

Leave No Trace Plan 2009, Burning Man

About Our Camp

Camp Name: Earth Guardians, Our LNT Past to the Future

Background: Burning Man Volunteers formed the Earth Guardians in 1998 to assist in education and conservation efforts. Earth Guardians focus on emerging issues that have the potential to impact the playa or our community and develop LNT practices to reduce impacts. We also visit the Black Rock desert outside of the Burning Man event both to introduce participants to the beauty of the area and to participate in restoration and education activities. We also work closely with BLM and other desert users on projects in the Black Rock NCA.

Population: 35-40

Nature and scale of our activities: At each year's Burning Man, Earth Guardians pick new outreach areas to develop new materials and activities around. For the last couple of years we have also formed a partnership with BLM to explore different themes for outreach to the residents of Black Rock city. At this year's event, Earth Guardians will be bringing in a new LED Earth Guardian Pavilion sign, be designing a new shower, and have an artist working on an "Evolve Here" installation. We will also be piloting a small demo for an evolving new pavilion. We will also add to our Black Rock Interpretive walk (which includes a timeline of the 'greening' of Burning Man and highlights different department's proactive, eco-friendly changes in operations and includes our efforts outside the event (e.g. participate in Public Lands Day, Friends of Black Rock, restoration of wilderness areas and Gerlach, and contributions to environmental education) with an emphasis on evolution of greening efforts. Interpretation will continue with our interpretive yurts containing displays about the evolution of public lands and the legacy that it leaves us.

For a more detailed list of our camp activities, check out www.earthguardian.net or http://www.tonyandkarina.us/eg/volunteer_events.htm our volunteer teams that operate at the event are also listed at http://www.tonyandkarina.us/eg/volunteer_teams.htm

How we will organize for Leave No Trace

Our LNT leadership and structure: Our group manager, camp manager and LNT camp outreach coordinator form our LNT council. We hereby designate Mike Prunte, Karina O'Connor and Nancy Abodeely as the Council of **Leave No Trace Officer(s)**, who will ensure that our camp stays clean before, during and after the event. They will also be given the task of keeping our camp clean and fun and delegate and enlist help when it is needed. They will also take part in planning our purchases and encourage us to reuse / recycle / reduce/restore.

They will be responsible for cleanup and trash management in our camp, including activities and parties we host. They will see that our gray water does not impact the playa. They will see that all camp members understand and agree with the policies and practices of Leave No Trace at Burning Man. They will oversee daily tasks and will have a plan in place when we get ready to leave. When it's time to break down and sweep our camp for every last trace. Nancy and Mike will make sure EVERYTHING left goes with us. Karina will oversee our camp breakdown and cleanup with Tony Guerra.

Our Commitment to Leave No Trace

To minimize our impact on the Playa, we will follow these rules:

Before the event

- We pledge to Leave No Trace in and around our campsite, including our own and others' waste and read the survival guide
- We will complete our camp's Leave No Trace Plan
- We will plan the assembly and takedown of our structures and decorations and tape the edges of our carpets
- Inventory vehicle space for packing out everything and rent an extra vehicle if needed
- We will take the packaging off of just about everything and stock up on reusable containers
- Shop for simple finger foods and prepare meals in advance to reduce waste and because we probably won't feel like cooking
- We will bring no glass, cheap trinkets, small feathers, and anything that might get left on the playa

During the event

- We will have assigned volunteers check our camp daily
- We will clean as we go, realizing that any trash or MOOP (matter out of place) can blow away or be buried at any moment.
- We will keep our recyclables, burnables, and non-burnables clearly separated for easy disposal,
- We will recycle our aluminum, either on-site or back home
- We will have special cleanup crews for any high traffic activities we host and take care of any trash left by guests, invited or otherwise.
- We won't light fires on bare ground or dig pits, leaving scars. If we must burn, we'll use a public burn barrel or burn platform and
- We will burn only clean untreated wood or paper (nothing synthetic) and follow the safety guidelines for fires and burn scar prevention.
- We won't dig holes more than 6 in. wide and 1 in. deep or trenches
- We will keep all items tied or weighted down, and leave papers at home.
- We will not dump any grey or black water on the playa
- We will encourage members of our camp to carry a personal trash container and a cigarette butt container when they are outside camp.

After the event

- We will put aside time and have designated volunteers for the final cleanup
- We will take all trash in sealed containers to a landfill on the way home.
- After cleaning our camp, everyone in our camp will devote at least two hours to the general city cleanup (e.g. trash fence, local port-o-potties, café, etc).
- We will leave extra space in every vehicle on the way to the desert, knowing that repacking will inevitably take up more space and ensure that no items can detach during the ride home.
- We will pack out everything, including any unevaporated gray water and scum
- We won't put trash in or around the port-o-potties
- We will help out our neighbors and fellow citizens

We will be Good Neighbors

- We will encourage our guests to bring their own beverage containers.
- We will help out our neighbors
- We will adopt the space around our camp, making sure that it stays traceless
- We will help careless or forgetful campers

Here's how we'll do it

Design our camp in a way that is easy to keep clean: We have a small camp kitchen, designed to keep mess to a minimum. Our common shade area is carpeted so that we can capture any small debris. We schedule events from 10-5 each day so that we can do morning and evening clean-up to minimize collection of MOOP. We do not give out any paper fliers to reduce MOOP and ensure that there are no items that can fly away in a wind/dust storm.

Select materials and decorations for our camp that lessen waste and are recyclable or reusable: We are in our 6th year of using our current shade pavilion. We are looking at replacing the wood structure with a metal-based one that will result in less (e.g. no) wood shavings on the playa and reduce playa impact. We have reused the kitchen supplies, carpet, white board, folding chairs, tables, bar, stage and lights/sound each year. We incorporate some new decorations and signs each year that fit into the event theme. We take home the fabric (to wash) and bring it back each year.

Plan for the breakdown/cleanup of our camp, accounting for every board, stake, and scrap, and pack necessary tools and supplies: We will begin our camp breakdown and pickup on Sunday, even though we don't plan to leave Black Rock City until Monday or Tuesday morning. Starting pack-up on Sunday will allow us to organize our camp materials for packing into our 2 shipping containers which are stored on the Burning Man properties.

Plan for extra cleanup and trash generated by activities and parties at our camp: We are planning on having our largest gathering on Wednesday evening with daily classes and workshops at the pavilion through Saturday. We will be showing LNTV videos, encouraging participants to LNT and ensure that no trash is left after the Wednesday event. The videos will be playing on our large LNTV screen. We will be running a BYOM bar during the week and will remind revelers at the bar to either bring their own cups or use one of our cups made from cans and to leave the can at recycle camp, not on the ground.

Plan for proper disposal of our grey water, including containers to haul out what's left: We plan on using a grey water container to collect the camp grey water during the event. United Services will haul away the container at the end of the event. Grey Water displays, drinks and videos will be used to educate participants regarding specific information about grey water, inspire discussion around the topic, highlight our ongoing (real time) experiment, as well as encourage others to share what they are doing.

Plan enough space and storage in our vehicles for trash hauling: Campers are expected to remove their own trash from meal preparation. We incorporate a simple, small camper kitchen to minimize horizontal surfaces which might encourage collection of garbage. It will include a mesh bag to reduce volume and smell from fruit peels. Since we also run MOOP patrols on the trash fence, we will be using DPW trash collection areas.

Explain the ground rules to all camp members and post our LNT plan on our website. Both the Earth Guardians detailed LNT plan and a sample plan, that other camps can use, are available on our web site at: http://www.tonyandkarina.us/eg/burning_int_samplelntplan.htm We also send out camp guidelines to all campers which explains what everyone agrees to while camping and covers kitchen rules and considerations when in common ground areas of the

pavilion. All campers are also reminded, that as a LNT model camp, we are expected to maintain a clean and open camp for others to visit.

Plan a secured trash separation station with signage and tags and plenty of heavy duty garbage bags; We have trash separation, with signs for burnables, recycleables and garbage in the kitchen. We burn excess paper and wood each evening. We also include trash separation, in smaller containers at the bar.

We will bring the following items for camp operations

- Separate, sealed containers for recyclables, burnables, and non-burnables, a found bin and signage and tags.
- Reusable dinnerware and utensils, including a portable coffee cup for the café
- A large water container for camp water supplies (no small containers)
- 5-gallon bucket and painter's mesh for wet kitchen scraps.
- Containers for Grey water disposal
- Containers for smokers' butts
- Reusable MOOP bags
- Tarps or other floor covering to 'catch' any items that drop

We will bring the following items for our camp's breakdown and clean-up

- Big whiskbroom
- Flat blade shovel
- Rake (depending on the surface texture)
- Stiff long handled broom
- Rope and string for tying loose stuff down.
- Small spare bags for collecting trash as we wander.
- Lots on industrial strength trash bags: more than we think we'll need.
- Cheap work gloves for everybody.
- Long-handled sledgehammer for compacting 5-gallon buckets and driving stakes.
- Vise grips for removing stakes and rebar.
- Directions and hours of landfills and RV water dump stations
- Magnets to remove every last nails, staples, scrap of metal.
- Vehicles and/or trailers to haul everything out

Packing Out

- We will take away everything we brought with us plus a few things we didn't know we'd have.
- We will each perform at least 10 hours of community outreach and clean-up
- We will try to give a helping hand to our neighbors