

Indian Peaks
Wilderness Alliance

6 JUNE 2026

LNT, ART, Visitor Interactions, & Patrol Counts



Photo: Nina Larsen - 2024 Photo Contest Winner

Your instructors



AINSLEY MEDINA

Development Coordinator

I've been with the organization for 5 years, am a current board member, and sit on several committees. I'm a winter & summer patroller, certified sawyer, trail work crew member, and trailhead host. I'm a Project Manager by day and a weekend warrior! Also volunteer with our sister agency Poudre Wilderness Volunteers. (PWV).



ANNIE SWAIN

Volunteer Engagement Committee Member

This is my 9th summer with the organization. Recently the organization formed the Engagement Committee and I'm excited for the opportunities it will provide - stay tuned for ways to connect with other volunteers! I'm a summer patroller and trailhead host. From August - May I'm an educator at a high



CRAIG TWADDELL

Sawyer, Summer & Winter Volunteer

I've been with the organization for 9 years and am a sawyer, summer & winter patroller. I'm retired, an avid hiker, biker, & fly fisherman. I also volunteer patrol with the Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance (BMA). Just did a gravel race in Fruita!

What we're covering in this session:

1.
Leave No Trace

3.
**Visitor
Interactions**

2.
**Authority of
The Resource**

4.
Patrol Counts

Ice Breaker

LNT Principles



1. PLAN AHEAD &
PREPARE



2. TRAVEL & CAMP
ON DURABLE
SURFACES



3. DISPOSE OF
WASTE PROPERLY



4. LEAVE WHAT
YOU FIND



5. MINIMIZE
CAMPFIRE IMPACT



6. RESPECT
WILDLIFE



7. BE
CONSIDERATE OF
OTHERS

Which LNT principle do you hope to have the most impact on?

- #s 1-7 taped up around the room
- We'll run through 7 LNT principle situations
- Stand by the number of you'd like to make the most impact on

Which
principle do
you hope to
have the most
impact on?

Ice Breaker

6 JUNE 2026



7 Principles

Leave No Trace

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1



- Someone knows your plans & when to expect you back
- Weather
- Terrain
- Regulations & Wilderness boundaries
- Average hiking speed of group
- Group size (does it meet regulations/need permit?)
- Food storage requirement?

2



- Travel on Trails - short cutting scars the landscape, creates erosion, kills wild grasses & flowers
- Travel Off-trail - pick durable surfaces where possible (rock, sand, gravel, ice/snow, dry grasses), spread out w/ other travelers
- Camp 200 ft (70 steps) from water & trail - **USFS regulation 100 ft for I/JPW**

3



- Human Waste - Wag Bags - pack out / Catholes - 6-8 inches deep
- Other forms of waste - "pack it in, pack it out", carry trash or grocery bags & nitrile gloves to carry out trash (this includes organic litter like orange peels & nut shells)
- Soap, even biodegradable can affect the water quality of lakes and streams - minimize use / use away from shorelines (200 feet) and rinse (the soil will act as a

4



Leave What You Find

- Allow others a sense of discovery by leaving rocks, plants, antlers, artifacts, etc.
- Carving initials into trees - bark acts as a protective barrier for trees to prevent damage and disease
- Picking flowers - suggest taking a picture or sketch the flower instead

5



Minimize Fire Impacts

- Is a campfire allowed in the area?
- Is there a fire ban?
- Most important consideration - is there potential damage to the backcountry
- Is there sufficient wood so its removal will not be noticeable?
- Leave large logs - important role in forest and become habitats
- Put fire out COMPLETELY (w/ water)

6



Respect Wildlife

Keep your Distance - Rule of Thumb

- Observe wildlife from a distance of 25 yds (100 yds for wolves & bears)

Food Storage (food & scented items)

- Human food can change habits & lead to further human-wildlife conflicts

Water Sources

- Allow animals free access to water sources by giving them the buffer, camps should be located 200 feet or more from lakes & streams (100 ft I/JPW)

7



Be Considerate of Others

- Reduce noise: earbuds > external speakers
- Yielding: downhill hikers yield to uphill travelers & bicyclists will yield to hikers
- Pack stock have the right-of-way - hikers and bicyclists should move off the trail to the downhill side
- Know where dogs should be leashed

Authority of The Resource (ART)

STEP 1: THE INTRO

Introduce yourself and IPWA then begin with an ice breaking question or statement.

- "Hi there! It's a gorgeous day to be out!... I'm Annie w/ Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance."
- "Howdy! How was your night - did you have any rain?".... "Excellent! Glad you stayed dry! I'm Ainsley with Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance."

STEP 2: THE OBSERVATION

Give an objective description of the undesirable behavior observed.

- "Is this your cute pup? I've seen quite a few dogs off-leash today"
- "I'm not sure if you're aware, the USFS issued a Stage 1 Fire ban."

STEP 3: THE WHY?

Reveal and interpret the implications of the desirable behavior. Focus on how the behavior impacts the resource or the experience of others.

- "There are a LOT of active moose in the area that see dogs as a threat."
- "With the dry and windy conditions we've had, wildfires can get out control very quickly."

STEP 4: THE FIX

Describe the desired behavior. Communicate your appreciation for the resource and model the desired behavior whenever possible.

- "We'd appreciate it if visitors could keep their pets on leash and help us protect all the wonderful wildlife here."
- "I'd be happy to help you put this fire out, so we can protect these incredible views"

Tips & Tricks

Visitor Interactions

- Review regulations & maps for trails before your patrol
- Remember to smile!
- You're lead in & approach will make all the difference
- Strive for the minimum level of contact necessary, but make yourself available to answer questions
- Remember that not all visitors are experienced in the outdoors, from the Rocky Mtn Region, or grew up learning LNT
- Even if it's your 6th time talking to someone about leashing their dog, it's still their first time hearing it
- Be receptive to what the visitor wants (or doesn't want) to discuss
- In the rare occurrence a visitor turns contentious, end the interaction as politely as possible, & include a description of the interaction in your patrol report
- People will think that you are a Forest Ranger - be personable & introduce yourself as volunteer
- Limit all public interactions to daylight hours only



Patrol Counts - What? Why?

What data do we collect & Why?

- We collect data for the USFS which is important for prioritizing projects on specific trails.

Meaningful Interactions

- Conversation beyond, "hello"
- Group of 5 = 1 interaction

Dogs

- Only count "off leash" where they should be on leash + don't include as a violation just simply note the #

Wheeled Equip.

- Bikes, strollers, carts, etc. (on trail)

Things to Count

126

People (total)

11

Backpackers*

54

Dogs (total)

18

Meaningful Interactions*

1

People w/ Firearms*

5

Dogs Off Leash*

0

Horseback Riders*

7

Anglers*

0

Wheeled Equip.

*All included in totals



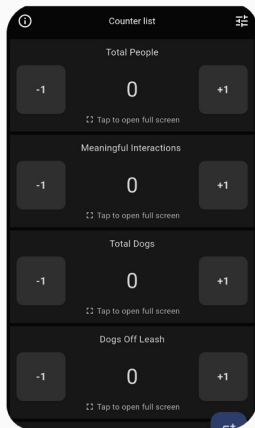
Patrol Counts - Where? How?

Where do we start counts?

- We count on trails (not in parking lot)
- We count in the Wilderness (exceptions: Lost Lake) or if it's reasonable to assume they will enter the Wilderness

How do you keep track of all this?

- Notepad / Journal to doodle
- Tally sheet
- Clickers
- App (Example: "Click Counter")
- Voice recorder



Blank

Critical Information: (down trees, trail maintenance needs, emergency aid, suspicious behavior, violations)

Start Time:
End Time:
Miles Hiked:
Volunteer hours (nearest half hour, time on trail):
Total Dogs:
Dogs Off Leash:
Total People:
Anglers:
Horseback Riders:
Firearms:
Backpackers:
Bikes:
Fire Rings Removed:
Fire Rings Needing Removed:

Trail Conditions:
Additional Trail Info (for public):



Photo: Alexander Meyer - 2024 Photo Contest Winner

Questions?



If you have any questions, contact:
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