

Mt. Price
9,975'

Susie
Lake

Leave No Trace Principle 2 Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Name: _____

Your journey to becoming an environmental steward continues here! Follow the Tahoe Rim Trail through the 7 Leave No Trace (LNT) Principles to develop outdoor ethics and earn your Leave No Trace Awareness certificate! Now stay on trail to learn LNT Principle 2 - Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces.



When you are outdoors, it's important to know how to choose the right path so that you minimize your footprint on the environment. When walking think about what type of surface you are walking on! Ask yourself is this a 'durable' (strong or resilient) surface, or a 'non-durable' (weak or fragile) surface?

THINK: What is a non-durable surface that would be damaged or "hurt" if we were to walk on it?

HINT: Look at the pictures to the right. 3 of them are durable surfaces and 1 of them is not. Check the box above the picture that shows a **non-durable** surface.



Answer This! Why do you think the image you checked is a non-durable surface?

Look Before You Leap!

Why is it important to stay on trail?

So we can enjoy nature without disrupting it! **THINK** about a meadow of wildflowers. Wildflowers are colorful, beautiful, and delicate, which is just one reason why we should never walk or ride on them! Now think about the ecosystem in a meadow of wildflowers. Living things use wildflowers for:

- Food— bears, rabbits, beetles, and caterpillars eat flowers, leaves, and grass in wildflower meadows.
- Shelter— ground squirrels, frogs, and ants use fields of wildflowers as protection from predators and weather.
- Pollination— some animals and insects that use wildflowers as a food source move pollen from one plant to another which fertilizes the flowers so they can produce seeds and fruit.

Below is a picture of 'pollinators' or animals that pollinate wildflowers. Identify each pollinator in the matching textbox.



Take A Walk On The Wild Side

THINK: How can you observe wildflowers without harming them or the ecosystems within them?

HINT: Find a wildflower hike in your area, stay on trail, and take pictures! See our webpage [here](#) to find great spots to view wildflowers in the Tahoe Basin in the spring!

Now let's find durable surfaces in your neighborhood.

When walking, bike riding, hiking, or camping outdoors, it is important to recognize which surfaces are durable and which ones are not. Below you can find examples of both durable and non-durable surfaces:

Durable

- Rock
- Sand
- Gravel
- Pavement
- Ice and snow
- Dry grass

Non-Durable

- Meadow
- Wildflower field
- Marsh
- Living soil



Here's the game -

You are on a scavenger hunt to find as many of the durable surfaces as you can in your neighborhood or community. Take a picture of each durable surface you find. Bonus points if you find a durable surface on the Tahoe Rim Trail.

You Can Walk The Walk, But Can You Talk The Talk?

Before reflecting, put your knowledge to the test. Click [here](#) to watch a video from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics to see how well you know your durable and non-durable surfaces!

1. During the scavenger hunt, which durable surfaces were you able to find?
2. Can you list three durable surfaces that are not listed on page 3? **HINT:** What surfaces can you find in your house?
3. Sometimes we have to go off-trail when we are using trails to find a campsite, go to the bathroom, or filter water from a stream for drinking. It is our goal as trail users to “leave no trace” behind when we are in the wilderness. How can you minimize or ‘decrease’ your impact when off-trail?

THINK: What do durable surfaces mean for backpacking and camping?

HINT: When finding a camping spot, you want to go at least 200ft from the trail and 200ft from water sources, such as lakes or rivers. Pick an existing site over making a new one to reduce your impact. When walking off-trail, make sure you do not walk in a single-file line so that you do not create a new trail.

4. The Tahoe Rim Trail Association builds trails, which are durable surfaces. How do trails help 'minimize' or decrease human impacts on the earth?

5. Why do you think it's important to travel and camp on durable surfaces?

HINT: Just because you are strong doesn't mean that you are a durable surface! Don't let your friends walk all over you →



*You did it! Now that you've filled out this worksheet, you are on **the right path** and ready to trek on to the next Leave No Trace principle! Keep an eye out on our [webpage](#) for the next worksheet.*

Take one step closer to earning your Leave No Trace Awareness certificate by sending this worksheet and a picture of the durable surfaces you were able to find to juliak@tahoerimtrail.org. Further your impact by supporting the TRTA's mission to [inspire stewardship](#).