



*Hint-* While an occasional stepping off the trail may seem harmless, it's important to remember that staying on the trail minimizes our overall impact on green spaces. Heading off trail can lead to erosion, run off problems, root exposure and disturbance of natural areas and habitats for our woodland neighbors.

**Stop 3-** Joe and Jane are surprised to find a wooden path at the bottom of the hill, also known to residents as the boardwalk. Jane excitedly runs to stand close to the waters shrieking and screaming with enthusiasm. Joe covers his ears, while the turtles slide off logs into the water and the noise disrupts picnickers nearby.

Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

*Hint-* Standing on the boardwalk is a serene moment. If you are lucky, you will enjoy the sounds of a lively woodpecker or the deep croaking of a bull frog. Talking loudly or screaming not only startles wildlife (and people), but can take away from the pleasure of others in the area and detracts from the natural sounds and beauty.

**Stop 4-** At this point, the trails can be followed to the right or left to meet up with the Lake Anita Louise Trail. Jane and Joe cannot resist the rocks they can see to the left, so they quickly head down the narrow path along the waters. Midway between the boardwalk and the rocks Jane and Joe's attention is quickly drawn to a large tree in the middle of the trail marked with lots of words (but not intentional trail markers) also known as graffiti. It's here that Jane stops to pick a handful of flowers found along the trail to take home.

Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

*Hint-* While it is tempting to pick those beautiful flowers or take a rock or critter as a memento from your hike, its best to leave things where they are for others to enjoy. Use a camera to capture the beauty if you can't resist- it lasts longer that way! This applies to not damaging our surroundings as well. Graffiti on trees exposes the tree to infection, and parasites, much like a cut in our skin would do.

**Stop 5-** Flowers in hand, Jane races further down the path where she catches up with Joe at the top of the Pinehurst Bowl. Looking down into the water, Joe sees the unmistakable light, sandy circles on the bottom serving as sunfish nests. He tosses a stone in the water to see them dart about. Jane is startled by the amount of duck eager to get closer to her in hopes of a snack. Shouting and shooing at them, they squawk and fly back into the water.

Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

*Hint-* A peaceful coexistence between residents and wildlife is one of the beautiful parts of living in this community, but does come with some responsibility. Help young children and pets remain safe by observing wildlife from a distance. This includes keeping our four legged friends safely on a leash. While many animals here in Lake Linganore are used to being around, and living in close quarters with people, they are still wild animals and can be unpredictable.

While feeding wildlife can be a fun, seemingly harmless activity remember that feeding animals something other than their natural diet can lead to overpopulation, may affect natural migration

patterns, and cause mold and scum on the lake waters. Waters that are also home to crappies, blue gill, large and small mouth bass.

**Stop 6-** Realizing it is getting late, Joe and Jane backtrack to the playground at the trail head. At the playground to their right is a b   rb   cu    grill. They notice a pack of matches left behind and spend some time trying to relight a fire that was put out earlier. Carelessly, they toss the matches on the grill, several falling down to the ground.

Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

*Hint-* Basic safety rules should always apply when using the grills in our common areas and should be handled by a responsible adult. Not only is it important to know how to safely start a fire, but also how to safely monitor and extinguish a fire. Be aware of the conditions (including recent precipitation, overhanging trees, young children or pets around), type of wood you are using, cleaning up after yourself, etc. Remember as Smokey the Bear says "only you can prevent wildfires."

**Stop 7-** As our friends prepare to head back to home, they look around and notice they have left some things on the playground. Inspired by the beauty of the area, they are moved to make their mark in a positive way. Joe and Jane notice the    ra   hca    on the edge of the park and begin to pick up crackers wrappers and empty juice boxes left from their snack.

Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

*Hint-* While there are trash cans located at this park, many parks and trails are not equipped with them. Visitors to our local amenities should travel with a trash bag to be prepared to "pack in" and "pack out" their trash.

As Joe and Jane walk down the street to their house, Joe finds a piece of crumpled paper in his pocket. On it he finds the principles listed below. Reading them aloud to Jane, our friends realize that going forward that they can make a positive difference in their community and still have a great time. They make a commitment to familiarizing themselves with the principles of Leave No Trace and teaching their friends and neighbors as well.

Now use the letters you filled in for each of the scenarios above to unscramble a message for your team from Chief Seattle, author of "Brother Eagle, Sister Sky". Note: you will have one leftover letter.

"\_a\_e \_ \_ly m\_mor\_e\_, l\_ \_ve o\_ly \_ootpri\_t\_"

### Leave No Trace Principles

1. Know before you go
2. Choose the right path
3. Trash your trash
4. Leave what you find
5. Be careful with fire
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be kind to other visitors

For other camping, hiking, or Leave No Trace resources, visit: [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org) or download the Boy Scouts Leave No Trace guide at <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/21-117.pdf> .

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