

Project Description *

Please provide a description of your project. Please include information on the need your project fills and how it does so. Include objectives, an anticipated timeline, and expected impact(s). Responses are limited to 3,000 characters including spaces.

Leave No Trace (LNT) and the Center for Outdoor Ethics is the primary organization that researches, promotes, and educates on skills and techniques that people can use to minimize their impact on the environment when participating in outdoor recreation activities. LNT is officially endorsed by all of the nation's leading land managers, including the National Park Service, National Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management, as well as all of the country's leading outdoor recreation organizations, including the National Outdoor Leadership School, Outward Bound, and Boy and Girls Scouts of America. Curriculum covers information on subjects such as building traceless campfires, sustainable campsite selection and use, proper waste disposal, and how to lessen the social impacts of outdoor recreation.

This project would utilize the Sustainability Fund to fund multiple levels of Leave No Trace trainings for University of Arizona students and staff, and provide opportunities for UA students to act in leadership and educator roles during the process. First, the Coordinator for Outdoor Recreation at Campus Recreation would attend a Leave No Trace Master Educator training. The Coordinator would then provide a two-day Leave No Trace Trainer certification class to UA students at no cost. An Outdoor Recreation student trip instructor with prior Leave No Trace training would act as a student leader and educator-in-training for this course.

Students who attend and complete the LNT Trainer course will receive a Leave No Trace Trainer certificate, and be authorized to provide Leave No Trace Awareness Workshops. Several of these students, with support and direction from the Coordinator for Outdoor Recreation and will then run two Leave No Trace ½-day Awareness Workshops, again at no cost, for University of Arizona students. This will allow even more students to benefit from the training and curriculum, as well as provide practical experience in environmental education and advocacy for the student leaders. Approximately 6 students who participate in the Leave No Trace Trainer course will later act as student volunteers for Leave No Trace Awareness Workshops. Including preparation and the workshop, volunteers will work approximately 8-hours each. They will be paid for this time, and will gain valuable teaching and facilitation experience.

Rae Pickens will be acting as coordinator, educator, trip leader, and point person for proposed Leave No Trace Trainer course. To kick off this process, there are many different Leave No Trace Master Trainer courses that Rae could register for in the spring. The most easily attained of these would be the December 31st- Jan 5th one at Saguaro National Park through the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). Rae has already completed the application and deposit portion of signing up for this class, and just requires the funding to pay the rest of it.

Project Summary Snapshot *

Please provide a short summary of your project. This summary will be used on our new website and other Office of Sustainability materials, if approved. Think of this as a hyper-concentrated summary limited to just a few sentences. Responses are limited to 800 characters (~60-100 words).

LNT is the primary organization that promotes, and educates on techniques that people can use to minimize their impact on the environment when participating in outdoor recreation. This project would use the Sustainability Fund to fund multiple levels of LNT trainings for UA students and staff, and provide opportunities for UA students to act in leadership and educator roles during the process.

Project Feasibility & Logistics *

Please provide a description of the work that has been completed so far to make this project feasible. Have all relevant partners been contacted/coordinated with? Please identify them in your response. Have you received reasonable quotes for supplies? What research has been completed to lay the foundation for this project? Proposals that have not thoroughly pre-planned may be rejected outright. Responses are limited to 3,000 characters including spaces.

There are many different Leave No Trace Master Trainer courses that the Outdoor Recreation Coordinator could register for in the spring. The most easily attained of these would be the December 31st- Jan 5th one at Saguaro National Park through the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). The Outdoor Recreation Coordinator has already completed the application and deposit portion of signing up for this class, and just requires the funding to pay the rest of it. Outdoor Recreation has already completed all the paperwork and logistics associated with being an LNT training organization- both by submitting the LNT Organization Training Agreement and paying the LNT Organizational Membership fee.

All of the quotes for supplies and labor come directly from the Leave No Trace website and Campus Recreation Wage Matrix- factoring in the amount of hours in a course, cost of educational supplies, and the most up-to-date information on Outdoor Recreation student employee pay.

Environmental Sustainability Outcomes *

Please provide a brief description of how you expect your project to advance environmental sustainability on campus. Responses are limited to 3,000 characters including spaces. A definition of environmental sustainability is provided in our Spring 2022 Information.

Outdoor recreation is a fundamental asset to modern-day society, giving citizens important life benefits such as decreased stress, time in nature, and physical activity. However, without the ability to recreate responsibly and sustainably, the benefits of outdoor recreation are outweighed by the negative impacts that it has on the earth: like destruction of fragile ecosystems or man-made disturbances. Education through LNT Training Series is the crucial first step in awareness of the potential impacts that outdoor recreation can have on a natural environment.

This project will advance environmental sustainability by being an educational tool for students on campus. Many groups on campus operate in the natural outdoor setting- participating in activities ranging from hiking to climbing to camping. The LNT training series was designed with outdoor recreators in mind- with the intention to teach them to have as little long-term impact on ecosystems and natural processes as possible.

Social Sustainability Outcomes *

Please provide a brief description of how you expect your project to advance social sustainability on campus. Responses are limited to 3,000 characters including spaces. A definition of social sustainability is provided in our Spring 2022 Information.

The field of outdoor recreation was always one where white, male participants were overtly overrepresented. While the field has reached nearly gender parity and has statistically become more diverse, recent studies have shown that these same folks do not hold leadership positions in the same percentage by which they participate in the field.

One of the main avenues forward to correct this is to provide more educational opportunities to those not historically represented in the outdoor field- women, the LGBTQ+ population, and the BIPOC community. The LNT Training Series provides a unique opportunity for anyone even just adjacent to the outdoor field to become leaders and teachers in the outdoor field. It would also provide a valuable sense of community, social capital, and empowerment to those involved to actually make social and environmental change in their respective communities.

Student Leadership & Involvement *

Please provide a brief description of how you expect your project to benefit students on campus regarding the creation of leadership opportunities or student engagement. What leadership opportunities exist within your proposal? If you plan to hire/ or involve students, please describe in what capacity. For example, if you plan to hire students, create an internship, or seek student involvement, please describe relevant details thoroughly (wages, responsibilities, duration of job, extent of involvement, how you will solicit/ market these opportunities etc.). Responses are limited to 3,000 characters including spaces.

Approximately 6 students who participate in the Leave No Trace Trainer course will later act as student volunteers for Leave No Trace Awareness Workshops. Including preparation and the workshop, volunteers will work approximately 8-hours each. They will be paid for this time, and will gain valuable teaching and facilitation experience.

Also, all students who participate in the Leave No Trace Trainer course or one of the LNT Awareness Workshops will participate in hands-on learning on both how to recreate in a more sustainable manner, as well as how to act as an educator and advocate for sustainable recreation practices. By offering multiple levels of engagement opportunities with different levels of time/effort commitment we hope to bring a variety of students to the project. Also, by offering a progression of involvement, going from participating in a LNT training to leading one, we hope to give students a deeper level of understanding and commitment to sustainability principles.

Education, Outreach, & Behavior Change *

Please provide a brief description of how you expect your project will communicate its impacts to the campus community. How will your project educate the campus community and/or incorporate outreach and behavior change? How are you reaching beyond the "sustainability choir?". Responses are limited to 3,000 characters including spaces.

This project is primarily an educational undertaking with the purpose of providing educational resources to the campus community. Its target audience is student leaders of groups that may benefit from this sort of sustainability training, and who will take what they've learned back to their own piece of the campus community. These student leaders are the main way that this project will communicate its impact and disseminate to the greater campus community- using the students as liaisons to the information they've learned.

Beyond simply the "sustainability choir" this project is focused on empowering- teaching students the LNT principles and giving them skills to teach it themselves. Such empowerment goes beyond simple preachy LNT advertisements or marketing that could be seen on trailsides for example- instead putting the LNT focus on people and their ability to make environmental change.
