

## A Leave No Trace Crime Scene

"Sparks"



**Group Size:** Any

**Age Group:** 8 to 12 years

**Time:** 30 to 45 minutes

**Objective:** Participants will explore the principle: Know Before You Go.

**Materials:** Multiple pens, a few sheets of paper and general camping gear to create the crime scene (e.g., tent, backpack, cooking gear, flagging tape, canned food, map, a radio, etc.).

### Introduction (2 to 5 minutes)

**Introduce** yourself and welcome your participants. **Ask** how many participants have been hiking, camping, fishing, rafting or climbing? **Ask** if they have any favorite places to visit and why? **Ask** who has heard of Leave No Trace outdoor ethics? Explain that Leave No Trace is information and skills that help us reduce our impacts on the natural places that we visit (e.g. parks, trail systems and campgrounds).

### The Activity (20 to 30 minutes)

Before the group arrives, setup a simulated campsite (crime scene). The campsite should be full of problematic features. Some examples might include trash on the ground or in a fire ring, animals getting into food, etc.

Tell the group that they are the first group to arrive at the scene of a "crime." The crime that was committed was a failure to *Know Before You Go*. Set the scene for the participants and tell them that they will be closely examining the crime scene to find as many examples of poor planning as they can. Be descriptive and creative when setting the scene. Try setting the scene from a local park or trail that the kids might be familiar with. If you have a large group you can break them up into investigative teams of 3 - 4 members.

Give each person or group a piece of paper and something to write with. Have the kids investigate the campsite and write down all of the problem areas that they find. Also, have them brainstorm solutions to the problems. Give them about 5 minutes to investigate.

### Wrap Up (3 to 5 minutes)

Gather the group together to discuss their findings. Spend time on each point they bring up and point out any problems that they missed. Wrap up by discussing how important it is to *Know Before You Go* on any outdoor trip.

"Pitch"



