INFORMATION CARD C

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

- Outdoor leaders (OLs) must alter the attitudes of others toward preserving and conserving the environment.
- OLs must practice and enforce the environmental ethical code represented by the seven principles of Leave No Trace.

ECOLOGICAL LITERACY

Ecological literacy entails thinking and acting critically in an environmental context, especially when it comes to making decisions and exercising judgment regarding environmental problems.

PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT

- Areas OLs use to conduct outdoor adventure activities (OAA) are managed by provincial and national agencies.
- It is critical that OLs are aware of the policies and regulations of the park/conservation area they are using and abide by these rules.
- OLs must teach low-impact camping, waste management and traveling techniques to their groups.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

EMPLOYING SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

OAA are, for the most part characterized by the inherent risk they possess. Risk is one of the critical components that make outdoor programming so popular and successful. OLs must be able to balance risk and safety.

As an OL, there is a responsibility to:

- assess the OAA for risk;
- manage risk during the activity; and
- develop a contingency plan to ensure the safety of all participants.

PLANNING, ORGANIZING AND MANAGING

Planning

OLs are required to complete detailed planning for trips/activities they lead. Proper planning is essential for any OAA and when it is not carried out thoroughly, the possibility of accidents increases.

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Trip/activity plans include:

- emergency management details,
- contingency plans,
- time control plans,
- energy control plans,
- ration plans,
- communication plans, and
- equipment/resource procurement, etc.

Organizing

Once a plan has been developed, the ability to implement the plan is based on the OL's organizational skills. Implementation involves creating a system for getting tasks done and requires the ability to coordinate the various components of the plan so that it comes together to create a unified whole.

Managing

Management skills involve the ability of the OL to direct the group in an efficient manner to complete all required tasks throughout the OAA. For example, when arriving at the campsite, after a long day of paddling, an organized OL will have already divided the group into sub-groups to allow for multi-tasking to ensure the campsite is set up, water is collected, the fire is started and supper is prepared.

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