Leaves-no-trace!

**Leave No Trace camping** is an increasingly popular – and necessary – approach to travel in wilderness areas. As the term suggests, the goal is for the camper to have as little impact as possible on the location he is visiting. One of its mottos is "Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints." Its simplest and most fundamental rule is: *pack it in, pack it out*, but it goes beyond that.

**Target messages**

- Humans are part of the natural world.
- Sustainability is an important goal to which our society should strive.
- The natural world has inherent value.
- Environmental health and human health are interrelated.
- We have an obligation to contribute to the health of human and natural communities.
**5/6 Grade Camping Trip**

**Rationale** - The Prairie Crossing Charter School campouts are a unique opportunity to enhance and expand student learning. We believe that integrating the environment outside of the school campus into the curriculum is an effective method of increasing student achievement. In addition, the campouts should play an integral role in developing environmentally and socially literate citizens by:

- Facilitating the development of students’ ecological sense of place
- Providing knowledge and skills that allow students to make informed choices and have life-styles that contribute to a healthy society and environment
- Facilitating student involvement in authentic, community-based efforts that improve the local human and natural community

The educational opportunities provided on our camping trips.

- Art – photography, drawing, painting
- Data collection
- Descriptive writing
- Diversity calculations and comparisons
- Ecological disturbance
- Ecological restoration
- Ecological succession
- Education material development
- Exotic species impact and control
- Food web analysis
- Forest management methods
- Forest measurements
- Forest products
- Forest regeneration
- Forest surveys
- Glacial geology
- Habitat surveys and classification
- Land use history
- Life-cycle investigations
- Management plan development
- Mapping
- Navigation skills
- Nutrient cycles
- Observation with a variety of senses
- Phenology
- Plant identification and classification
- Service learning
- Team building
- Trail hiking
- Water cycle
- Wildlife identification and classification

Working together to solve problems and accomplish goals.

Hiking and exploring. Always learning.