Outdoor Ethics

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Mountaineers to reflect in its outdoor philosophy, practices, and educational materials a sense of ethics that respects and preserves outdoor areas.

Application

1. Mountaineers activities shall minimize impact on the natural environment by:
   - Practicing Leave No Trace principles as described by the Center for Outdoor Ethics.
   - Scheduling activities so no two Mountaineers parties are on the same route at the same time.
     - Trips shall be scheduled in the activity database, which only allows one party per route.
     - If two Mountaineers parties encounter each other in the same area, trip leaders should select separate routes and campsites.
   - Limiting party size to a maximum of 12, or smaller when required by land managing agencies.
     Exception: Course field trips and work parties may exceed a party size of 12, with permission of the land manager if applicable, if environmental damage can be avoided.

2. Mountaineers activities shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of land managing agencies, including but not limited to the U. S. Forest Service and the National Park Service. This includes:
   - Obtaining permits as required.
   - Registering parties in advance when required.
   - Following all other rules and requirements of the land managing agency.

3. The Mountaineers shall be proactive on issues involving outdoor ethics and wilderness preservation.
   - Courses shall include applicable outdoor ethics training, including Leave No Trace principles.
   - Activity committees shall encourage leaders to practice and promote Leave No Trace principles.

4. The Mountaineers shall promote member stewardship of the backcountry through maintenance, restoration and preservation activities.

Responsibilities

Division, branch, or staff sponsors of activities are responsible for administering this policy.