

# CONSERVATION

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*"God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.'"*  
(Genesis 1:28)

*From the very beginning of God's Creation, He made it clear we were to use and conserve all of nature, all of Creation. In other words, the conservation pledge on a world wide scale.*



I GIVE MY PLEDGE AS AN  
AMERICAN TO SAVE AND  
FAITHFULLY TO DEFEND FROM  
WASTE THE NATURAL RESOURCES  
OF MY COUNTRY - ITS AIR, SOIL,  
AND MINERALS, ITS FORESTS,  
WATERS, AND WILDLIFE.



*"But ask the animals, and they will instruct you; ask the birds of the sky, and they will tell you. Or speak to the earth, and it will instruct you; let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? The life of every living thing is in His hand, as well as the breath of all mankind." (Job 12:7-10)*

We should practice and encourage others to practice measures which will protect our water supply, varied plant life, soil, and wildlife. These are the national resources necessary for us to enjoy hiking and camping.

You should also learn to appreciate the wonders of God's world and develop a sense of responsibility for its care. The following are intended to help you to fully enjoy your outdoor experiences and to practice good conservation while doing so.

## Conservation and You

- Enjoy the beauty of God's world by watching a sunset, a flower or a view.
- Get acquainted with something in nature - a tree, a bird, an animal, or an insect. Observe it and learn several facts about it.
- Remember that your life depends upon natural resources for food and shelter.
- Learn how the lives of other creatures depend upon these resources and upon each other.
- Keep alert to learn new things about nature and conservation.



## - Notes -

*Be aware of all that God has created, and worship only Him, the Creator.*

*"He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also put eternity in their hearts, but man cannot discover the work God has done from beginning to end." (Ecclesiastes 3:11)*



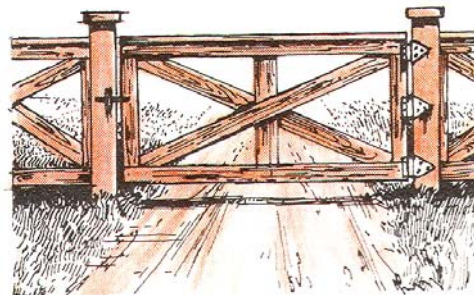
- Practice conservation in little, everyday things.
- Cleanliness and beauty are part of conservation. Keep your camp site neat and clean.
- Keep your living quarters clean and attractive.
- Pick up paper and trash found around your site no matter who left it.

- Burn or carry home all garbage and other trash from trips, cookouts, and overnight outings.
- When hiking, stay on the trails to avoid trampling plants.
- Always leave trails and camp sites cleaner than you found them.
- Do not rake around camp sites. It leads to erosion and loss of moisture around roots.

## Good Neighbor Policy

There is such a thing as manners in the outdoors. All campers should know and discuss rules of hiking and camping before beginning a trip.

*"Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them..." (Matthew 7:12)*



## - Notes -

*“Therefore He is always able to save those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them.” (Hebrew 7:25)*

*The “good gardener” concept charges us with the responsibility of taking care of the resources that God has blessed us with. Be they physical or spiritual needs, we should feel that same desire in caring for the people that God puts in our lives.*

If using private property:

- Obtain permission before entering private property.
- Leave gates open or closed, just as they were found.
- Treat the property with respect, leaving behind no trash or other undesirable evidence of your use.
- Don’t make short cuts across private property without permission. Stay on paths or roads. Don’t cut across fields of grain. Go around the edge of any planted field when there is no road or path.
- Do not pick fruit or vegetation without permission.
- On roadways walk single file facing traffic.
- Do not mark, carve, or whittle on trees, fences, or buildings.
- Report any accidental damage to property owner.



## Fire

Fire is a friend, for it warms you, cooks your food and lifts your spirits. But a fire out of control is your enemy.

### In Case of Fire:

- Know where the fire-fighting equipment is kept.
- Know how to use it.
- Keep it in operating condition.
- Know what to do and where to go when a fire breaks out.
- Know how to report a fire and to whom.
- Know how to provide for the personal safety of each other.



## When Building Fires:

- Obtain a fire permit if required.
- Select an established fireplace, if available, rather than a new spot.
- Choose a spot well away from underbrush and trees.
- Clear the fire area and its surroundings of combustible materials.
- Select only dead wood for fires.
- Build a fire no larger than necessary.
- Keep a continuous watch on burning fires.
- Avoid building fires if the weather is windy or dry.
- Keep water, fire extinguisher, sand, broom, rakes, shovels, or other fire-fighting equipment ready for an emergency.
- Always extinguish fires before leaving camp sites.
- Extinguish fires by sprinkling plenty of water on them, and then stirring the ashes until no embers are left.
- If building fires in grassy areas, remove the sod beforehand and replace it afterwards.



## Soil



- Soil erosion is one of the most common problems of camps.
- Change established paths and trails to minimize erosion.
- Especially avoid disturbing the plant cover on steep slopes.
- Build small diversion dams to stop erosion.
- Plant grass, trees or other plants on bare soil to protect it.
- Replace disturbed sod when you find it.

## Water

- Clean, pure and abundant water is necessary.
- Appreciate the beauty of your water source and help to keep it clean.
- Avoid wasting water.
- On overnight camps, build temporary latrines in such a way that they will not drain into waterways and pollute them.
- Keep waterways free from garbage and trash.



*“As the water reflects the face, so the heart reflects the person.”  
(Proverbs 27:19)*

## - Notes -

*“Then God said, ‘Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds.’ And it was so. So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.”*  
(Genesis 1:24-25)

- A camp site may be used for many years. Will campers in years to come find a green and beautiful place or a bare, eroded and ugly one?
- Know your state laws protecting trees and flowers.
- Avoid thoughtless marking of living trees and shrubs.
- Know which boughs or saplings may be cut. Cut saplings selectively, so that remaining plants may be improved by their removal.
- Know which flowers are appropriate to pick.
- Know which flowers are not to be picked at all.
- Avoid overusing camp sites so that plant life will not be destroyed.
- Erect overnight camps with a minimum of clearing.
- Recognize and avoid poisonous plants.



## Wildlife

- Camp sites can be a home for wild creatures where you may observe and enjoy animal friends large and small.
  - Know the kinds of wildlife found in and near your camp.
  - Know and obey fish and game laws.
  - Return fish to water if you do not plan to use them.
  - Protect the homes of wild creatures, and perhaps even plant trees and shrubs to create new homes.
  - Avoid annoying or killing small living things such as turtles, frogs, toads and non-poisonous snakes.
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- Learn to observe the life habits of wildlife.
  - Never take from camp the small living things which make their homes there.
  - Realize that some insects are beneficial and should not be destroyed.



## Conservation Projects

- Notes -

- Mark worn out camping areas to be left unused for a year or more. Move campfire circles, cookout sites, fireplaces, and tent areas to let the soil rest and make a comeback. Why not plant some native grasses?
- Place some kind of mulch around the roots of trees that are exposed because of the tramping of too many feet. This will protect the trees and prevent further erosion. Then try this around tent areas too.
- Clean up pollution in a lake or stream in your area by picking up trash along the edges and reporting industries who pollute.
- Terrace slopes to prevent erosion.
- Build erosion dams on sloping trails where erosion is possible.
- Transplant various plants from overcrowded areas to depleted areas.
- Check with the U.S. Forest Service about making firebreaks for fire control in forests and on prairies. These cutbacks can double for trails.
- Fill gullies that are eroded by building check dams. Simply drive stakes into the ground, fill with rocks, and plant honeysuckle or other vine.
- Plant trees. Memorial trees, chosen wisely, planted properly, and tended regularly make wonderful "comeback" attractions. Contact the local forester to find out before you plant what, where, and when you can replenish our natural resources with your tree. He might even come along to help.
- Talk with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Park Service, or state and local conservation and wildlife agencies in your area about any other conservation projects they may have for you or your group to work on.



*"First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth."  
(1 Timothy 2:1-4)*



*"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.' So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.' God also said, 'Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth, and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This food will be for you, for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it. I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so."*

*(Genesis 1:26-30)*

