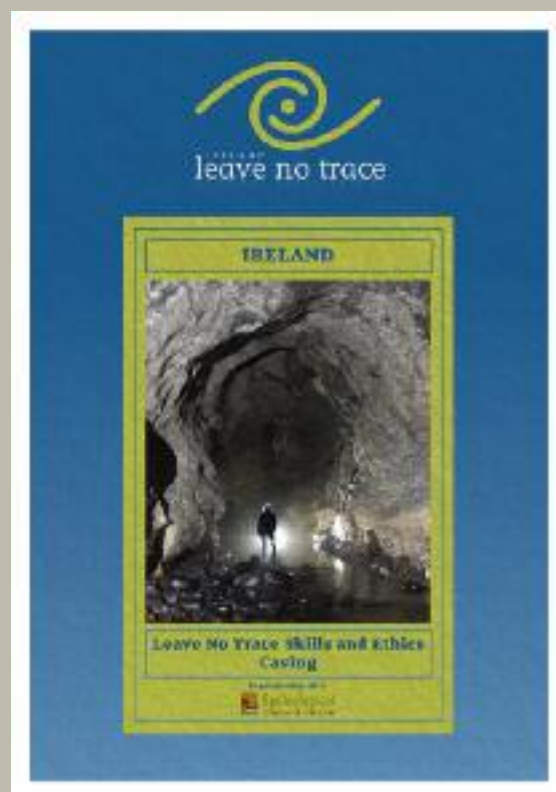
William O' Halloran who instructed on this session, commented "It was great for me as an outsider from this area to see the care these people have for their landscape... they say there's not supposed to be any soil in the Burren, but somehow I managed to find the perfect site for demonstrating how to dig a cat hole!. It was great to visit this magical landscape and share the message of Leave No Trace... a message which will help protect such a beautiful and unique place for years to come".

Caving Manual Nearing Completion...

Leave No Trace Ireland in conjunction with the Speleological Union of Ireland (SUI) are currently finalising designs for a new Leave No Trace Caving manual.

The impact of cavers on cave environments grows proportionally to the increase in numbers of people seeking adventure underground and as caves generally do not recover from human impact it is imperative that cavers learn ways to move through caves leaving the smallest possible impact. Towards this goal, caving-specific techniques are incorporated into the manual. These techniques have been developed through the collaborative efforts of cavers, land managers and the national Leave No Trace education programme.

The new Leave No Trace Ireland Caving manual will be available from May 2011. Cavers wishing to obtain a copy can do so by requesting them from either Leave No Trace Ireland or from the SUI.



NEW Training Centre

Leave No Trace Ireland is delighted to announce that it has designated Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre in Co. Limerick as an official Leave No Trace Training Centre. This agreement will involve the delivery of Leave No Trace Awareness Sessions and Trainer Courses at Kilfinane OEC on behalf of Leave No Trace Ireland.



Leave No Trace Ireland's aim is to increase the amount of designated Training Centres throughout Ireland to offer Leave No Trace training therefore creating an outlet for increased training and awareness of the Leave No Trace message. It also gives the centres involved a great promotional tool as well as having contributed to minimising impact on the environment.

The designated centres will deliver at least 1 Trainer Course and 1 Awareness Session per year, integrate it with existing training programmes and courses as well as promote Leave No Trace on its website, literature and signage.

Scouts embrace Outdoor Ethic

Scouting Ireland is currently going through a transition period as its groups countrywide change to a new programme called the ONE Programme that caters for young people from 6 – 25 years old.



This programme embraces many of the essential elements in the development of young people, known within Scouting Ireland as 'Spices' as it includes the

following development features: social, physical, intellectual, character, emotional and spiritual.

Scouting has always been based around an outdoor ethic, the Scouts claiming that they were among the first environmentalist and carers of nature and its surroundings given their 100 year old existence.

Colm Kavanagh from Scouting Ireland explains "Leave No Trace presents a clear package of principles that can be easily understood and practiced which Scouting Ireland have been quick to adopt and as young people progress in scouting their understanding and practice of Leave No Trace will be to the forefront".

As part of the new ONE Programme a full suite of new handbooks and support materials including a website have been produced which contain details of the Leave No Trace principles and practical examples of how they should be used and practiced. In addition, Scouts are expected to seek 'Adventure Skills' badges and 'Special Interest Badges', within the requirements for these badges, Scouts are expected to know each Leave No Trace principle, be able to show its use in practical situations and to understand the implications of incorrect behaviour.

Fire lighting, hiking, camping and adventures in wild countryside present many opportunities for Scouts to employ the principles of Leave No Trace. Traditionally fires were lit on the ground however, now within all Scouting Ireland's campsites, fires are now lit on altar fires (fire platforms built above the ground) therefore Leave No Trace is already in use in a practical way. Mound fires are particularly attractive for use on hikes and rambles and Scouts throughout the country

are receiving instruction in their use. Another initiative of Scouting Ireland is that the Scout Shops (the Outdoor Adventure Store in Dublin and Cork) are interested in the promotion of Leave No Trace and in partnership with Leave No Trace Ireland are currently producing a range of products that will form a 'Leave No Trace kit'. The kit will include a small metal trowel (digging sand for mound fires and cat holes), a fire blanket (60mmx60mm) for mound fire lighting, toilet options for males and females and a Leave No Trace Leaflet. The whole kit is contained in a small cloth pull string bag with a Leave No Trace Ireland logo on the front. Final costs are being confirmed so that every outdoor enthusiast whether a Scout or seeker of adventure can have it in their rucksack.

These kits will be available shortly for all outdoor enthusiasts and can be bought in the Outdoor Adventure Shops or via their website www.thescoutshop.ie or on www.leavenotraceireland.org.

53 Degrees North Walking Expo

The outdoor store, 53 Degrees North recently hosted a week long Walking Festival in Dublin.



The aim of the festival was to bring together the Dublin walking community to facilitate the sharing of information, skills and enthusiasm relating to hill walking in Dublin.

During the week numerous events took place including a walking expo, photography clinic and walks and lectures. All events were aimed at not only the seasoned walker but also to those just starting to go walking.

The festival kicked off with a walking expo exhibition and speaker area on the evening of Monday 11th April at the 53 Degrees North store in Carrickmines, Dublin. Leave No Trace Ireland were involved along with other clubs, businesses, charities and awareness groups associated with walking in Dublin.

An excellent cross section of organisations and groups were involved therefore providing an exciting, engaging representation of the Dublin walking community for visitors to interact with. Also on the evening a series of 30 minute talks were given on subjects relevant to walking such as health and safety as well as a 'how to' area, which gave

demonstrations on navigating, footwear fitting and advice on back packs.

"This event gave us a perfect platform to present the message of Leave No Trace to many enthused walkers...the interest and engagement from visitors to find out more about what Leave No Trace was about and its training structures was really encouraging" commented Beverley Pierson, Project Officer, Leave No Trace Ireland.



Contact Details

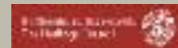
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At present Leave No Trace Ireland is funded and supported by the organisations listed below. Leave No Trace relies heavily on the support it receives from its partnerships with other organisations. This ensures the project is kept sustainable and continues to carry out its important activities including its training and spreading the message. Without this help, Leave No Trace would struggle to exist in Ireland. If you would like more information on how to become a partner of Leave No Trace Ireland and the range of benefits that different levels of partnership bring, please visit the support section on www.leavenotraceireland.org

Main Financial Partners of Leave No Trace Ireland



Other Financial Partners of Leave No Trace Ireland

An Taisce • CAAN • Caminoways.com • Catholic Guides of Ireland • Cliffs of Moher Ltd • Countrywide Hotels Ireland • Cycling Ireland • Dublin Mountains Partnership • Duke of Edinburgh • Explore Ireland Tours • Irish Girl Guides • Irish Orienteering Association • Irish Uplands Forum • LIFE • Limavady Borough Council • Metamorphic Media • Mountaineering Ireland • Mountain Meitheal • Mourne Cycle Tours and Tory Bush Cottages • Mulkear LIFE • One Foot Abroad and Follow The Camino • Scouting Ireland • Sport Northern Ireland • Wexford County Council • Wicklows Upland Council

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