

Clean Up Plan for Camp Unofficial 2006

As has become standard, Camp Unofficial will go beyond last year's effort to leave no trace. We will keep our camp sparkling during the event, provide trash and recycling, dispose of grey water and do a multi-person grid search before leaving Black Rock. This year we intend to bring more solar power to minimize the need for RV or stand-alone generators.

Pre-trip Planning

With a mostly-veteran crew of Burners, we are now well experienced in minimizing trash. But, as always, Tribe leaders will communicate the importance of this to all, and school any newcomers in the ins and outs – especially on how to minimize packaging and eliminate playa-unsafe debris.

On the Playa (and Beyond)

We will provide separate containers for recycling, dry garbage and wet garbage, and bring tools including a rake, broom and garbage bags for clean-up. Because even tiny impacts build up when there are thousand of people in a given place and because of the ecological value of Black Rock, we will practice the leave no trace ethic with care. This means:

- 1) **Nothing hits the Playa.** This includes ash from cigarettes, food, waste-water, plastic and anything else that is Matter Out of Place.
- 2) **Clean as we go.** After 5 years we know why: really, really strong wind that will rip plastic from your hands and blow paper miles away before you can say “grab it!”
- 3) **Grid search.** Our final crew will walk our camp and the surrounding area in a grid pattern and dispose of any Matter Out of Place down to the smallest practical level.

Grey Water

Last year we made significant progress on minimizing grey water by creating one sealed container for old beverages and other yucky liquids, and by building an evaporation pond for shower water. The evaporation pond worked well and at the end of the event we had only about 5 gallons of water that we placed in a sealed barrel and hauled away.

This year, we intend to build a slightly larger evaporation pond, and to improve our shower's on-and-off mechanism to minimize water use. We will only use camp suds or biodegradable soap.

After the Event

After the final grid search (and a few sad good-byes) we will pack everything up and hit the road with the trash in our vehicles and any wastewater in sealed containers. In the best tradition of leave no trace we hope to “leave only footprints and to take only memories.”