

Environmental Stewardship

Mount Rainier rises 13,211 feet above the surrounding lowlands to a summit altitude of 14,410 feet, giving it a greater vertical rise than K2. The National Park contains a complex ecosystem extending from lush, temperate rainforest at the mountain's base to a wilderness of glaciers above. It is a special and unique ecosystem; we have a sincere interest in preserving its character for other visitors and future generations. Read on to learn more about how you can help us in this endeavor.

What we do at IMG

At IMG, we have operational strategies that help us reduce our impact on both Mount Rainier and the global environment. From making green purchasing choices that reduces our waste and prioritizes using recycled materials to transporting clients in vehicles that run on propane, we are always looking for ways to be more environmentally sustainable.

What you can do: Minimize your Carbon Footprint

Nowhere else in Washington are the effects of global climate change more evident than on the most glaciated peak in the lower 48. Consider some of these steps to help reduce your carbon footprint associated with your climb.

Purchase carbon offsets for your travel to Ashford.

Native Energy (<http://www.nativeenergy.com/>) is used by companies like National Geographic and Best Buy to fund reforestation, methane capture projects and more. You can buy offset credits for your travel to Ashford on their website.

Live lower on the consumer ladder: rent before you buy.

IMG carries an extensive collection of guide-tested, high-quality gear. Renting allows you to try gear out before you decide to purchase it. Renting also relieves you of having to buy something you may never use again. If you do buy gear for your trip, consider buying used gear. If you buy new gear, buy high-quality items. It will last longer, meaning you have to buy less overall. When you're done with your gear, don't throw it away! Donate it. IMG can help you make sure it gets to organizations that support making the outdoors more available to all.

What you can do: Leave No Trace

IMG is a partner with the Center for Outdoor Ethics and the Leave No Trace program. Leave No Trace is an international program developed to engender conservation ethics and practices that ensure we are all able to enjoy our national treasures for generations to come. Here are some ways that you can practice your Leave No Trace skills as you prepare for and climb Mt. Rainier.



Plan Ahead and Prepare

The biggest impact you can have on your climb happens before your climb even starts. Leave as much packaging as you can at home. Choose foods that are easy to unwrap so that you don't drop tiny bits of plastic when you try to unwrap it in the cold and wind. Minimize clipping things to the outside of your backpack, like sunscreen and hand sanitizer. Leave the rubber stoppers off your trekking poles. They're all little items and because of that you are less likely to notice you've dropped it.

Travel on Durable Surfaces

There are over 1.5 million visitors to the park each year! Even if each of those visitors are only leaving footprints, it is still a lot of impact on fragile alpine meadows that have a small window in which to grow and reproduce before winter sets back in. Please stay on marked trails and help other visitors to do the same by making room and traveling single file. Remember with a climbing pack on you are a much bigger than normal!

Dispose of Waste Properly

Pack it in, pack it out. We pack out all our waste (yes even human waste!). Help us do our part by using designated toilets or using a blue bag and then disposing of it properly. You sort out your trash and recycling at home and we do it on the mountain too! Please dispose of all your trash and recycling in bags designated by your guides, or even better, keep it with you and deposit it in the appropriate containers back at IMG HQ in Ashford. Small trash can be hard to keep track of; keep a small plastic bag in your pocket for your small trash instead of just stuffing in your pocket.

Respect Wildlife

Did you know that Mt. Rainier is home to a species of fox that is found nowhere else in the world outside of Washington? Encouraged by human food, you may even glimpse this climber at heart, at high camps on the mountain. Please help us discourage this behavior from all wildlife by keeping unattended food secure in your pack and try to pick up the area around you after a break. We use strainers to capture food particles in our grey water and store food in wildlife proof containers, please follow your guide's lead and do the same.

Respect Other Visitors

We are a large group with large packs. Make room for others to pass. Be polite. Help others to also have an unparalleled wilderness experience.