

Leave No Trace Master Educator Course

Eleven Point National Scenic River, Missouri

Course Description

- Duration: 4 days + pre-course on-line requirement
- Dates: April 11-14, 2021
- Cost: \$550
- Location: Eleven Point River, Missouri
- Meeting time and location: TBD, on site at river campground

Course Overview

The Master Educator course is an extensive experience designed to immerse participants in Leave No Trace skills and ethics through hands-on practice and teaching. The course provides participants with a comprehensive overview of Leave No Trace techniques through practical application in a backcountry setting. Students who successfully graduate from this course will receive a certificate and will be qualified to offer and teach two-day Leave No Trace Trainer courses as well as shorter Awareness Workshops.

During four days of training on the Eleven Point River, participants will learn and teach the principles of Leave No Trace while immersing themselves in the outdoors. The Eleven Point National Scenic River provides an ideal setting for exploring and discussing outdoor ethics, frontcountry issues, and backcountry Leave No Trace principles.

The course will involve teaching and practicing Leave No Trace skills and ethics while paddling 28 miles of the Eleven Point River in Southeastern Missouri. The Eleven Point is an easy river to paddle for most participants with a few Class I and Class II rapids. Participants do not need to be expert paddlers but prior paddling and backcountry experience is required. **The Master Educator course does not cover skills related to backcountry camping or paddling.**

This is a great opportunity for educators, naturalists, park rangers, recreation planners, scout leaders and anyone that works, or would like to work, in the outdoor industry to improve their Leave No Trace teaching skills while experiencing the unique treasures found in Southeastern Missouri.

Course Agenda (subject to change)

This agenda gives an overview of a typical course progression. Topics will be added or changed depending on final enrollment numbers, and the agenda is subject to change. Activities are dependent on terrain, course size and weather.

Pre-course (on-line)

Instructor and participant introductions
Introduction to the Master Educator course and history of Leave No Trace
Goals and objectives of Master Educator course and Trainer course
Personal goals of the group
Principles of education

Day One

Course begins at 8:00 am at campground near put-in
Start river trip
Principle One – Plan Ahead and Prepare
Principle Two – Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
Activity – Exploring Campsite Selection
Principle Three – Dispose of Waste Properly
Activity – Exploring Trash Disposal
Discuss “Authority of the Resource”
Introduce “Action Plans”

Day Two

Principle Four – Leave What You Find
Activity – Exploring Natural Areas and Archeological Areas
Principle Five – Minimize Campfire Impact
Activity – Exploring Fires and Stoves
Principle Six – Respect Wildlife
Activity – Exploring Respect for Wildlife
Cover all Trainer course materials

Day Three

Principle Seven – Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Activity – How to Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Wildland Ethics

Share and discuss “Action Plans”

Day Four

How to run a Trainer course

Course evaluations

Final thoughts and debrief

Graduation, Depart

Curriculum

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics has designated Touch of Nature Environmental Center as an educational provider of Master Educator courses. Touch of Nature Environmental Center brings over 65 years of experience teaching wilderness skills, interpretation and leadership to the Leave No Trace program.

Master Educator courses are informative, practical, hands-on and fun. You will learn skills and teaching techniques through lectures, activities and discussions in a spectacular outdoor setting. The course is designed for people who actively teach outdoor skills to others or provide recreation information to the public. It emphasizes three components:

- low-impact camping skills
- wildland ethics
- outdoor teaching techniques

Participant Lessons

Each participant will be required to present a 15-20 minute lesson on one of the Leave No Trace principles or how it relates to a specific activity, such as backpacking, canoeing/kayaking or mountain biking. The lesson may be skills-oriented or theoretical in content. Although some preparation time will be available once the course has begun, plan to prepare your lesson prior to arriving at Touch of Nature. As a component of the class the participant is also required to conduct a short (5-10 minutes) activity.

If you have questions regarding class presentations, please refer to the teaching information on the LNT website www.lnt.org or contact Touch of Nature Environmental Center at <https://ton.siu.edu/> or call 618-453-1121.

Environment

The Eleven Point National Scenic River flows through the picturesque Ozark Hills of Southern Missouri, where it gets boosted by one of Missouri's largest springs - Greer Spring, which dumps more than 200 million gallons of clear, cold water into the river. The river continues 138 miles south and joins the Spring River near Black Rock, Arkansas. The Eleven Point River has been recognized and loved for its rich history and outstanding scenic beauty since early settlement days. A 44-mile section of the Eleven Point River between Thomasville, Missouri, and Highway 142 became one of the eight initial components of the National Wild and Scenic River System in 1968. To the experienced canoeist, the Eleven Point is a relatively easy river (Class I and Class II on the International Scale) requiring intermediate experience. About half of the lands within the Eleven Point Scenic River area are private lands, while the remainder of the area is managed by the National Forest Service.

The Eleven Point River is home to a variety of plants and animals. River birch is abundant along the shore, and aged sycamores lean out from the shoreline. In some places, the canopy of green closes overhead. Alternating stretches of rapids and deep clear pools wind around moss-covered boulders and shading bottomland hardwood trees. There is a plethora of animals both above and below the river's surface. Anything from trout, bass, goggle-eye and walleye to muskrats, deer, otter, warblers, cardinals, and eagles may be seen.

Weather in Missouri is much like Southern Illinois with temperatures varying season to season. May through September are hot and humid with the average high temperature in the 80's. October through November are cooler with the average high in the 60's. The winter months, December through February, may be very cold or rather mild with temperature ranging from single digits up to the 50's. March through April are pleasant with the average high in the 60's.

Camping

Camping on the Eleven Point River will be in a backcountry setting either at designated float camps or along sand and gravel bars. There are no facilities or trash receptacles and all trash must be packed out. No glass bottles or containers are allowed on the river or at camps. Fires must be contained within the fire ring, grill, stove or other device. Participants will be at a different camping location each night and all gear will need to be stored inside the canoe during travel along the river.

Equipment

Touch of Nature Environmental Center will provide canoes, personal floatation devices and paddles for all participants.

Participants are required to provide their own personal gear. Plan for a variety of weather, from warm and sunny to cool and windy. A detailed equipment list will be emailed to the participants prior to the course.

If needed Touch of Nature Environmental Center will rent certain, specific equipment items to clients for a cost. Costs will cover the entire duration of the course. All items must be returned in good condition.

Food

Participants are required to provide their own food (appropriate for backcountry setting)

Enrollment Forms

All participants will need to register for the Master Educator course online at <https://ton.siu.edu/>

- Self-Screening Medical Form
- Insurance Form - all course participants must have some form of medical insurance
- Student Agreement

All payments and enrollment forms should be sent to:

Touch of Nature Environmental Center/LNT
1206 Touch of Nature Road
Makanda, Illinois 62958

Scholarships

For information regarding Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics scholarships go to <https://lnt.org/teach/master-educator-course-scholarships> or contact the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics for details at 800-332-4100.

Additional Information

The Leave No Trace Master Educator Course **does not** cover backcountry or paddling skills. Participants must be familiar with the use of stoves, backcountry cooking, tent setup, clothing selection, water filters, etc., as well as swift water canoeing skills. Participants should have at least 20 or more days of backcountry experience and an additional 20 or more days of paddling experience. For more information or questions please contact Touch of Nature Environmental Center at 618-453-1121 or <https://ton.siu.edu/>.

Payment and Cancellation Policies - Please read carefully!

Course tuition is \$550 and includes a one-year individual membership to Leave No Trace, instruction, group equipment, some meals and educational materials. Partial scholarships are available through the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. Please contact the Center for details 800-332-4100.

To enroll, a completed application and a \$100 non-refundable deposit are required. The balance of tuition is due 45 days prior to the course start date. For applications within 45 days of the course start date, tuition is due in full with the application.

*The \$100 deposit may be waived for scholarship applicants until the scholarship amount has been determined.

Cancellation Policy

If you cancel or leave for any reason we will retain the non-refundable deposit or the following percentage of tuition, whichever is greater:

- Between 15 and 29 days prior to the course start date, Touch of Nature Environmental Center will retain 25 percent of the course tuition
- Between 8 and 14 days prior to the course start date, Touch of Nature Environmental Center will retain 50 percent of the course tuition
- Less than 8 days prior to the course start date or after the course has begun, there will be no refunds

Course transfer requests may incur a \$25 processing fee.