

A Visitor's Guide to *Dispersed Natural Site Camping*: Three Easy but Critical Steps

You can truly **Leave No Trace** of your visit when you successfully apply the following Dispersed Natural Site Camping practices in low use areas with durable surfaces.

Please do not use this style of camping unless **ALL** members of your group accept the responsibility to carefully follow the guidance – failure to do so can lead to the creation of new campsites. Otherwise please find and use an existing legal campsite.



Step 1: Find a natural spot with *no evidence* of trampling disturbance that is out of sight or distant from existing trails and campsites with a **durable surface**: naturally non-vegetated rock or gravel (preferred) or organic litter (look in shady forests). Camping on low dry grasses/sedges in a sunny concealed spot is also fine, particularly if concentrated activities are shifted to more durable surfaces. Your spot should be >200 ft from water and *highly unlikely* for other visitors to find and reuse it.

Step 2: Avoid ground disturbance by using a free-standing tent on bedrock or a hammock with wide straps (preferred), or place tents on non-vegetated organic litter or dry grass. Save any removed sticks, rocks, or pinecones. Disperse and/or limit all traffic and camping activities to the most durable non-vegetated areas – avoid stepping on plants. Camp one to a few nights but move camp if visible vegetation or soil disturbance begins to appear. No campfires for this style of camping.



Step 3: Pack everything up and naturalize the area, disguising the site by replacing/adding sticks, rocks, and pinecones or organic litter to remove all traces of your stay. Fluff up any flattened grasses.