

LEAVE NO TRACE CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS

YOUTH PROGRAM ACCREDITATION



In an age where youth are spending increasingly less time in the outdoors, camps, schools, the scouts, and out-of-school programs continue to shine as ideal environment for millions of youth to develop a meaningful connection with the natural world.

WHAT IS THE LEAVE NO TRACE YOUTH PROGRAM ACCREDITATION?

The Leave No Trace Youth Program Accreditation is a process that provides directors, managers, teachers, and other youth program leaders with essential tools for the administration of Leave No Trace programming and organizational standards. These standards allow youth-serving programs and organizations to enhance the impacts of Leave No Trace education programs using guidelines and best practices from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics.



VALUE

- **Educates** youth-serving program leaders and staff in key areas of effective education practices, youth engagement, and organizational messaging.
- **Enhances** the impacts that programming and education initiatives have on youth participants.
- **Demonstrates** a Leave No Trace commitment to the community of stakeholders such as parents, guardians, alumni, and donors.

OTHER BENEFITS

- Provides Leave No Trace best practices to strengthen education impacts.
- Analyze program effectiveness through the lens of positive youth development.
- Enhances applications when applying for commercial authorization or special use permits through federal and state land management agencies.
- Meets the Leave No Trace requirements of the American Camp Association and the Boy Scouts of America NCAP accreditation programs.
- Receive a suite a digital accreditation logos to proudly display to community members.
- Displayed on the Leave No Trace website as an accredited youth program.
- Receive discounts on Leave No Trace education materials and other resources.



Accredited Youth Program



THE PROCESS

The timelines to earn the **Leave No Trace Youth Program Accreditation** will vary by program. Since input from seasonal staff and youth participants is required, a program should expect to work on some of the requirements during its main programming season. Once compliance documentation for all of the standards is complete and submitted, the Accreditation Review Team at the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics will review the materials and make its recommendation for accreditation.

A UNIQUE ACCREDITATION RESOURCE

Many accreditation models take a black and white approach to standards and best practices. The values-driven ideals of Leave No Trace offer a unique opportunity to take the accreditation process down new roads that help youth-serving programs see best practice and standards improvements through the lens of its own unique culture.



Youth Engagement — perspectives from youth participants provide valuable insight about the effectiveness of education efforts.



Program Evaluation — evaluation tools allow program staff to understand the strengths and opportunities to further enhance Leave No Trace education opportunities.



Compliance Options — every program is unique. Compliance options give programs a choice when demonstrating standards requirements.

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics offers multiple resources for programs working toward earning and maintaining their accreditation. Our program manual, standards guide, and annual reporting tools provide the roadmap for earning and maintaining accreditation. The accreditation program itself is largely fee-based, however the Center has several free resources for those working toward accreditation. Check out all of the resources now at LNT.org/accreditation.

ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS

Once accreditation has been earned, a program submits an annual progress report. This process helps to keep a program accountable for operating their program through the lens of Leave No Trace education practices.

11

Eleven standards



Four-year period with annual reporting



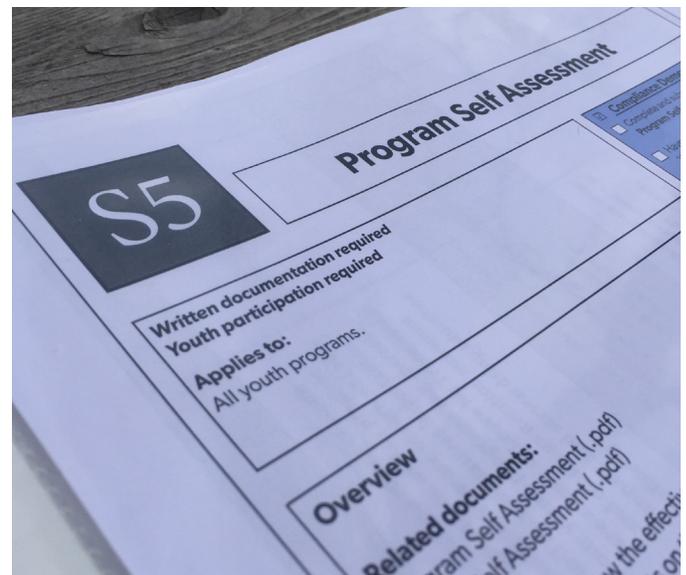
Stimulate accountability, quality, and improvement



Communication initiatives to engage the community



Evaluation tools to understand strengths and opportunities in key program areas



HOW TO GET STARTED

Ready to jump into the **Leave No Trace Youth Program Accreditation**? Visit Int.org/accreditation today. If you have more questions, please contact Andrew Leary, National Youth Programs Manager – Andrew@Int.org or 303.442.8222 x106.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Is there a cost associated with becoming accredited?

A: Yes. A nominal cost is required to access the program manual, standards guide, additional document resources, and annual reporting tools. Unlike other accreditation programs out there, the cost is a flat fee. For more information about the current accreditation pricing, please contact the Center or visit Int.org/accreditation.

Q: Our organization has multiple day and residential camp locations that would benefit from pursuing the accreditation. Is there a discount on the accreditation cost for more than one property?

A: Yes. Organizations interested in pursuing accreditation for more than one youth program location are eligible for a discount. Please contact Andrew Leary, National Youth Programs Manager,

for more details. **Email:** Andrew@Int.org
Phone: 303.442.8222 x106

Q: How long does it take to earn the accreditation?

A: Generally, a program should expect to spend about 12 months working on the compliance requirements for the accreditation. This timeline may be shorter for programs that already incorporate Leave No Trace education into their staff development, marketing materials, and program offerings.

Q: Do you enroll online, via the Leave No Trace website? If so, where do I go?

A: Yes! Please visit Int.org/accreditation

LEAVE NO TRACE FOR EVERY KID

Americans love the outdoors. Today, more than 300 million people visit America's national parks and another 150 million visit our national forests. The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics' mission is to protect the outdoors by teaching and inspiring people to enjoy it responsibly.

The goal of Leave No Trace for Every Kid is to ensure that our natural world is left in able hands

for generations to come through education and programs for all kids who spend time outside. It is an education initiative that engages youth in programs where the outdoors serves as a backdrop for their development. The initiative includes the most robust and comprehensive Leave No Trace youth education tools to date.

