

LEAVE NO TRACE

The areas that Above and Beyond Alaska participates in overnight camps and expeditions receive minimal impact from humans, particularly anywhere on the land. One of the great things about these areas is that they look the same as they did 100+ years ago. As a paddler you are able to experience the feeling of being the first to explore the arms, bays and inlets. In order to preserve this Wilderness character it is important that we follow the seven Leave No Trace principles. Below are the seven principles as well as some specific guidelines for Southeast Alaska's ecosystems. For more information visit www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leave_No_Trace or www.lnt.org.

1. **Plan Ahead and Prepare:** make sure that you have all of the appropriate route knowledge, clothing, gear, safety equipment and food so that you do not have to disturb the natural environment (i.e. cut pieces of trees to make a shelter because you forgot a tent or become lost or injured and require rescue by plane or helicopter)
2. **Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces:** If on a trail, stay on the trail even if you have to walk through some mud, choose tent sites that will not destroy fragile plant life, avoid using the same footpaths to prevent social trails from forming
3. **Dispose of Waste Properly:** Pack out all trash – this includes biodegradable things such as apple cores or orange peels. On kayaking trips human waste should be deposited in the intertidal zone in areas where the current will flush the waste out to sea, if you choose to use toilet paper then thoroughly burn it or pack it out! On glacier camps a portable toilet will collect the human waste in specially designed plastic bags.
4. **Leave What You Find:** Unless it is trash left by previous travelers, leave the treasures to be discovered by future wilderness travelers.
5. **Minimize Campfire Impacts:** Use a stove to cook on, if possible avoid making fires altogether. For kayaking trips if you choose to make a fire then build a small fire in the intertidal zone, only burn wood up to the diameter of your wrist and make sure that everything is burnt completely, no one wants to see large charred pieces of wood floating around on or on the beach where they camp. Building fires on a glacier is not recommended and will not happen on an ABAK trip.
6. **Respect Wildlife:** Keep a clean kitchen free of micro food trash, we DON'T want to feed ANY wildlife...even squirrels, birds, voles, and mice. Keep your food in bear resistant containers to prevent the bears from getting into your food and becoming habituated to people. On kayaking trips follow the Alaska National Marine Fisheries Service wildlife viewing guidelines and regulations by not approaching marine mammals closer than 100 yards and limiting time to observing one individual to 30 minutes.
7. **Be Considerate of Others:** If there are other travelers in the area, keep your visual and auditory impact to a minimum. Follow the other LNT principles so that future travelers can appreciate the Wilderness to the fullest extent.