



Outdoor Ethics Corner: Camporee as Camping in the Wilderness.

Camporees are often held in fields that are not normally used for camping. Open fields covered in grass.

The goal is to minimize impact to the area allowing it to be used for other activities soon after the camporee.

How camporees are like wilderness camping:

- Plan ahead and prepare, know the rules to avoid violations and sanctions or the misery of unplanned compliance. Examples are banned activities, digging holes, ground fires.
- Grey water needs extra attention. Disposed at the campsite grey water could kill the grass or encourage animals to dig in the area. If grey water disposal is far from the campsite plan and prepare dictating providing a method to get it there without spilling. It is very hard to carry a dish pan half filled with water a hundred yards. Two to four milk jugs would allow for balanced and safe transport to the disposal site. Using less water with the three pot method would save money, less gas, and effort, transporting water to and from the campsite.
- LNT tells us that grass is a durable surface. Durable does not mean indestructible. Watch for wear in areas of high traffic, cooking station, tent entrances, gathering areas. This is particularly important during wet weather, Sea Girt 2014 for example. If wear appears steps to be taken include moving the area, minimize activity in the area (chase away kitchen socializers) or put down a protective mat or tarp.
- Be considerate of other visitors. At camporees units are generally packed tightly together. Scouts should realize that sound travels just as well at night as it does during the day. Just because you cannot see your neighbors does not mean they won't hear you. There are curfews in place that should be observed. Talking in a tent is easily overheard in a tent three feet away.
- Minimize campfire impacts. Unit campfires are not allowed at camporees. But there is often free time when a gathering "campfire" would be enjoyable. Consider having a flameless campfire using lights shining on water bottles, candles, or flashing bicycle lights and tin foil. This will provide a flickering light, the essence of a campfire.

