

12. Posters – “Leave No Trace Ethics and Skills,” Badlands National Park



Badlands

National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior

Badlands National Park

“wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man... affected primarily by the forces of nature....”

From the Wilderness Act of 1964

You are about to enter the largest protected prairie wilderness in the United States, the Badlands Wilderness Area. Here, you may experience a prairie day similar to one that people before you have for hundreds or perhaps thousands of years. Please treat this place with respect so that future generations may also enjoy what you will today. Always practice skills that will *Leave No Trace* of your visit.

Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics and Skills

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Carry plenty of water. Temperatures can soar to well above 100 degrees. You should have at least one gallon of water per person per day. If you do find any water in the backcountry, it is not drinkable or filterable. The fine sediments will clog your water filter.
- Always make sure someone knows where you are and when you will return. The National Park Service will not search for you unless notified that you are missing. You are entering an area where you are unlikely to encounter other people.
- Fires are not permitted in Badlands National Park. Carry a lightweight camp stove.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established roads, trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from ponds and streams.
- Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.
- Deposit human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.

Leave What You Find

- Leave fossils, rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Preserve the past: observe but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species..Horse users must use only certified weed-free feed.

Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health and alters natural behaviors.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and the quality of their experience.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

