



October 28, 2009

Troop Leaders, District Advancement Committees, Commissioners and District Executives

Re: Leave No Trace Trainer Position of Responsibility

Dear Fellow Scouters,

With the release of the new Centennial edition of the Scout Handbook, two new Troop Positions of Responsibility were created, one being Leave No Trace Trainer. Nationally, there has been quite a bit of confusion regarding this position and I would like to help clarify any confusion there may be.

So far the only official information available regarding the Leave No Trace Trainer position is the online version of the Scout Handbook at [bsahandbook.org](http://bsahandbook.org), and the information is not correct. I've been in contact with Eric Hiser, Chair of the BSA Leave No Trace Taskforce, and he has provided the following information for clarification purposes:

- In order for a Scout to be appointed to this position he needs to have successfully completed the 16 hour Leave No Trace Trainer Course.
- A Scout can take the Leave No Trace Trainer Course through BSA or from another provider such as the Appalachian Mountain Club.
- BSA has set the minimum age of 14 to take a BSA sponsored Leave No Trace Trainer Course.
- However, there is no minimum age for the position of Leave No Trace Trainer.
- A Scout younger than 14 can take a non-BSA course and still be appointed to the position.
- The position of Leave No Trace Trainer is a qualifying position for Star, Life and Eagle. In the new Scout Handbook, Leave No Trace Trainer is not listed in the Positions of Responsibility for Eagle. Eric Hiser has assured me that this was an accidental omission, which will be corrected in the next printing. Leave No Trace Trainer is listed on the newest Eagle Application.

I hope this information will clarify any questions that have arisen. Please encourage any of your 14 and older Scouts to take a Trainer Course. Should you have additional questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Scouting,

**Scott Elkins**

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