



RESPONSIBLE RECREATION

HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE CANNABIS
CONSUMER AT OUTDOOR EVENTS



EARTH POPULATION
7.9 BILLION

The overall burden of humans on the planet is huge. This impact is increased exponentially when large gatherings of people concentrate in single areas, whether it is on a trail or at a music festival.

HUMAN IMPACT ON EARTH

When nature is more accessible, more people can reap the benefits of enjoying the great outdoors. However, the human impact on the Earth cannot be overstated. When we enjoy outdoor events and activities, we amplify our impact on the environment (for better or worse).

But by being mindful of our actions and intentional with our efforts to preserve the great outdoors, we can ensure its enjoyment for generations to come. This guide was created to help you make better, more informed choices when enjoying nature.



HUMAN IMPACT ON EARTH



FIRE PROPERTY DAMAGE
\$21.9 BILLION



TONS OF WASTE PER YEAR
2.12 BILLION

It may not seem that damaging for an individual, but the collective human activity on trails and at festivals takes a huge toll on the planet. Groups of people tread on soil and destroy its permeability, which makes it more difficult for plant life to regenerate through trampled, compacted soil. In 2020 alone, there were 1.4 million fires reported in the United States. These fires caused 3,500 civilian fire deaths and 15,200 reported civilian fire injuries. Some other damaging impacts of human activity include:

- Disruption of wildlife/ecosystem.
- Food and litter left behind.
- Activities often desensitize animals to humans.
- Delicate or damaged areas are susceptible to increased damage.



IMPACT OF OUTDOOR EVENTS

FESTIVALS

Large music festivals like Coachella (250,000 attendees over two weekends) can generate an average of 106 tons (212,000 pounds) of waste per day, which is more waste than is generated by a fully-loaded Boeing 757 with 300 passengers. With approximately 800 festivals annually in the United States, that amounts to 84,800 tons of waste per year. For context, the average American produces about one ton of trash over an entire year. Waste is generated from a variety of sources, including:

- Energy consumption (diesel generators)
- As much as 16,000 gallons of fuel for a single music festival.
 - Travel emissions for attendees, artists, staff, crew, etc.
- Waste:
 - Trash from concentrated groups is exponentially more than from individuals
 - Excessive waste: 44% of tents are left at festivals [Source: SustainabilitySpeaks.co.uk](https://www.sustainabilityspeaks.co.uk)

[Source: edm.com](https://www.edm.com)



CAMPING

Be aware of how your activities will impact the environment around you, and keep the following in mind at all times:

- Do not feed wildlife you may encounter.
- Be careful with all trash and don't "toss" things (joints, cigarette butts, etc.) just because they may be biodegradable.
- Be careful of noise pollution from music and other sources in consideration for fellow humans as well as animals.
- If you use a campfire, be aware they are the leading cause of forest fires and emissions, so behave responsibly.
 - Don't over-forage wood for fires.
 - Use existing sites and fire rings, etc. vs. making your own.
 - Ensure that embers are completely out before leaving a fire unattended.
- Be especially careful when backcountry camping since there are not always established campsites.





HIKING

Be aware that hiking in mud can damage trails, so it is best to avoid hiking in wet weather if possible. Also, trail overuse leads to greater erosion, so be sure to stay on the trail and make efforts to spread your group out where possible.

- Time hikes for low-traffic days or times of the week
- Remember that additional trail activities like horseback riding and mountain biking compound the damage of hiking.



IMPACT OF OUTDOOR EVENTS

BE PREPARED

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- A perspective view of a large, multi-page map spread out on a surface. The map shows a detailed geographical area with roads, rivers, and a large body of water. The pages are stacked, and the map is oriented horizontally.



HOW TO BE RESPONSIBLE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

LEAVE NO TRACE

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
 - Limit non degradable items
 - Glass, plastic wrappers, plastic glitter, paints that v
 - Balloons, firecrackers, etc.
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
 - Use portable ashtrays and bury ashes
 - Make sure fires are fully extinguished and pack it out.
- Respect wildlife, each other and the environment
- Be considerate of others
 - Extends to sounds and smells (amplified music, loud voices, smoke)



[Source: Leave No Trace](#)



HOW TO BE RESPONSIBLE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

FIRE PRECAUTIONS



As Martin Barwick, a park ranger for Jefferson County, Colorado, explains, “Whenever you’re going out into the parks or outdoors, know the local rules and regulations of the place you are going to and make sure you are following them.”

Check for fire bans

- A single call to the nearest ranger or park office is all it takes to find out what the current fire danger is and whether any bans are in effect. If a fire ban is in effect in your outdoor area, respect it.
- Choose noncombustible options like vapes, tinctures, edibles, concentrates, etc.
- This isn’t specific to cannabis either. You’ll get the same citation for lighting up a cigarette or charcoal grill. Be smart and check before you get there.
- If a fire ban is in effect, look for designated smoking areas that are at least a 10 X 10 area free of combustible material, like a parking lot or a picnic area with a pad.

Put it out

- If there isn’t a fire ban and you’re lucky enough to enjoy a joint or blunt or otherwise smoked cannabis on your excursion, make sure you put the ashes out completely and pack any remains out.
- In the same way that dowsing and burying a campfire’s remains helps to prevent against stray fires, consider burying ashes or packing them out in a fireproof container (metal camp cups and portable ashtrays work great for this).

HOW TO BE RESPONSIBLE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

FIRE PRECAUTIONS CONT.

Limit the size of open flames

- You don't need the biggest blowtorch ever on your hike. Whether you are dabbing and need to heat up your rig or smoking a thai stick that requires a torch to light it, don't bring the biggest one you have. Small lighters and portable cigar torches work great for outdoor excursions. Most of these smaller torches don't "lock" in the on position, which further reduces chances of a knocked over torch or lighter causing a fire.

Limit the size of open flames

- You'd be surprised how often leaves/long grass, etc. catch fire because someone turned around with a lighter in hand. If you can find rocky or dirt areas, try to contain your flammable activities to those areas.



KEEPING NATURE AROUND, MAKING NATURE ACCESSIBLE



This guide was sponsored by **CannaVenture®**, which hosts hikes, campouts, sporting tournaments and music festivals for outdoor enthusiasts. It is intended to benefit **Wilderness on Wheels**, a nonprofit organization that provides access to nature for people with disabilities through the generous work of volunteers and donations. To date, more than 3,500 volunteers have helped Wilderness on Wheels serve hundreds of hikers, campers and fishing enthusiasts experience nature through the organization's **wooden boardwalk** that takes hikers to a 12,300-foot mountain peak, its fully accessible **campsites** and its fully accessible rainbow trout stocked **fishing pond**.

To donate or volunteer, visit www.wildernessonwheels.org/take-action.

SOURCES

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