

# Leave No Trace



Image courtesy of [www.leavenotraceschools.org](http://www.leavenotraceschools.org)

Fionn & Aoife are  
Leave no Trace Champions!



As more and more people go into the Irish countryside, there is a greater chance that the environment could be harmed - litter may be left behind, water polluted, flowers trampled on or farm animals and wildlife disturbed. The **Leave No Trace** programme encourages each one of us to take responsibility for the impact each of us makes on the environment, and on other people, and introduces us to ways of reducing this impact.

The programme is based around 7 principles and a short explanation of each is given below. More information on these principles is available on the website: [www.leavenotraceschools.org](http://www.leavenotraceschools.org).

## 1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

Before starting your trip into the countryside, take time to plan ahead and prepare. Check the weather forecast and always be prepared for different weather conditions. Ensure you have the skills and equipment necessary for your activity and to cope with any emergencies that could arise. Where possible, check if access is allowed and your activity is permitted in the area you wish to visit. When you are there, respect signs and above all, leave no trace of your visit!

## 2. Be Considerate of Others

With so many different people using the outdoors for sports and leisure, it is important to be considerate of others. All land is owned by somebody - respect the people who live and work in the countryside. Be friendly and courteous to others you encounter by offering a friendly greeting and stepping aside to let others pass.



## 3. Respect Farm Animals and Wildlife

As more and more people visit the outdoors, wildlife in these areas are affected by visitors' presence. To keep wildlife wild, observe animals and birds from a distance.



## 4. Travel and Camp on Durable Ground

Trampling can cause soil erosion, vegetation loss and habitat destruction. In the outdoors travel and camp on durable surfaces: rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.

## 5. Leave What You Find

People visit natural areas for many reasons, among them to explore nature's mysteries and surprises. When we leave rocks, shells, plants, feathers, fossils, artefacts and other objects of interest as we find them, we pass the gift of discovery on to those who follow.

## 6. Dispose of Waste Properly

Litter not only looks unsightly, it can also have negative effects on the natural environment. We can help the environment by taking away all our rubbish.



## 7. Minimise the Effects of Fire

Fires can cause lasting impacts and be devastating to forests, natural habitats and farmland. Where fires are permitted and appropriate, use techniques to reduce your impact on the land.

**Leave No Trace** is a network of organisations and individuals with an interest in promoting the responsible recreational use of Ireland's natural environment. The website & resources for [www.leavenotraceschools.org](http://www.leavenotraceschools.org) were funded by the Dept of Environment, Community & Local Government and developed by An Taisce on behalf of **Leave No Trace Ireland**. For more information about these resources and **Leave No Trace Ireland** contact them at: Leave No Trace Ireland, c/o Outdoor Recreation NI, The Stableyard, Barnetts Demesne, Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5PB, N. Ireland. Tel: 048 9030 3938 (within Northern Ireland dial 028 in place of 048) Email: [info@leavenotraceireland.org](mailto:info@leavenotraceireland.org) Website: [www.leavenotraceireland.org](http://www.leavenotraceireland.org)

## Become a "Leave No Trace Champion"

Discover Ireland's natural environment (and how to care for it) with your class through fun and engaging activities. Download these resources from [www.leavenotraceschools.org](http://www.leavenotraceschools.org) and when your class has completed them all you can become **Leave No Trace Champions** like Fionn and Aoife!

