



Tanagh Outdoor Education Centre

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# Welcome

## to Leave No Trace Ireland's fourth Newsletter...

### Within the last 6 months Leave No Trace Ireland has:

- Held a network meeting in December 2008.
- Held a Master Educator meeting in February 2009.
- Produced a 3 year operational plan for 2009 - 2012.
- Produced guidelines for awareness sessions and made them available on the website.
- Delivered 5 presentations to various organisations.
- Secured additional partnerships.
- Generated media coverage through radio and press, including Liffey Sound FM and The Irish Mountain Log.
- Encouraged Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland to include information about Leave No Trace on their activity maps for Northern Ireland.
- Worked with Harvey Maps to include information about Leave No Trace on their 3 maps that cover Ireland, whenever they are reprinted.
- Continued to roll out its training calendar.
- Created a Leave No Trace official training centre at Tollymore Mountain Centre, Newcastle, Co.Down.



## New Guidelines on 'How to deliver an Awareness Session'

As the number of Trainers and Master Educators offering Leave No Trace Awareness Sessions and the number of organisations requesting such sessions increase, the need to develop guidelines for those conducting one day or shorter sessions has become apparent in order to keep the delivery consistent.

Top tips from the guidelines include:

- Resources - It is strongly encouraged that Leave No Trace materials be used in all training activities. Materials can be requested from Leave No Trace Ireland.

- Delivery - Awareness Sessions can vary in length from 30 minutes to a full day but all sessions should cover the principles and the ethics and mission of Leave No Trace Ireland.

- Reporting - In order for Leave No Trace Ireland to accurately track the number of individuals being exposed to the message of Leave No Trace, it is important that they are made aware of all Awareness Sessions that are taking place.

- Completion - those who complete a Leave No Trace Awareness Session are equipped to understand, promote and share information on Leave No Trace.

These guidelines are available on the 'Trainers Only' section of the forum on [www.leavenotraceireland.org](http://www.leavenotraceireland.org) or can be requested from [info@leavenotraceireland.org](mailto:info@leavenotraceireland.org).



## Irish Sailing Association Come on Board

Bill Murphy (Chairman of Leave No Trace Ireland) gave a presentation to the Irish Sailing Association (ISA) at their national conference in Dublin on 8th March. 'Developing Local Watersports Communities' was the overall theme of the conference, focusing on grass roots participation. Two hundred people attended the national conference and delegates included those from ISA sailing clubs, class associations and sail training centres. During the conference over 30 seminars took place including a range of topics from the maritime environment to club development. Overall the weekend was deemed a huge success by the organisers.

Leave No Trace was introduced under the heading of 'using watersports as a means of

introducing people to and promoting environmental awareness'. Bill Murphy gave a presentation on the 7 principles and explored through examples of how they might be applied in a maritime or water based environment. Principles like plan ahead and prepare or respect other users have immediate and applicable messages however, others such as references to fires and camping are more problematic.

Despite these challenges the response from the ISA through a question and answer session was excellent and it is genuinely interested in exploring and bringing the Leave No Trace message to its environment and sport. Amongst those attending the Leave No Trace presentation were the ISA President, Mr. Peter Crowley

and the ISA Chief Executive Mr. Harry Harmon along with Bernadette Fox, ISA Development and Membership Officer, all of whom expressed a willingness and enthusiasm to work with Leave No Trace Ireland to develop a maritime adaptation of the principles.

Leave No Trace Ireland is investigating the feasibility of producing a sea-based programme applicable to Irish conditions and have been in contact with Leave No Trace in the USA to see what sea-based programmes are already available and could be used in the Irish situation.

For more information on the ISA, please visit [www.sailing.ie](http://www.sailing.ie).

## Promoting the Programme on Air!

Leave No Trace Ireland was given the opportunity to inform Liffey Sound 96.4FM radio ([www.liffeysound.com](http://www.liffeysound.com)) listeners about Leave No Trace Ireland on its Natural Heritage programme presented by Patrick Kavanagh. Liffey Sound FM is a 'not for profit' community radio service run by volunteers to serve the Community of Lucan and its surrounding areas. The radio station covers a wide range of programmes including natural history, youth affairs, women's affairs, social affairs and current affairs. They give a voice to those not served by national broadcasters. Beverley Pierson, Leave No Trace's Project Officer, was interviewed for 20 minutes about Leave No Trace Ireland, where she

covered questions on the background and meaning of the outdoor education programme, its training structure, its core principles and what people can do to help their environment. This was aired on Sunday 15th March, Patrick commented "the response from the show was fantastic, plenty of people text the show to say they were delighted that guide lines were in place and Leave No Trace was there to guide and train people."

After the programme was aired [www.leavenotraceireland.org](http://www.leavenotraceireland.org) received an increase in website hits compared to the average number of website hits per day.

When Patrick is not in the studio he is a natural history film maker. Patrick and his cousin Vincent Hyland, formerly Wild Ireland magazine, have worked for ITV (Nest watch Jackie and Daw), BBC (The search for Irelands giant turtles) TV3 (Ice Pack In Antarctica) and RTE (The search for mister big, Whale sharks in the Galapagos Islands) Check out [www.derrynane.ie](http://www.derrynane.ie) or [www.patrickkavanagh.net](http://www.patrickkavanagh.net) to find out more information.

For more information on Liffey Sound FM radio, please visit [www.liffeysound.com](http://www.liffeysound.com).



# Training

## Training Course Reports



### Report 1

#### Course Facilitator/s:

Una Donoghue & Aodhnait Carroll.

**Venue:** Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre, Clonbur, Co Galway.

**Date:** 1st November 2008.

**Course Participants:** A number of Petersburg OEC staff and a local tourism operator.

This course was run in 2 different areas, the first location in the Maum Trasna Valley and the

*"The training was full of good discussions and practical demonstrations of the 7 principles that we are all trying to communicate as Leave No Trace Trainers. Very enjoyable."*

- Barry Murphy, Tourism Pure.

second in woods which sit on a karst landscape near the village of Clonbur.

The first location, near the Srahnalong River provided great examples of how to reduce impact in these types of environments.

On the way there the group stopped by the side of the road to remove a dead fox, which was tied to a fence post. This brought up a conversation on how people living in Ireland have very different ways of dealing with nature and how important it is to help

people understand the impact of their actions and respect wildlife.

At the second venue each principle was presented by each participant. A participant on the course Barry Murphy from Tourism Pure stated "I found the Leave No Trace game 'Train the Trainer Course' really useful, especially the demonstration on how to make a fire on top of a fire blanket, thereby saving the ground from being scorched.

That's really what Leave No Trace is all about." Leave No Trace would like to welcome 6 new trainers: Aishling Ni Ghriofa, Toby Fischer, Brendan Buckley, Aishling Geary, Shuna Daly and Barry Murphy.

### Report 2

#### Course Facilitator/s:

Sinead Pollock & Aodhnait Carroll.

**Venue:** Waterville, Co. Kerry.

**Date:** 4th & 5th November 2008.

**Course Participants:** Mor Active Outdoor Adventure & Education Staff.

This course began with a meeting at the Mor Active head office in Shanaknock where the following was covered - introductions to the course, the history of Leave No Trace and what it means to be a Leave No Trace Trainer. After a short tea-break the participants learnt about teaching styles and also how to pass on and promote the Leave No Trace message. The participants had previously been given 1 of the Leave No Trace principles to research and on which to plan an activity or present information during the 2 day trainer course.

At lunch-time the group took out O.S. map sheet 83 and made a plan for their 2 day journey including an overnight camp. To select an area they discussed local areas that suffer from overuse and lack of respect. They decided on a coastal location, Derrynane Bay & coastline including travelling through the Daniel O'Connell Heritage Park.

The participants covered the first Leave No Trace principle, 'Plan Ahead & Prepare' before heading out. Whilst camping on Derrynane Beach, an evident problem came to light being the remains of fires on the beach and up in the sand dunes so they built a mound fire that night, and used small twigs collected on the walk to Derrynane. At first some of the group were not convinced that they could light a fire and 'Leave No Trace', but once they let the fire burn down as much as possible, they scattered the mixture of ash and sand and were able to 'Leave No Trace'. They returned to the site the next morning and looked around to find evidence of their fire but there was none!

By the end of the second day, back at the Mor Active base at Shanaknock, the group were keen to put their new skills into practice while out working on activities such as Kayaking, Surfing, Rock-climbing and Hill-walking.

Leave No Trace welcomes 7 new trainers: Michael Crawley, Niamh Burke, John O Sullivan, Martin Jones, Fergal O Grady, Michelle Murphy, Shane Kilcoyne.

# Duke of Edinburgh takes on Leave No Trace

Cowper Lynas from The Duke of Edinburgh delivered Leave No Trace Awareness Sessions which were slotted into 2 Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition Assessor Accreditation Courses. The first of these was held in Cnocnafeola Centre, Atticall, Kilkeel on 6th December and the second was held in the new Girls' Brigade Headquarters near Junction One in Antrim on 14th March. There were about 24 participants on each course which was organised by the Duke of Edinburgh specifically for those who wished to become accredited expedition assessors.

The aim of the Leave No Trace Awareness Sessions was based on four learning outcomes:

- To develop the awareness of the possible impact on the environment caused by Duke of Edinburgh expedition teams.
- To consider ways of minimising this impact taking into account the 7 principles of Leave No Trace.
- To investigate the disposal of campsite litter and human waste.
- To develop an awareness of the 'waste timeline'.

The session began with a practical exercise in which each of the 4 groups of participants were asked to record on 'post-it notes' the types of impact that a Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition team would have on the environment. A typical day was represented pictorially on a long strip of wallpaper and each group was then asked to stick their 'post-it notes' where they thought the particular impact was likely to occur, for example, litter at the camp site.

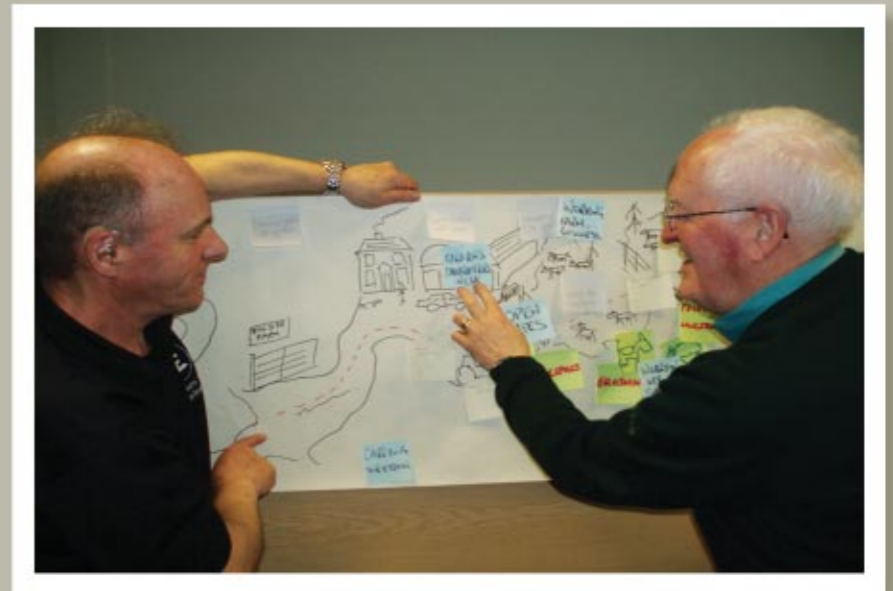
This information was then used to discuss how impact might be minimised with reference to the 7 principles of Leave No Trace and to introduce the other issues of dealing with camp litter and disposing of human waste. Another exercise completed the session in which individuals were asked to match articles to time taken for decomposition on a waste timeline.

Feedback received from those taking part was very positive. They felt the session had clearly highlighted the impact that Duke of Edinburgh expedition teams could have on the environment and the part assessors could play in minimising the effect especially in relation to the camp site area.

A Leave No Trace Awareness Session has now been accepted as a very worthwhile

element of the Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Assessors Accreditation Courses in Northern Ireland and it is hoped to develop it further throughout the organisation, for example as part of training for expedition supervisors, who are ultimately responsible for the young people on expedition and consequently have a large input into their preparation. It is also hoped that it will be possible to introduce Leave No Trace Awareness Sessions into the Education and Library Boards' hill walking training for teachers and youth leaders who can then be encouraged to pass on the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace to the young people themselves.

For more information on The Duke of Edinburgh please visit [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org).



### WITHIN LEAVE NO TRACE IRELAND:

- There are now a total of **22 Master Educators**.
- To date there has been **25 Trainer Courses** delivered.
- There are currently **160 people qualified** as Trainers of Leave No Trace across Ireland.
- There have been approximately **100 'Awareness Sessions'** delivered to date.

Details of all Training Courses and Awareness Sessions can be found on the 'training' section on [www.leavenotraceireland.org](http://www.leavenotraceireland.org)

# Dublin Mountains Partnership

## Volunteer Rangers Promote & Incorporate Leave No Trace



The Dublin Mountains Partnership (DMP) has just recruited 14 Volunteer Rangers and will be launching a Volunteer Ranger Service in early June 2009. The DMP was established to improve the recreation potential of the public lands in the Dublin Mountains, while balancing recreation with the other key objectives of the various land owning organisations (commercial forestry, conservation, water collection). The DMP members are Coillte, the National Parks & Wildlife Service, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dublin City Council and Dublin Mountains Initiative (who represent the recreation users).

### The Volunteer Ranger Service aims to:

- Assist the public in appreciating the Dublin Mountains through education and communication
- Increase community involvement in, and awareness of, the management of the forest and mountain lands

- Develop volunteers' personal understanding, knowledge and sense of belonging to the Dublin Mountains
- Promotion of the Leave No Trace principles
- Assist in practical conservation tasks

The first training/induction weekend for the Dublin Mountains Partnership Volunteer Rangers took place on Sunday 24th May. Shay Walsh (Master Educator of Leave No Trace Ireland) gave a one-day Leave No Trace Awareness Session. The rangers found the session very interesting and some comments were – "I really enjoyed last weekend, and can't wait to get started now" and "I really enjoyed the weekend and found it to be really informative".

The whole ethos behind the Volunteer Ranger Service and everything it does will be to promote and encourage others to 'Leave No Trace'.

For more information on DMP, please visit [www.dublinmountains.ie](http://www.dublinmountains.ie).

# Target Training to the Water...

In November 2008 Stephen Millar (Master Educator of Leave No Trace Ireland and an Outdoor Instructor at Tollymore Mountain Centre) delivered a 2 day trainer course to 7 heavily involved members of the Irish Sea Kayaking Association (ISKA).

The ISKA is an organisation made up of sea-kayakers throughout Ireland, who are involved in meeting to explore and camp on the coastline and Islands and also are involved in sea-kayaking expeditions further a field.

The Leave No Trace principles are currently geared towards land-based activities, therefore a challenge for the instructor delivering this course was to take the principles and tailor them towards an environment of travelling on the sea, living outdoors and all associated considerations. Salt Island Bothy on Strangford Lough, Co.Down was the chosen location thus

allowing a journey by sea-kayak to be included. The bothy also offered a dry and comfortable teaching environment with the added bonus of using an already established venue, hence minimising the impact.

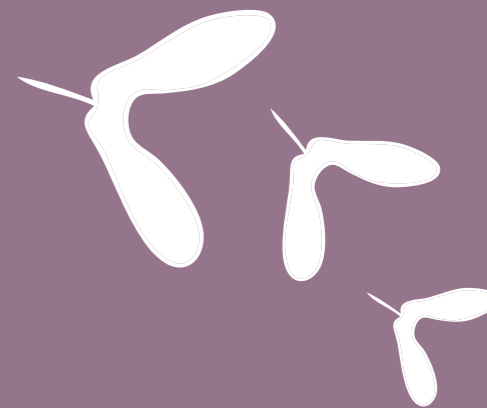
The first principle 'plan ahead and prepare' was easily executed by a group of participants who have a vast pool of experience in canoe camping, however one element discussed was the food types that are bought by such groups. Conflict between the need to minimise weight and volume of food to be transported and the required longevity of food types meant that convenience items were often purchased. These items are over packaged and full of preservatives which affect the nature of the human waste that is left behind, overall affecting the creatures that make their homes in these places.

The venue allowed them to look at camping and all it encompasses from the use of fires,

surfaces on which to put tents, the disposal of waste and leaving what you find. The use of fire grills and methods of reducing or completely erasing fire damage on the vegetation were tried, always with the idea of not exacerbating current damage or causing any new damage. The notion of the physical breakdown of human waste by sea action was also considered and as yet evidence to suggest that this is the way to go is still anecdotal, commercial providers felt that if 'Wag Bags' (a bag to dispose human waste in an environmentally friendly way) were readily available they would definitely encourage participants to use them.

"The passion of all the participants to act responsibly and in such a way to allow the continued enjoyment of the sea in all its colours was pretty inspiring" Stephen Millar.

# Scouts sign up...



Leave No Trace Ireland is pleased to announce that Scouting Ireland has now become a supporting partner of the programme.

Scouting Ireland were one of the founding partners of Leave No Trace Ireland and the outdoor ethics education programme was launched in their National Office in Larch Hill. They have been working ever since with Leave No Trace Ireland and have incorporated it as an integral part of their Programme. For years they have been advocates of the County Code but have now changed to being advocates of Leave No Trace.

According to Karol Quinn, Support Officer for Scouting Ireland "Leave No Trace will have a major effect on what we do and how we do it. We have always approached

nature and the outdoors with a caring attitude and we are conscious of the impact that we have on it but Leave No Trace raises the bar for us, as nature and the outdoors is a fundamental component of good scouting we have brought the Leave No Trace approach to the fore for the activities we do. Our main outdoor skills that are affected are camping, hiking and backwoods (bush craft) but the other skills are also affected". They have already included it into their key association policy statements - Outdoor Ethics, Camping and Hiking procedures and it is also the 'basic' behaviour expected on their nationwide collection of campsites and activity centres.

Leave No Trace will be promoted through Scouting Ireland in the following ways:

- Through their primary publications.
- Through their website and ezines.
- Putting some Scout Leaders through a Leave No Trace Trainer Course.
- By running a series of articles in their magazine highlighting the principles.
- By including the Leave No Trace general information booklet into a programme resource for leaders.
- Organising a Leave No Trace event.

For more information on Scouting Ireland, please visit [www.scouts.ie](http://www.scouts.ie).



# Mountaineering Ireland

## Integrates Leave No Trace

In recent years the number of participants in hill walking and mountaineering activities has increased substantially. This in itself can be a source of stress to certain upland environments. Consequently, responsible use of the uplands by recreational visitors is fundamental as well as the importance of valuing and protecting our upland landscape and ensuring sustainability of local communities. It is for these reasons that Mountaineering Ireland has taken the opportunity to work closely with Leave No Trace Ireland to promote the 7 principles amongst its members and the wider mountaineering community.

Mountaineering Ireland has been using the message of Leave No Trace in a variety of ways to promote and inspire responsible use of Ireland's delicate environment, the most popular of which seem to be the Leave No Trace Awareness Sessions. It runs Awareness Sessions at most of its events, such as Spring Meet and Autumn Meet and will be promoting Leave No Trace during its Summer Meet in Innertkirchen, Switzerland this year. It has also provided Awareness Sessions to its clubs, which is then included within its scheduled walks programme for the year.

In the last year, Mountaineering Ireland has developed a one day workshop that is

offered to each environmental officer within each club (130 clubs in total). The workshop consists of: an informational presentation on Occupiers Liability, a discussion on local access issues and a Leave No Trace Awareness Session. The environmental officers then feedback the information gathered during these workshops to the members of their clubs.

It has used the 7 principles of Leave No Trace to provide the backbone to a document that it uses to help assist the organisers of charity events and challenge walks in planning an environmentally sustainable event. To date the response to this document has been very positive and has allowed Mountaineering Ireland to work closely with a number of popular events to promote responsible use of the Irish environment.

As well as providing training directly to their environmental officers and other members, training on Leave No Trace is also included in the Mountain Skills training courses and other informal training courses overseen by Bord Oiliúint Sléibhe otherwise known as BOS, which is a sub-committee of Mountaineering Ireland.

Mountaineering Ireland's magazine, The Irish Mountain Log, has also played an integral role in the promotion of Leave No Trace amongst its members. It included the Leave No Trace Information Leaflet in one of its editions and will be featuring 2 of the principles in each of the next 4 publications, starting this Autumn. Its website and all informational material also feature the Leave No Trace Ireland logo and a link to the website.

It is primarily through Leave No Trace that they explain what a responsible user is. Aodhnait Carroll, Access & Conservation Officer, Mountaineering Ireland stated "The Leave No Trace message is an effective and valuable method of explaining and teaching the importance of protecting and preserving Ireland's natural heritage and we look forward to continuing to promote this in the years to come".

For more information on Mountaineering Ireland, please visit [www.mountaineering.ie](http://www.mountaineering.ie).



## Contact Details

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At present Leave No Trace Ireland is funded and supported by the organisations listed below. Leave No Trace relies heavily on the support it receives from its partnerships with other organisations. This ensures the project is kept sustainable and continues to carry out its important activities including its training and spreading the message. Without this help, Leave No Trace would struggle to exist in Ireland. If you would like more information on how to become a partner of Leave No Trace Ireland and the range of benefits that different levels of partnership bring, please visit the support section on [www.leavenotraceireland.org](http://www.leavenotraceireland.org)

### Main Financial Partners of Leave No Trace Ireland



### Other Financial Partners of Leave No Trace Ireland

An Taisce • Ballynahinch Castle Hotel • CAAN • Catholic Guides of Ireland • Dublin Mountains Partnership • Ireland EcoTours • Irish Girl Guides • Irish Uplands Forum • Limavady Borough Council • Mountaineering Ireland • Moln LTD • Mountain Meitheal • Mourne Cycle Tours and Tory Bush Cottages • Scouting Ireland • Sport Northern Ireland • Wicklows Upland Council • X-treme North West

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