Whitman College Geology Department
Field Trip Code of Conduct

This document is the work of more than one faculty member and is the document currently available. Any italicized text is new in 2021, added by URGE participant K. Nicolaysen. The department faculty have agreed this entire document will be reviewed and revised in May 2021 with a panel of DEI/JEDI advisers including students, organized by Nicolaysen.

Geology field trips add opportunities and challenges that extend beyond normal campus conditions. Past Whitman College geology majors have displayed exceptionally good behavior on field trips. All the department asks is that you continue this fine tradition. In addition to the Student Rights and Responsibilities section of the Student Handbook, please read this extra set of field trip guidelines in order to help ensure the health and safety of everyone. After reading the information below, please sign to indicate that you understand and will agree to these policies.

Before the trip:

- If you are a Wilderness First Responder (WFR), or have first aid training that is current – not expired – please make this known to the instructor and/or the trip leader before the first day. Your expertise is an asset – thank you.
- If you have a life-threatening allergy or chronic condition that may result in loss of consciousness, please be sure that at least two people on the trip (including the instructor preferably) know what your medical protocols are.

Inclusivity and diversity – The department faculty have voted to include this section explicitly during the next round of revisions (May 2021).

During the trip, strive to be safe, responsible, and respectful.

Be safe: Use common sense to always remain safe. For example:

- You are never required to do something that you feel is unsafe. We recognize that people’s comfort level with heights, and other field conditions, varies widely. Simply talk to the instructor if you’re uncomfortable with the access or conditions at a particular outcrop. For example, some trips include a cave visit.
- Please choose actions that promote the safety of everyone on the trip.
- Listen to all instructions before exiting the vans.
- At a roadcut, cross the road quickly and safely. Don’t stand or linger in the road, and be aware of cars at all times. Use traffic cones and visibility vests if asked.
- If you’re examining rocks on a slope, watch your footing carefully. Avoid climbing up slopes with loose rocks that can fall on people below.
- Trip leaders will review biological hazards, like avoiding rattlesnakes or checking for ticks, as appropriate.
- We will schedule periodic bathroom stops as frequently as we can find good facilities. Please don’t hesitate to ask for a bathroom accommodation.
• We always travel with one or more extensively-stocked first aid kits. Please let us know how we may help.
• Wear appropriate attire where specified.
  o Closed-toed shoes are necessary, and long pants are a good idea.
  o Protective eyewear is required when hammering rocks.
  o Wear a helmet and/or safety vest if requested by any faculty/staff.

Be responsible: When each person contributes to learning collaboratively, to being prepared for the day, and to noting their geologic observations everyone has a better experience. For example:
• Our entire goal is to provide a learning experience that provides practice in using geologic vocabulary and concepts and in making predictive and synergistic inferences about the outcrops. We profs and Geotech are here to answer your questions and help with your learning. Please ask questions!
• All field courses require you to take observational data, make annotated sketches, and write daily summaries in your field notebook. This is an essential part of learning. Field notebooks are legal documents in some professions, so it’s beneficial to organize the information and to write clearly.
• Everyone is responsible for packing the vans and making camp (if applicable).
• Offer to help the instructors and Geotech as often as you think of it.
• If you are van certified, you may be asked to drive. Please follow all the safety guidelines you were given during van training through Whitman College and drive sensibly. If you are tired or otherwise feel unready to drive, please feel free to decline our request.
• Never bring alcohol or other non-prescription, controlled substances on field trips. Both college and department policy require this.

Be respectful: You are expected to treat everyone with respect. For example:
• Listen to instructors at the outcrop and in the vans. Road noise is already challenging
• Respect private property and sensitive environments.
• What does participation in a community look like? expand
• Please ask your peers and instructors how they wish to be treated if you are uncertain.
  o The informal nature of field trips and tiring days can promote the conditions that lead to microaggressions. Please be
  o Be inclusive. These trips are a great opportunity to make new friends.
  o Be aware that camping and that insensitive comments from the general public may pose discomfort and difficulty for your peers. Please ask how someone wishes to be supported instead of making assumptions.
  o Be considerate of your music choices and music volume level in the vans.
  o Everyone has a better time when you have a good attitude.

Please note: Your instructors are always available to talk about any issues before, during and after the trip. Other numbers for reference: Whitman’s Title IX Interim Coordinator Daniel Swinton (509) 524-2049 titleix@whitman.edu; or Cara Setchell, Deputy Title IX Coordinator (509) 527-5970. For all three Walla Walla colleges, the Sexual Assault Victim’s Advocate Malia Lewis provides confidential advice and help (509-526-3032;
Alternatively, there is an online reporting link:
(This information in green is up-to-date for 2021 even prior to the planned JEDI review of this document with a student panel.)

**Overnight trips like Regional Geology** require extra considerations:

- Everyone is responsible for packing the vans and making camp. For Regional Geology field trips, you will be given an assigned duty before the trip. Please be aware of your assignment and be prepared to act when it’s your turn. For other overnight trips, you may not be assigned camp duties, but please offer to help.
- Be respectful at campsites:
  - Pitch your tent only in our designated sites.
  - Be quiet when the camp’s quiet hours begin.
  - Help clean the campsite thoroughly prior to departure.
- Help clear and clean the vans at the end of the trip.
- If you must drop the class after signing up, please communicate with the listed professor as soon as possible. This may allow students on the waitlist to participate.
- If you drop within 7 days of the trip’s departure, you will be charged the field trip fee, as food is purchased within this time window. If you drop the day that we depart on the field trip or simply do not show up, you run the risk of failing the class.

*I have read and agree to abide by these guidelines.*

_________________________/_________________________  __________
Name  /  Signature  Date