



## Center for Outdoor Ethics

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Special Weekend-Long Community Clean Up and Education Events September 13-14 at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area with the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers to Help Preserve and Protect Natural Resources for Generations to Come**

*Leave No Trace Selected Texas' Enchanted Rock State Natural Area as One of Its Eight Endangered 'Hot Spots' in the Nation and are Hosting Events to Help Raise Awareness about Natural Areas Around the Country Facing the Threat of Irreversible Environmental Damage.*

**September 5, 2014 (Boulder, CO)** The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and its Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers Team are partnering with the Enchanted Rock State Natural Area to host community clean up events and educational activities September 13-14, 2014.

All members of the Texas community are encouraged to attend and learn about Leave No Trace principles to help protect and preserve the Enchanted Rock State Natural Area for years to come.

Leave No Trace recently designated Texas' Enchanted Rock State Natural Area as one of the nation's eight 'Hot Spots' in the U.S. this year as part of the nonprofit organization's campaign to address and help public lands that are facing the threat of irreversible environmental damage. The weekend long event conducted by the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers helps communities raise awareness and take action using Leave No Trace principles.

"Many outdoor areas across our nation, like Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, are negatively impacted by recreational use. We are literally loving the land to death," according to Nick Bierschbach Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainer. "In most cases, the land impact isn't due to a malicious intent to harm nature and wildlife. Instead, it's simply lack of an understanding or know-how of 'Leave No Trace'."

“The Enchanted Rock State Natural Area is one of the most popular state parks in Texas and experiences visitor-created impacts in many areas. These impacts include littering, damage to vegetation and trees, trail erosion, walking in undesignated areas and vandalism,” said Scott Whitener, Enchanted Rock State Natural Area Park Ranger. “We are thrilled to partner with the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers to help educate our community, raise awareness for future enjoyment and preserve these beautiful landscapes.”

The Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers travel throughout the country providing public education about how to reduce impacts in the outdoors. The following is a list of events happening at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area that are open to the public:

**Friday September 12: Night Hike with the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers- 7:45 pm.** Join staff from Enchanted Rock Natural Area and the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers on an interactive night hike to star gaze and learn some Leave No Trace principles along the way. Meet at the gazebo that starts the Summit Trail.

**Saturday September 13: Meet the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers- 9 am-2pm.** The Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers will have a booth set up at Enchanted Rock State Park Natural Area. Meet at the gazebo. They will have free educational hangtags and fun educational activities for all ages to learn how to minimize your impact when in the outdoors.

**Saturday September 13: Summit Trail Hike-9:45 am.** Join staff from Enchanted Rock Natural Area and the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers on an interactive and easy hour long hike and learn about Leave No Trace principles in an interactive and adventurous setting. Meet at the gazebo that starts the Summit Trail.

**Saturday September 13: Night Hike with the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers- 7:45 pm.** Join staff from Enchanted Rock Natural Area and the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers on an interactive night hike to star gaze and learn some Leave No Trace principles along the way. Meet at the gazebo that starts the Summit Trail.

**Sunday September 14: Meet the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers- 9am-1pm.** The Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers will have a booth set up at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area. They will have free educational hangtags and fun educational activities for all ages to learn how to minimize your impact when in the outdoors.

**Sunday September 14: Cave Clean Up- 11 am.** Join staff from Enchanted Rock Natural Area and the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers to help clean up the Enchanted Rock cave and surrounding areas. Bring a flashlight.

“Hot Spots sites, like Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, are damaged but can recover and become healthy again after we spend a few days with the community focusing on specific Leave No Trace applications,” said Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainer Courtney Bierschbach. “By identifying and working with the community, Leave No Trace helps areas like Enchanted Rock State Natural Area heal, and ultimately aids in protecting and preserving the places we cherish for future generations.”

In addition, the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers will be visiting with students at Fredericksburg High School and Middle School engaging them in activities designed to foster a sense of caring behaviors towards the outdoors and to empower them to protect their local outdoor spaces.

### **About The Leave No Trace Hot Spot Program**

In its fourth year, the Leave No Trace Hot Spot programs raise awareness about natural areas around the country facing the threat of irreversible environmental damage. As part of the initiative, The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, a national organization that protects outdoors by teaching people how to enjoy it responsibly, works with volunteers, nonprofit organizations, friends groups and governmental agencies to reduce the impact of recreational activities in the selected endangered area. This goal is achieved through community outreach, education, training, signage, educational materials and local collaboration.

### **About Leave No Trace**

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics is a national nonprofit organization that protects the outdoors by teaching people how to enjoy it responsibly. Their Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers are mobile teams educators that visit 48 states every year delivering Leave No Trace programs such as Hot Spots. For more information, visit: [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org).

### **About Enchanted Rock State Natural Area**

Enchanted Rock State Natural Area sits on Big Sandy Creek on the border of Gillespie and Llano counties in Texas. It is 18 miles north of Fredericksburg. The Nature Conservancy of Texas purchased the property from Charles Moss in 1978. It later sold the 1,640.5-acre property to the state of Texas. The state bought an additional three acres to add to the park. Enchanted Rock opened as a state natural area in October 1978. It is a National Natural Landmark, and is on the National Register of Historic Places as an Archeological District. More than 400 archeological sites have been found in the park. All are protected, and 120 of them are designated State Archeological Landmarks. More than 250,000 people trek to the park each year to experience the magic of Enchanted Rock. In fact, it is one of the most visited parks in the state park system. For more information visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/enchanted-rock>

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