

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF BACKPACKING

1. THOU SHALT take only photographs and leave only footprints in the wilderness. What the Lord hath created, man must not defile, lest future generations of man curse thee.
2. THOU SHALT pack out thy trash and a little bit more, lest thou leave the forest looking like the day after a rock festival.
3. THOU SHALT NOT cut or deface standing trees, live or dead. They are the sentinels of eternity.
4. THOU SHALT build thy camp at least 100 feet from any water.
5. THOU SHALT wash thy clothes and dishes at least 100 feet from any water, lest the waters become polluted with suds.
6. THOU SHALT drown thy campfire dead, dead, dead with water, lest thou start a forest fire as great as the fires of Hell.
7. THOU SHALT NOT piddle in the lakes, streams, or rivers. The Almighty doth not swim in thy toilet, so do not pee in His pools.
8. THOU SHALT bury thy #2 at least 150 feet from any water in a hole 5 to 6 inches deep and cover it securely.
9. THOU SHALT NOT cut switchbacks on the trail, lest thou be assigned for eternity to rebuilding trails.
10. THOU SHALT enjoy the wilderness with thy entire heart, soul and mind and love thy fellow backpacker as thyself. Covet not his down sleeping bag, share thy food and drink and give one another backrubs frequently. And thy days shall be long and thy memories sweet and thou shalt dwell in the Land of Wilderness forever.

Found engraved on a rock by
Tom Hodges on the top of Mt.
Whitney, 28 August 1981.