

Web of Life: Alpine Summits

Explore Leave No Trace principals with an interactive game!

This activity is an adaptation of the Leave No Trace: Equate! Relate! game and is designed to deepen participants' understanding of outdoor ethics. It connects key concepts from the Above the Treeline: Alpine Worlds of Maine Conservation Session, highlighting the interconnectedness of the alpine ecosystem and how human actions can have cascading effects on its delicate balance.

This game has three main learning outcomes:

- (1) Understanding connections between plants and animals within ecosystems
- (2) Understanding how humans can cause predictable changes to these systems; and
- (3) How we, as stewards of our environment, can enjoy outdoor recreation while protecting natural resources.

How It Works

In this interactive game, participants each receive a card with the name of a plant or animal from the Alpine Worlds of Maine session. Each person will assume the role of the species on their card. Using a ball of string, participants will create a visual "web" of connections between the living organisms, illustrating how every component of the ecosystem is interrelated.

Once the web is formed, the facilitator will lead a discussion on how human actions can disrupt this interconnected system. Scenarios will be presented where participants will "drop" their string to symbolize the impact of those actions on the ecosystem, reinforcing the significance of how recreational activities can affect the environment.

While still in a circle each participant will be asked to: summarize what they learned from the game, tell one new behavior they will practice next time they go outdoors.

Program Impact

This game reinforces the foundation for making mindful choices that protect our environment and encouraging a deeper commitment to enjoying nature in a way that preserves it for future generations.

Contact Information

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Activity Duration: ~40 minutes

Group Size: 8-18

Recommended Age: 13+

