



## **Outdoor Ethics Corner:**

### **Rumor that Leave No Trace is being Phased Out**

There is a rumor that Leave No Trace is being phased out, being replaced by Outdoor Ethics. It is true that the Leave No Trace awards are being replaced by Outdoor Ethics awards. For many years the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics has partnered with BSA to develop and enhance programs for using the outdoors wisely and ethically. Leave No Trace is a registered logo to that center. Tread Lightly is a program focusing on the responsible use of motorized vehicles in the outdoors.

Recently scouting has accepted the use of motorized vehicles i.e. ATVs into the scouting program. To accommodate this growth in the programs scouting could no longer just refer to Leave No Trace for the name of the program and awards. The seven principles of Leave No Trace combined with the five principles of Tread Lightly are the foundation of the Outdoor Ethics programs. These principles grew from the Land Ethic developed by Aldo Leopold. Those three pillars add meaning and understanding to the Outdoor Code.

There are opportunities for Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly training. The training requirements and certification are managed separately by the two organizations. Becoming a Leave No Trace trainer is considered eligible for an office of responsibility for Eagle Scout. As an example of Leave No Trace in the scouting program, refer to the 2014 edition of the Fieldbook. An entire chapter is devoted to Leave No Trace. Inside the front cover is the Outdoor Code and inside the back cover is the seven principles.