

LEAVE NO TRACE , INC. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY
&
COURSE PARTICIPANT ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISKS

INTRODUCTION

For all LNT course participants: Please read this document carefully. This document describes the role of Leave No Trace, Inc. ('LNT, Inc.' or 'LNT') as it pertains to LNT courses and includes LNT, Inc.'s disclaimer of liability and your acknowledgment and assumption of risks. Please take the time to read this information and contact your instructor with any questions or concerns.

LEAVE NO TRACE, INC. - Role of Organization & Disclaimer of Liability

LNT, Inc. is a non-profit education organization whose mission is to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships. LNT, Inc. focuses its education efforts on ways for human powered recreational visitors to reduce their impacts on the natural area and the experience of other visitors. LNT Inc.'s goal is to help visitors prevent avoidable impacts and minimize unavoidable impacts in our natural world.

As an education organization, LNT, Inc. develops and distributes educational curriculum and materials in cooperation with its partners. LNT Master Educator & Trainer courses are an integral element of the program. However, LNT, Inc. does not teach, oversee or conduct specific courses, but rather, provides organizations and individuals trained as Master Educators with teaching materials to teach these LNT courses. The instructors for Master and Trainer courses are not representatives of LNT, Inc. **All organizations and individuals conducting LNT courses act as independent contractors and are solely responsible for the conduct of the courses. LNT, Inc. (and its agents, owners, officers, employees, representatives and all other individuals or entities associated with it, collectively 'LNT, Inc.')** does not warrant or guarantee the quality or expertise of any individual or organization teaching a LNT course. Further, LNT, Inc. does not supervise or control these independent contractors and is not legally liable or responsible for their conduct. **LNT, Inc. disclaims all liability to you or others, for any injury, damage, death or other loss you may suffer, in any way connected with your participation in a LNT course. Participants are advised to independently review and examine the qualifications of individuals or organizations providing LNT courses.**

Course Participants - Acknowledgment & Assumption of Risks

LNT courses provide participants with information and techniques so that they can engage in minimum impact wilderness ethics and principles. Those who successfully complete a LNT course can then teach others about these outdoor wilderness ethics. LNT courses focus on wilderness ethics but LNT courses **do not teach** traditional outdoor skills such as mountain climbing, river crossings, camping, etc. However, some LNT courses must be taught in an outdoor or wilderness setting. Activities vary, but can include hiking, camping, rafting and horseback riding and students should have basic outdoor skills before attending a course. **These activities necessarily include inherent risks, hazards and dangers that can cause or lead to injury, property damage, illness, mental or emotional trauma, disability or death. The following describes some, but not all of those risks, hazards and dangers:**

- 1. Risks present in an outdoor environment.** These risks include travel in mountainous or wilderness terrain, both on and off trails. While traveling in these areas, hazards may not be marked, weather is unpredictable year around, and lightning, rapidly moving rivers/whitewater, falling rocks, snow and ice, avalanche dangers, fallen timber, stinging insects, wild animals and other hazards can exist.
- 2. Risks involved in horseback riding.** Horses (including donkeys or mules) are unpredictable in all circumstances. Horses can react to the environment, and the conduct of riders and other persons. Horseback riding can involve equipment that may break, saddles that may slip and other riders who may not control their animals
- 3. Risks connected with cooking and camping chores.** While camping, participants may cook over a gas stove or an open fire and are subject to the risk of gas explosion or burn. Participants may need to disinfect water before use.
- 4. Risks in staff judgment.** Risks involved in decision making and conduct, including the risk that a course leader, co-leader or other assistant may misjudge a participant's capabilities, or misjudge weather, terrain, water level, or route location.

- 5. Risks associated with travel.** Travel can be on foot, or by vehicle, boat or other means, and can be over difficult terrain or via lakes and rivers, in adverse weather conditions.
- 6. Risks connected with geographic location.** Remote locations can create difficulties in communication and transportation and delays in evacuation and medical care.
- 7. The risk that equipment used** in an activity may break, fail or malfunction
- 8. Risks regarding conduct.** The potential that you, other participants or third parties (e.g. driver, rescue squad, hospital) may act carelessly or recklessly.
- Other risks, hazards and dangers that are generally associated with educational and/or outdoor activities.**

These and other risks, hazards and dangers may result in participants: 1) falling, 2) being struck, 3) colliding with objects or people, 4) experiencing vehicle capsizes or collisions, 5) reacting to high altitudes and weather conditions or experiencing other problems. These and other circumstances may cause hypothermia, dehydration, frostbite, drowning, high altitude sickness, heart or lung problems, broken bones, burns, or other injury, damage, death, or loss.

By voluntarily agreeing to participate, you assume and accept full responsibility for yourself, for the inherent risks of these activities (both known and unknown), and for any injury, damage, death, or other loss you may suffer, resulting from those risks, and resulting from your own negligence or other misconduct.

CONCLUSION

As LNT, Inc. continues to expand and develop as a program, the need to offer responsible, informative training grows. LNT, Inc. welcomes your interest in and devotion to the LNT program. The role of LNT, Inc. is to provide educational curriculum to Master Educators and Trainers. Likewise, LNT, Inc. is available as a resource for you as you go forth and spread the LNT word. If you have questions or concerns about LNT, Inc. vis-à-vis your course, please feel free to contact us at the number below. Thanks again for your interest in promoting Leave No Trace. 800.332.4100; www.LNT.org.