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# Welcome

## to the third edition of Leave No Trace Ireland's Newsletter...

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

- Delivered its second Master Educator course.
- Produced promotional materials for events – pop up stand, hang tags and fleeces.
- Redesigned and produced the 'Leave No Trace Skills and Ethics Booklet'.
- Attended the following events to promote Leave No Trace – The Scouting Jamboree in PuncHESTOWN, Cool Earth in Dublin and The National Ploughing Championships in Kilkenny.
- Produced an Irish version of the Leave No Trace Ireland logo.
- Continued to roll out its training calendar.

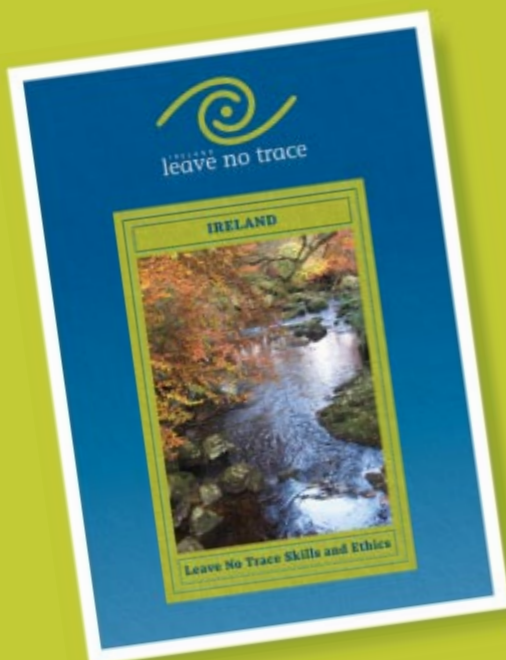


Future work will focus on the continued production of the Leave No Trace Ireland training manuals, encouraging more organisations to support the programme and deliver its training calendar.

## New Training Manual - Skills and Ethics Booklet

Leave No Trace Ireland has recently produced a new training manual for Leave No Trace Masters and Trainers. The 'Leave No Trace Skills and Ethics Booklet' contains more in-depth information on the background of Leave No Trace, its principles and a wide range of skills to employ when using the outdoors. This introductory booklet has been written specifically with the Irish environment in mind.

Copies are available for those delivering Leave No Trace training sessions. Please email [info@leavenotraceireland.org](mailto:info@leavenotraceireland.org) to request copies.



## Second Master Educator Course - A Resounding Success...

Ireland's second Leave No Trace Master Educator course was delivered by Ben Lawhon, (Education Director for the Leave No Trace Centre for Outdoor Ethics in Boulder, Colorado) from 16th to 20th June 2008 in the Glendasan Valley, Glendalough, Co. Wicklow.

This course is the highest level of Leave No Trace training and teaches participants the 'hard skills' like appropriate human waste disposal, good campsite selection and management as well as the 'soft skills' - which are the more ethical side of the message, dealing with issues like behaviour around wildlife, disturbance of natural and cultural items and social impacts. The course also aims to train participants how to deliver the Leave No Trace message in a non-judgmental, non-sanctimonious way and provides ideas to help teach the subject in a participatory, engaging way.

The course began with an introduction to Leave No Trace and how it originated. Mountainous and coastal environments were visited to explore the different impacts on different environments and the key principles were examined and discussed.

These newly qualified Master Educators can now offer Leave No Trace Training

courses and awareness sessions and train others in the Leave No Trace education programme.

Ben Lawhon commented on the course, "On my second trip to Ireland to offer a Leave No Trace Master Educator course, I was greeted with the same level of enthusiasm and excitement for the programme that I was on my first visit in 2006. What made the course particularly unique was that there is now a Leave No Trace organisation in Ireland working to promote outdoor ethics in the country, something that wasn't yet up and running on my last visit. By having Leave No Trace Ireland, Master Educators and Trainers now have the support they need to offer education, outreach and training to help people understand how they can enjoy the outdoors responsibly.

The recent course was excellent and involved an enthusiastic group of educators who are excited about Leave No Trace and who now possess the skills and knowledge necessary to spread Leave No Trace information effectively. With 9 new Master Educators in Ireland, the training capacity has increased substantially, which means that more and more Trainer courses and Awareness sessions can be facilitated.

I'm confident that all course participants have the desire to spread the word about Leave No Trace and are poised to make a significant difference in the protection of Ireland's landscape.

I feel honoured to have had the opportunity to come to Ireland to work with such a dedicated group of people who want to see the programme succeed. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Ireland and hope that our collective efforts will benefit all those who enjoy the outdoors. I am particularly proud to have been a part of helping to get Leave No Trace Ireland off the ground and look forward to seeing the programme grow over the coming years."



# Training

## Training Course Reports



### Report 2

**Course Facilitator:** Damian Martin, Master Educator of Leave No Trace Ireland  
**Venue:** North coast, Fair Head and Cregagh Wood  
**Date:** 1st and 2nd September  
**Course Participants:** Instructors from Ardcinis Outdoor Adventure

This course was organised to train staff at Ardcinis Outdoor Adventure Centre in Cushendall, Co. Antrim the 7 principles of Leave No Trace, look at ways to pass these ideas on to others and discuss different opinions in the outdoor adventure industry. Part of the course was delivered in a seventy one acre natural woodland with the kind permission of the land owner. This wood was perfect for lots of the games and added a touch of magic to the day.

The area gets very little use so evidence of our impact was very noticeable to all. Even under the threat of bad weather the group opted to go ahead with the overnight element, which took place at Fair Head. The camp site was well suited to our needs, beside the sea, close to a river and had signs of previous use. The course generated lots of debate and participants grasped the overall concepts brilliantly.

Leave No Trace welcomes 8 new trainers: Martin Harkin, Ian Donald, John McMahon, Joe Dowdell, Mark Robinson, Conn McBride, Mary Farrell and Simon O'Hare.



### Report 1

**Course Facilitator:** Katy Egan, Master Educator of Leave No Trace Ireland  
**Venue:** Environmental Education Centre, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow  
**Date:** 6th & 7th September  
**Course Participants:** Open Course

The Trainer Course delivered from the Environmental Education Centre in Ireland's largest National Park was a great success. We spent two very enjoyable days going through all the different principles. On the first day we took a walk around the Green road in Glendalough and had a low impact fire-building session; we built a mound fire and a pan fire and discussed the benefits of both. On the second day we walked down to the miners' village, where we went through the principle 'Leave What You Find'. Being able to use some on-site examples of the aesthetic effects of rock graffiti and stolen artifacts was really useful. As it was a Trainer's course where we use peer learning, all the participants had great new ideas to facilitate the learning of each of the

principles, with interesting new ideas generated 2 of our participants who had travelled all the way from Portugal, brought fresh perspectives and a couple of great games to share with us. It was good to share with them how far Ireland has come with the Leave No Trace message, and we hope one day in the future we will see 'Leave No Trace Portugal'.

The participants came from all over the country and it was fantastic to hear how Leave No Trace can work in different places. There was even a suggestion that maybe we could make the army aware of the principles to use when they are training in the mountains. Despite not being able to camp because of the weather, everyone really took to the ideas and concepts behind Leave No Trace and left with great determination to work the principles into their outdoor behaviours and pass it on to others.

Leave No Trace welcomes 6 new trainers: Luis Avelar, Joana Rodrigues, Francis Keogh, Lenka Mulligan, Maureen O'Brien and Eileen Davey.

# Awareness Sessions

### Summer Camp at Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre, Co. Galway

At Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre (OEC), this summer, Una Donoghue and a number of other staff dedicated a number of sessions within their summer camp to Leave No Trace. The main idea was to introduce young people between the ages of 8 to 15 to the idea of Leave No Trace, with the help of a number of staff who participated in the Leave No Trace Trainers' programme last autumn. All the activities at the centre have examples of how Leave No Trace principles can be used, therefore instead of delivering a Leave No Trace awareness session within a certain time limit, they used the whole week to introduce the 7 principles.

Efforts are now concentrated on finding ways to introduce other outdoor instructors to the whole idea of Leave No Trace in a positive way. Other Leave No Trace awareness sessions at Petersburg OEC were delivered to a number of scout patrol leaders from the 1st Cork scout troop, who had also camped at the centre this summer.

### NI Countryside Officers Awareness Session at Castlewellan Forest Park, Co. Down

Thirty Countryside Officers from across Northern Ireland attended a one day Leave No Trace Awareness Session as part of their training calendar at Castlewellan Forest Park. The Countryside Officers are responsible for

countryside recreation and access to the countryside in their council areas. The session which focused on how the principles of Leave No Trace can help them take care of their environment when developing projects and delivering an events programme when using the outdoors.

The day started with an introduction to the 7 principles of Leave No Trace and how this was developed in Ireland. This was followed by a session where different games and practical skills and techniques were shown and discussed concentrating on how to minimise their impact when using the outdoors.

### Tanagh Outdoor Education, Co. Monaghan

Tanagh Outdoor Education Centre in Rockcorry, Co. Monaghan is one of the many outdoor centres that has adopted the principles of Leave No Trace within its centre. Six staff members from the centre were trained as Leave No Trace Trainers in April 2008. The outdoor activities at Tanagh are mainly centered around local rivers, lakes and forest. In June, July and August the centre runs many junior and senior summer camps thus giving an excellent opportunity to spread the message of Leave No Trace to a large number of young people from Counties Monaghan, Cavan and Louth.

Within the camp schedule a half day Leave No Trace awareness session was included where the 7 principles were discussed and related to the programme of activities in the forest and

on the water. The sessions also included open discussions about the use of the countryside, story telling, shared experiences, questions and answers, how the message can be passed on and participation in Leave No Trace games to back up the 7 principles. Each session finished with a trip to the forest and a demonstration on how to light a mound fire of mineral soil, with toasted marshmallows as a reward for everybody!

The staff at the centre then reinforced the principles by showing examples of responsible outdoor recreation at every opportunity throughout the week of activities. The Leave No Trace Programme was very well received by the summer campers. They were enthusiastic and participated fully in the awareness session and then carried their enthusiasm through by practising Leave No Trace actions in their land and water-based activities throughout the week.



### WITHIN LEAVE NO TRACE IRELAND:

- There are now a total of **22 Master Educators**.
- To date there has been **22 Trainer Courses** delivered. 4 Courses have been delivered since May 2008.
- There are currently **169 people qualified** as Trainers of Leave No Trace across Ireland.
- There have been approximately **79 'Awareness Sessions'** 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)

# Events

## 100 Years of Scouting in Ireland

Early in August almost 12,000 scouts converged on Punchestown, Co. Kildare for a bumper jamboree to mark 100 years of scouting in Ireland. The organisers built a Leave No Trace maze to introduce scouts to the 7 principles of Leave No Trace in a practical and interactive way, and a team of volunteers staffed a Leave No Trace information stand each evening of the jamboree. Some of the scouts visiting the stand needed a signature in their log-book to complete the 'Camp Chief's Challenge', but they soon realised the signature came at a price - we used a selection of three quizzes to engage the scouts in discussion about Leave No Trace! The results were impressive, even scouts who weren't familiar with Leave No Trace showed a good understanding of how to minimise the impact of recreation on our countryside.

The Leave No Trace programme clearly complements the scouting ethos and gives structure to many of the messages and practices common in scouting.

The jamboree was superbly well organised, and despite the rain and muck there was a really positive atmosphere throughout.

One of the successful activities at this year's Scouting Jamboree was the Leave No Trace Maze. With the planning and hard work of Emma Priest, the Leave No Trace Maze worked very well to introduce young and old people to the 7 principles of Leave No Trace.

Along with the help of a number of Leave No Trace volunteers, each principle was demonstrated and groups were able to participate in all the 7 principles. Una Donoghue helped out on the 'Dispose of Waste Properly' section and thoroughly enjoyed the looks on many teenagers' faces as she demonstrated some of the techniques.



## Cool Earth

Leave No Trace Ireland attended 'Cool Earth' which is part of the Festival of World Cultures in Dun Laoghaire in late August.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's Environmental Services Department organised Cool Earth 2008 as part of the festival, calling it a two day environmental exhibition. Along with guest speakers and musical interludes Cool Earth featured exhibition stands by organisations and businesses working to combat climate change through global thinking and local action, all hoping to illustrate the simple ways to reduce our carbon footprint!

Over the two days there was, as always, huge interest and willingness to discuss the issues of Leave No Trace.

We all engage with the outdoors and in an area like Dun Laoghaire where the sea and

the mountains form part of the boundary it was interesting to broaden the discussion and shift the focus a little more towards everyday recreational activity and how we operate daily in the outdoors, to see what the response was.

For many, the outdoors represents where we go to have fun, try something new and engage in sporting pursuits. Although the flexibility of the principles and their ability to speak to each individual on some point allows the programme to get people to think about how they behave when they engage with the outdoors locally by walking the dog, going for a run, a cycle, a walk in an urban park or along the coast, is our behaviour different or the same?

A range of visitors to the stand included walkers, fell runners, bikers, climbers, scouts

and guides, teachers and employees from the Department of Agriculture.



## National Ploughing Championships in Kilkenny

The Ploughing Championships is a huge event with approximately 80,000 visitors over the three days.

Many people responded positively, endorsing the need to promote responsible recreational behaviour in the countryside. From that point of view attendance at the National Ploughing Championships is a good way to show solidarity with private landowners and build goodwill. Some of the farming fraternity responded with 'sure we live in the countryside'. Other people seemed to think most recreational users are responsible enough.

The vast majority of people identify litter as the main negative behaviour in the countryside, concerns were raised about the need to keep dogs under control, about people entering fields with livestock and general respect for property and private land.

On the whole the response to Leave No Trace was very positive. We were presenting it in very basic terms, "encouraging people involved in any form of recreation in the countryside to be responsible, to respect the countryside, enjoy it and leave it as they found it" and clearly that message has resonance with people. "Leave No Trace Ireland's participation in the ploughing match is very worthwhile. It's a good event for raising awareness with the general public, particularly rural dwellers. Our positioning close to Mountaineering Council of Ireland and the Irish Sports Council stands was very useful". (Helen Lawless, Wicklow Uplands Council).



Leave No Trace Ireland would like to give a big thank you to all the Leave No Trace Masters and Trainers who helped out at all the events this summer.

## Leave No Trace on TV



Leave No Trace Ireland was given the opportunity to promote the programme as part of a 'Holiday at Home' series of features on a popular television channel within Northern Ireland. The features included outdoor activities, accommodation and tourist attractions, which were aired on prime time television in August 2008.

The feature focused on 'eco-tourism' and was presented by Pamela Ballantine from UTV. In County Fermanagh Pamela met Jerome O'Loughlin, Ireland Eco Tours, who is a Leave No Trace Trainer. Ireland Eco Tours is a small Eco Tour Company that offers a range of Eco Adventure tours

on the Island of Ireland. Pamela travelled on Jerome's eco friendly veggie oil-powered bus to Lough Navar, from where they cycled up to the viewpoint on mountain bikes. Over lunch Pamela was told about the Leave No Trace programme by Beverley Pierson (Leave No Trace Ireland's Project Co-ordinator) who discussed: what Leave No Trace is, why the Leave No Trace message is important, what can be done to help our environment when using the outdoors and where information on Leave No Trace can be found - [www.leavenotraceireland.org](http://www.leavenotraceireland.org).

# Transition Year Students Leave No Trace in Wicklow Uplands

Forty Transition year students (15-16 year olds) from 8 secondary schools throughout County Wicklow came to the Education Centre in Glendalough to take part in a Leave No Trace Awareness Day on 8th October. The event was organised by the Wicklow Uplands Council (an independent grassroots organisation which brings together the various interests in the Wicklow uplands and Wicklow Mountains National Park Education Centre and supported by the Irish Uplands Forum and Leave No Trace Ireland.

On a beautiful sunny autumn day, just perfect for Leave No Trace training, the participants were encouraged to get to know each other through team working and were divided into four teams at the beginning of the day. As a warm-up activity the teams participated in a treasure hunt in the scenic surroundings of Glendalough. This activity raised their awareness about nature, wildlife and other attributes of the area which is protected and managed by the Wicklow Mountains National Park. Then the teams took part in a Leave No Trace Challenge Activity. This involved an educational walk and talk during which the participants learnt all seven principles of Leave No Trace. Through a range of activities they explored their connection with

the natural world and developed an understanding of their impacts on the environment and other people. Outdoor activities such as mountain-biking, canoeing and hill walking are increasing in popularity in Wicklow therefore it is important that all users know how to act responsibly in the outdoors and in harmony with other people, wildlife and the natural environment.

The teams were awarded points for their challenges during the day and the scores compared. The day concluded with a quiz about Leave No Trace. The participating students enjoyed the day and learnt much about Leave No Trace which was reflected in their feedback:

One of the participating children summed up the event by saying, "we learnt a lot, we learnt about how things we think are small

*Left to Right: Tyler Grace (St. Thomas' CC), Pól Sillery (Coláiste Raitthin), Helen Lawless (Wicklow Uplands Council), Ciara Holohan (St. David's SS), Alexandra Kovacova & Dominika Kania (St. Thomas' CC), Ros Casserly, Jessica Clancy and Katie Keane (St. Killian's CS), Conor McGraynor and Aran Lynham (Avondale CC).*



problems are actually a lot bigger; learnt about conservation and consideration; to appreciate nature and the life that depends on it and how to act around wild animals."

The organisers hope that the participating students will bring the idea of Leave No Trace back to their school-mates, teachers, friends and families and that the message of Leave No Trace will spread further. Wicklow Uplands Council recognises that Leave No Trace appeals to young people and would like to continue to raise the awareness of the project in future youth development programmes.

## 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 • CAAN • Catholic Guides of Ireland • Ireland EcoTours • Irish Girl Guides • Irish Uplands Forum • Limavady Borough Council • MCI Moln LTD • Mountain Meitheal • Mourne Cycle Tours and Tory Bush Cottages • Shannon Development • Sport Northern Ireland Wicklows Upland Council • X-treme North West

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