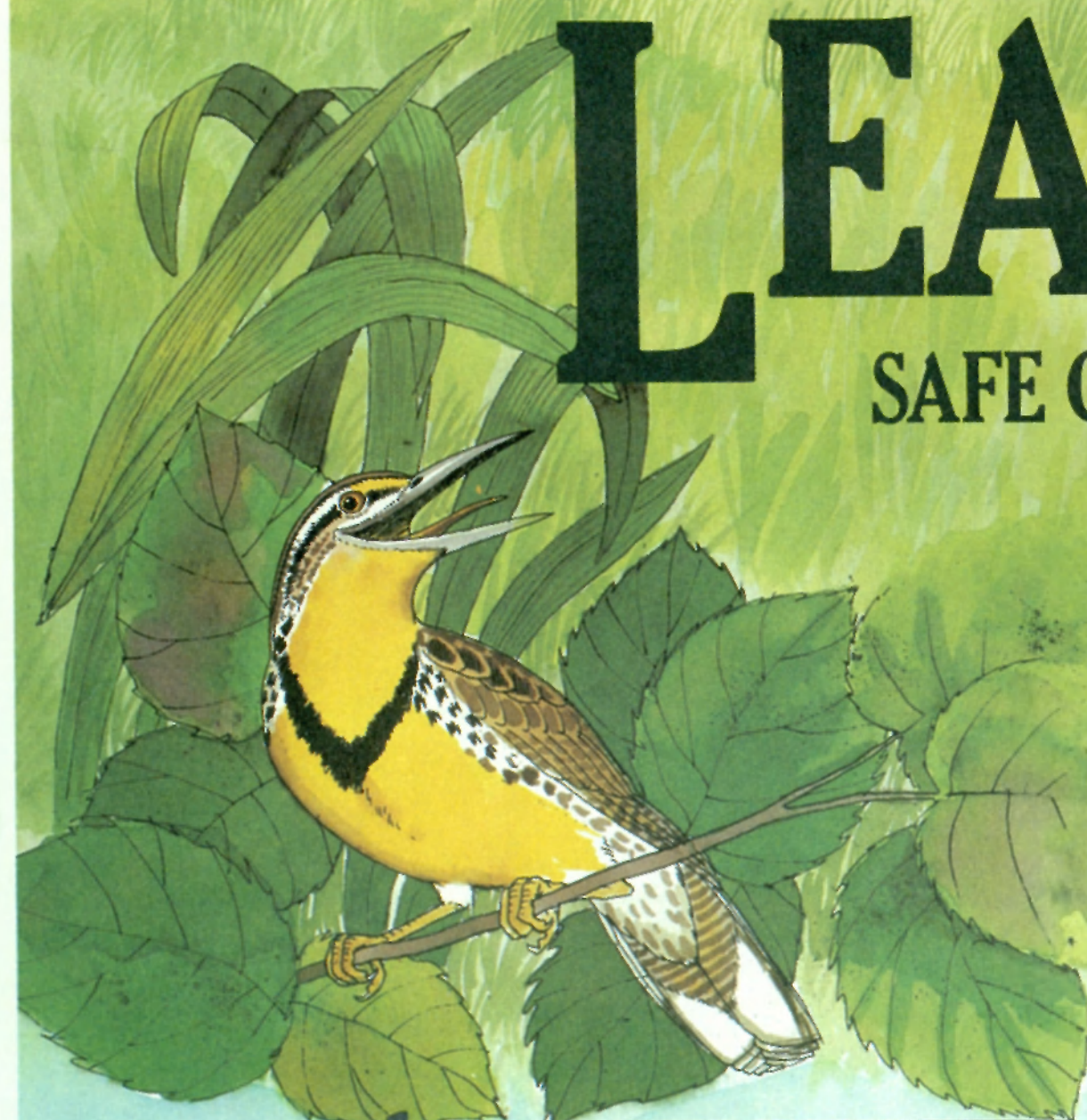


LEAVE NO TRACE

SAFE CAMPING FOR YOU AND THE ENVIRONMENT



"Let's go camping!" For many people, these words bring visions of clean, sparkling lakes and streams; meadows dotted with wildflowers; tall, shady forests; and the chance to see animals in their natural homes. More people than ever before are visiting parks and other areas to enjoy these experiences. Unfortunately, through carelessness and poor camping habits, visitors sometimes spoil and even destroy the beauty they have come to see. Pitching camp, washing dishes, or even tying up a horse in

the wrong place can damage the environment. There are ways to camp in natural areas and still preserve them. The United States Forest Service has a slogan to sum up these good camping skills: Leave No Trace. This means that you should leave any area exactly as you found it, with no sign or trace that you passed through. Below are guidelines to follow on a camping, hiking, or horseback trip. They will help you have a safe journey and keep scenic areas beautiful for you—and others—to enjoy later.

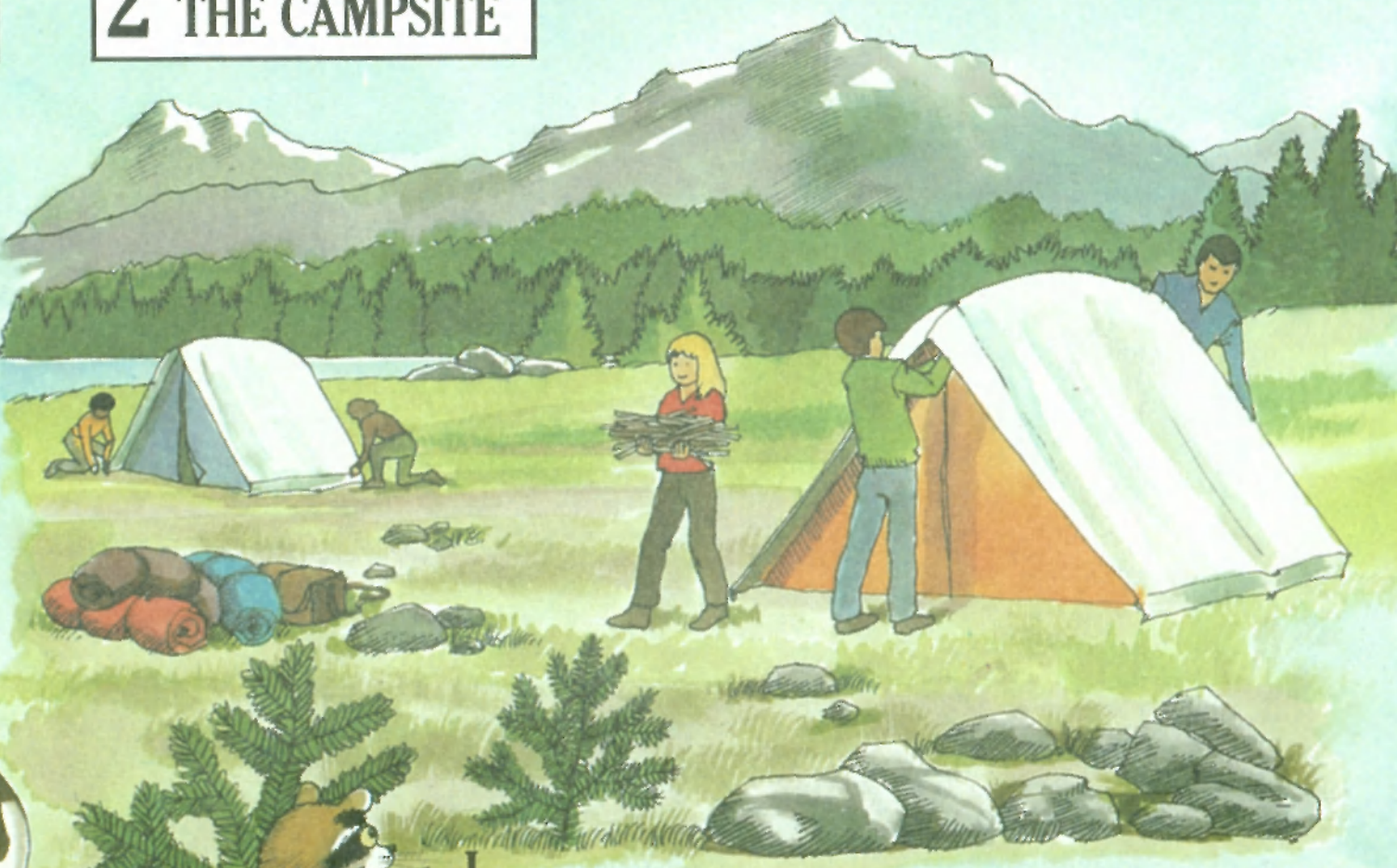
1 PLANNING AND PACKING



Prepare for your trip by collecting maps and information on the area you'll be visiting. Ask your mom or dad to get any necessary permits. Make a list of lightweight supplies and gear you'll need, such as warm sleeping bags, air mattresses or foam sleeping pads, tents made of nylon or Camper Cloth, and metal cookware. Take dehydrated foods, and store water and food in plastic rather than in glass containers. Will you need a compass, a canteen, or a camera? Consider taking a small campstove so you won't have to build a fire. And don't forget to carry a first-aid kit.

To pack gear on horses, try manta tarps and panniers (PAW-yuh-z). Manta tarps are large, waterproof cloths that you can also use as ground clothes or supply covers. Panniers—sacks or baskets that hang on each side of the saddle—are easy to reach into on the trail, and they make handy storage containers at camp. Secure the packs with lightweight rope. Later on, you can use it to make hitchhikes for the horses.

2 THE CAMPSITE



It's the end of your first day on the trail—time to pitch camp. As you search for a comfortable site, look for one that won't be easily damaged. The pressure of people's feet and horses' hooves soon destroys soft, fragile areas such as lakeshores and damp meadows. You should avoid sites that have already been heavily used as well as sites covered with young, delicate plants.

Try to pick a site well away from the trail, where you won't have to cut down trees and plants to set up camp. Make sure your camping spot is at least 200 feet (61 m) away from the closest lake or stream. Try not to destroy the surrounding plant life as you build camp. Don't chop off tree boughs for beds or shelters. And never wrap wire around trees or bang nails into them.

3 CLEANING UP



How would you like to come across a mountain stream with soap, grease, food particles, or other trash floating in it? To avoid polluting the water, never wash dishes or clothes in a lake or stream. Instead, do the washing in a pan or pail filled with water. Use only soap that won't harm the environment. Dump the dirty water into a hole

at least 200 feet (61 m) away from the lake or stream. The water will then be filtered by the soil before it reaches the lake or stream. Don't take a bath in lakes or streams, either. You can jump in to get wet—but lather up well away from the lake or stream. Use a bucket of water to rinse off.



4 CAMPFIRE



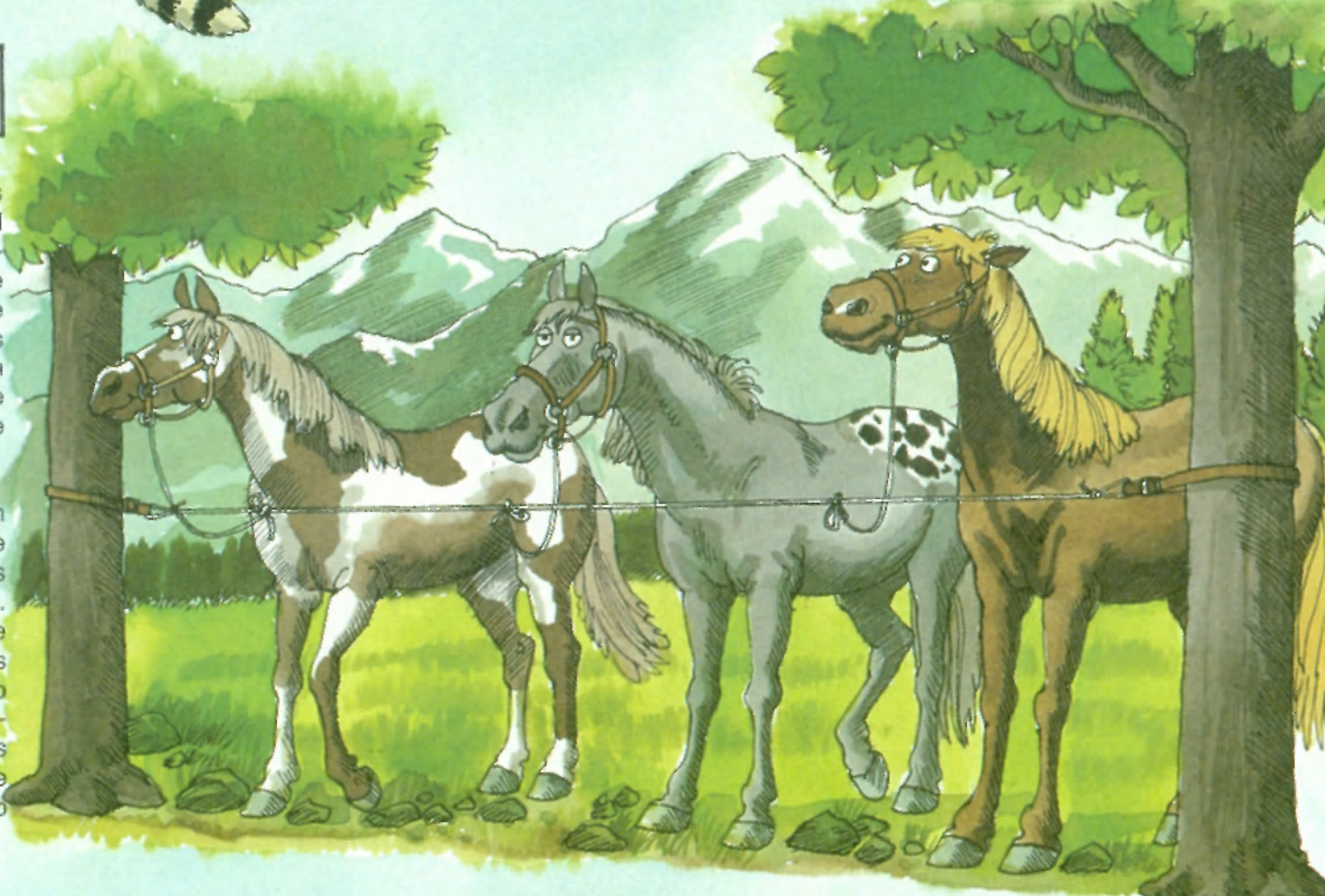
If fires are permitted, and you don't have a campstove, dig a small hole and carefully set aside the soil, plants, and rocks that you remove. Trim back the grass on the rim of the hole. Build a fire in it by gathering dead tree branches from the ground. If you must cut dead trees for firewood, make sure no birds, squirrels, or other animals are living in them. Never throw aluminum cans or foil into the fire.

Put out the fire when you leave. Use water if it's available. Make sure the ashes are cool by carefully feeling them with your hands. Bury the ashes away from the fire pit and campsite. Then replace the soil, plants, and rocks that you removed from the hole.

5 THE HORSES

Will you be camping for several days in one spot? If so, a temporary corral for the horses is a good idea. The easiest type to build and later to take down is a rope corral. You can make one by stretching two parallel ropes from tree to tree and connecting them with cross ropes. Be sure to build the corral at least 200 feet (61 m) from the nearest lakeshore or stream.

The pawing of horses' hooves can damage tree roots and plants at the base of trees, so it's best to tie horses to trees for only short periods of time. If possible, tie horses away from the base of trees. A good way to do this is to set up a hitch line between two sturdy trees. Wrap wide nylon "tree-saver straps" or old car seat belts around the trees and connect the ends with rope. Hitch the horses to this connecting rope.



If a horse keeps pawing the ground nervously, hobbling it—fastening its two front legs together—will make it stand quieter. Sometimes flies and mosquitoes make horses restless. Using insect repellent can make horses more comfortable and calm.

Pack feed such as hay, alfalfa cubes, and grain, and give these to the horses in a nose bag as a supplement to grazing. On long trips, horses need extra salt. Place the salt in a hollow log or other container so it won't be washed into the soil.



6 PREPARING TO LEAVE



There's one general rule to remember when you break camp: pack it in—pack it out. That means take out everything you brought in and leave the site just as you found it.

It's all right to burn paper and food scraps, but don't bury garbage. Wild animals may sniff out and dig up the buried food. Don't bury containers made of aluminum, plastic, or glass, either. These materials do not break down in the soil. Instead, crush empty cans, pack them along with

other litter, and dispose of it all later. Take down corrals, remove ropes from trees, and scatter horse manure. If you cleared logs or other large objects from the area when you set up camp, now's the time to put everything back. Make sure the fire is completely out by carefully feeling the ashes with your hands. And as you leave, take one last look at the campsite—it should appear just as it did when you arrived—or even cleaner!

7 ON THE TRAIL

To protect plants and prevent soil erosion, stay on the trail in single file. Keep the horses away from scenic and historic spots. If you come across a fallen tree or other obstacle, try to remove it. If you cannot, notify local

officials as soon as possible. Remember that cutting blazes on trees can leave permanent scars. A better way to mark your path is to tie colored ribbons to trees. Be sure to remove them on your way out.

