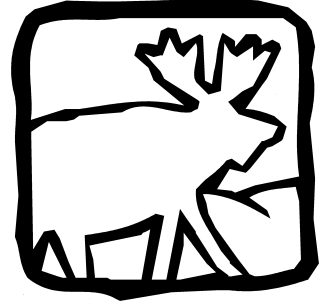


TEMAGAMI – OURS TO PROTECT!

Camping Ethics for Backcountry Travel in Temagami

Temagami is one of Ontario's most spectacular wilderness areas. Rugged scenery, abundant waterways and a host of wildlife, including loons, bear and moose, make Temagami the special place that it is. But careless use of the Temagami backcountry by some campers is harming the area's vegetation, wildlife and water quality. By adopting the Camping Ethics outlined here, you will be joining a growing number of concerned campers seeking to safeguard Temagami's wilderness landscape for its own sake and for the enjoyment of future generations. These Camping Ethics are endorsed and distributed by members of the Association of Youth Camps on the Temagami Lakes.



Be Prepared!

Research your trip so that you are familiar with the route and with provincial regulations. Bring proper equipment for the water and weather conditions you will encounter. Maps, a compass and a first aid kit—and the ability to use them — are essential. Leave an itinerary with a responsible person so that, if you are overdue, searchers will know where to start looking.

Proper food planning can make your trip more enjoyable and reduces the potential for litter to be left behind. Avoid cans and glass containers. Your pack will be lighter and you won't have to worry about breakage. Repackage food in plastic bags and containers, leaving excess packaging at home where it can be recycled. When preparing your menu, add enough food for one or two extra days in case you are delayed by weather or an emergency.



Treading Lightly

Your trip should not contain more than 14 people (including staff). Many of Temagami's campsites cannot accommodate large groups without serious environmental impact. Choose campsites that are appropriate for your group size. In general, the smaller your group, the less likely you are to create visual, audible or environmental disturbances.

Camp Wisely!

Use only existing campsites. Set up your tents only in areas previously cleared. Be careful not to damage vegetation or to contribute to soil compaction or erosion. Do not dig trenches around your tent. Do not deface trees with axe marks, nails, or by building camp furniture.

When you are leaving, clean up all garbage, including twist ties, cigarette butts or aluminum foil left in the firepit and pack it out with you. Strive to make the campsite cleaner than it was when you arrived. Take a last check before leaving your campsite or lunch spot. Is that fire completely out? Have you checked that none of your garbage, or any equipment, has been left behind?

Thinking about Fire

Some groups would not think of camping without a campfire. Yet the natural character of many sites has been degraded by overuse of fires and increasing demand for firewood. Lightweight camp stoves make low-impact camping possible by encouraging a shift away from fires.

If a campfire is used, keep it small—it will be easier to control and uses less wood. Use existing fire sites. Avoid modifying or making new fire sites.



Use only deadwood for your campfires, preferably collected away from your campsite. Let your fire burn down to ashes. Drown your fire thoroughly with water. Stir the ashes and add more water. Pack out any bits of unburned garbage.

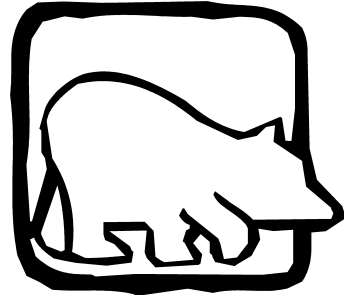
Do not build a fire if it is windy, or if a Fire Restriction is in effect. Fire Restrictions may be declared during times of extremely high fire hazard, making it illegal to have a fire for any purpose, including cooking.

By carrying a portable camp stove, you can keep your options open. Use your stove(s) when in a rush for an early start, in poor weather, or when it is too windy. Save the use of campfires for those special evenings, when it is safe to do so, and when it is environmentally sound.

Keep it Wild!

Use only existing trails and portages. Avoid widening trails by walking single file in the middle of the trail, even if it is wet or muddy. Skirting around these areas only makes the problem worse.

Avoid disturbing wildlife, especially young animals or nesting birds. Do not feed wildlife since this interferes with their natural habits. To keep food and garbage secure from raccoons and black bears, pack it securely and hang your pack between trees, at least 6 metres above the ground. Do not bring food or snacks into your tent.



Do not remove plants, historical artifacts or other natural objects. When blueberry or raspberry picking, leave plenty for wildlife, too.

Follow all fishing and hunting regulations. If traveling with pets, keep them under control to prevent them from harassing wildlife or bothering other campers. Dispose of their waste as you would your own.

Anglers—do not dispose of fish remains in the water. Besides attracting wildlife to your site, this is very unpleasant for the next visitor to have to deal with. Leave out on rocks in open areas where birds can scavenge them. Do this well away from campsites and trails to avoid attracting bears.



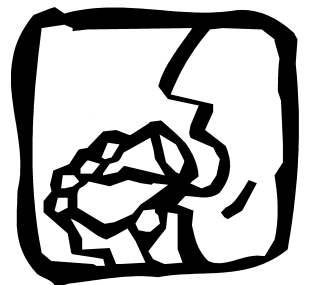
Courtesy Counts

Do not block portages, access points or launch ramps with boats, canoes or equipment. Remember—"rules of the road" apply on waterways too— please do not block narrow channels.

One of the reasons people enjoy wilderness tripping is to experience the scenery and solitude. Whether en route or at your campsite, avoid loud noises or visual impacts that may disturb others.

Toilet Tales

Human waste scattered on trails and campsites is a major concern in the Temagami area. Use properly installed privies, located at least 50 metres from open water, campsites and trails. If no privy is available, dig a small hole 10 to 15 centimetres deep in the active soil layer, at least 50 metres away from the water. Use single ply toilet paper and bury everything completely. All other sanitary products should be triple-bagged in plastic and packed out with your garbage. Trip leaders have a responsibility to ensure that all members of the group are aware of proper toilet practices.



Water, Water Everywhere, But...

Treat all drinking water to prevent contracting *Giardia* or other waterborne parasites and diseases. Use a water filter, iodine or water-treatment kits sold at camping stores, or boil your water for at least five minutes. Prevent water contamination by using a dishpan for all washing and rinsing—both for your dishes and yourself. Use only biodegradable soap and dump wastewater at least 50 metres away from water bodies.

And Spread the Word!

By taking individual responsibility for the stewardship of Temagami, each of us can enjoy this wonderful wilderness area and help protect it for our own return visit, as well as for future generations. Take time to talk to friends and fellow travelers about the importance of minimizing our impact on the Temagami landscape. It's a small conversation that could make a big difference.

Additional Reading:

- Visit the Leave No Trace website at <http://www.lnt.org/>
- *Canoeing in the Temagami Area*, MNR publication 5934. 1:126,720 scale map showing canoe routes, campsites and brief descriptions of 23 routes
- *Minimum Impact Camping—A Basic Guide* by Curt Schatz and Dan Seemon, Adventure Publications Inc., Cambridge, MN, 1994.
- *Soft Paths—How to Enjoy the Wilderness Without Harming It* by Bruce Hampton and David Cole, National Outdoor Leadership School, Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, PA, 1988. Revised 1995.
- *Temagami Canoe Routes* by Hap Wilson, updated 1992, Canadian Recreational Canoe Association, Merrickville, ON.



Contact Information:

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