

Code of Conduct, Rules, Regulations, and Safety Procedures for Bryn Mawr Geology Field Trips

INTRODUCTION

The principal objective of a Bryn Mawr Geology Field trip is to expose students to tangible real-world examples of ancient and modern Geology systems. Learning in the field is intended to be a positive and powerful experience that promotes the development of tangible geologic skills and the conceptual understanding of processes that have previously been presented in the classroom. The trips are often in a natural setting and will give you opportunities to make observations and interpretations based on field relationships.

The rules and regulations listed below are designed to maximize the learning environment and maintain the highest safety standards possible for yourself and others. We value the participation of every member of our community and want to ensure everyone has an enjoyable and fulfilling experience, both professionally and personally. The instructor(s) will be happy to explain the reasoning behind any of the rules should you have questions. These rules will be discussed prior to leaving for the trip.

Students who violate rules may be dismissed from the field trip and sent home, and/or receive a zero in the course. While on a field trip you are bound by all Bi-college rules and regulations and by the rules below, which are more specifically formulated for field trips. Because several people will be traveling in close quarters, special efforts must be made to exercise due regard for the rights and feelings of others. The field trip leader(s) have spent a lot of time organizing and planning the trip and have made every effort to prepare an itinerary that is educational, and safe. The field leader will make every effort to ensure field locations and housing are appropriate, safe, and equitable for all identities. When appropriate the trip leader will familiarized themselves with any historical and contemporary racist activity at or near the field stops and will have prepared accordingly. If relevant, a discussion led by the leader will be had prior to arriving at potentially problematic stops.

Field environments pose unique challenges:

1. In the field there is reduced independence for access to transportation, food, medical resources, etc.
2. There is increased distance from personal support networks at home and participants will be separated from their regular social ties and daily structures.
3. There may be unfamiliar cultural norms or language.
4. The field days are often long with physically strenuous work and exhaustion.
5. You may be exposed to harsh environmental conditions and potential greater risk of environmental hazards, or unfamiliar risks compared to being at home.

All rules and regulations apply to students and faculty!

General Rules

1. Everyone must make a special effort to be prepared to leave for the field and other destinations at the appointed time. One person who opts to sleep in, grab a last minute sandwich, or makes a long phone call will hold up the group or possibly get left behind. You should always ride in your assigned vehicle so it will be obvious if you are missing when we leave a stop or outcrop.
2. At all times you should respect the ecology of the areas we visit and show a respect for nature. Do not intentionally damage vegetation or other natural features. Do not pollute lakes and streams and do not deface natural or manmade objects. Do not throw stones or roll boulders down hillslopes.

Rules of Conduct with a focus on Inclusivity and diversity

Field trips are most effective and educational when participants feel safe, secure, and supported. All field trip participants will be dedicated to a harassment-free experience for everyone, regardless of gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age, and/or religion. Harassment by and/or of members of our group will not be tolerated in any form, and we ask all members of the community to conform to the following Code of Conduct (parts of this list is borrowed from the Basin Research Group Code of Conduct):

1. Rules of personal conduct are designed to foster a healthy and prosperous educational environment. Violation of any of the rules listed below constitutes grounds for dismissal from the field trip.
2. All communication, be it online or in person, should be appropriate for a professional audience, and be considerate of people from different cultural backgrounds. Sexual language and imagery is not appropriate at any time.
3. Be kind to others and do not insult or put down other group members.
4. Behave professionally. Remember that harassment and sexist, racist, or exclusionary jokes are not appropriate.
5. We must be particularly careful to avoid any behavior or activity that might be considered sexual harassment. Even though such behavior may be unintentional or offered in jest, it cannot be tolerated. A jest for one person can be a deep injury to another. If anyone feels that such a situation is developing or has occurred, they are asked to report it immediately to a faculty member. We ask that you err on the side of caution.
6. Harassment includes offensive verbal comments related to gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, religion, sexual images in public spaces, deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, harassing photography or recording, sustained disruption of discussions, inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome sexual attention.
7. Participants asked to stop any harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately.
8. Contribute to discussions in meetings with a constructive, positive approach
9. Be mindful of talking over others when discussing in groups, and be willing to hear out the ideas of others.
10. Belligerent- intimidating- or harassment-type of activity will not be tolerated. Any violation of this nature should be reported immediately to a member of the staff.

In addition to making group members feel safe and secure, diversity and inclusivity has numerous benefits to us all. Put simply, the greater the mix of people in our group, the greater the mix of skills, experiences, perspectives, and ideas we can collectively draw on. But the benefits of diversity and equality cannot be fully achieved without creating an inclusive environment.

Code of Conduct Violation Reporting

If a field trip leader ever observes a student or colleague violating one of the above Codes of Conduct they will immediately have a conversation with said person to address the violation. If inappropriate behavior persists after the initial discussion, the student will be asked to leave the trip and return home. For those violations that a student observes away from the faculty leader, they should contact the field trip leader to report the issue; all communication with the trip leader will be treated as confidential. If you do not feel comfortable contacting the leader directly, **please contact the trips student liaison.**

SAFETY IN THE FIELD

1. Field partners will be designated by the faculty. You must remain with your partner at all times when in the field.
2. Always wear appropriate field footwear in the field. Tennis shoes, etc. are not recommended for fieldwork, as they do not provide adequate ankle support.
3. Use extreme caution in, and when possible stay out of particularly, precipitous areas. Climbing in dangerous areas is not permitted. If you have doubts about whether working/visiting an area could be potentially dangerous "don't do it"(no area, however interesting and/or spectacular, is worth placing your safety at risk). The faculty will attempt to identify dangerous (forbidden) areas but you must use good judgment.
4. When climbing, be careful to avoid dislodging loose materials. A rolling rock can be extremely dangerous to the people below.
5. Avoid climbing directly above another person or group. If you must pass above them on a slope, always warn the people below of what you intend to do and wait until they get out of the way. If you dislodge a rock, yell, "rock, look out below". If you are below, seek shelter and look upslope for the projectile.
6. Do not place yourself in jeopardy by moving directly below another person or group. If you must traverse a slope below another person, ask them to remain still until you are safely out of the way.
7. DO NOT ROLL BOULDERS; there could be other people, cattle, etc. out of sight down slope and a rapidly moving boulder can be fatal.
8. Exercise extreme caution if you smoke in the field. Forest or sage brush fires are an ever present hazard. Make doubly sure that matches and cigarette butts are extinguished. Better still - don't smoke. This is an opportunity to cut down on a bad habit. There may be times during drought when public lands are posted prohibiting fires of all kinds including smoking. You must honor these special regulations and not smoke.
9. If you become lost when in the field, do not wander looking for the group; that will just make you more lost. Stay where you are. Position yourself near a path or open ground. Do not stay near a raging stream as the noise makes it difficult to hear and be heard. A search party will find you.
10. You should never be alone when in the field. If you or your partner becomes injured when in the field, do not panic. Check the scene; insure there is no further chance for injury. Determine the extent of the injury. Call for/find help. Do not offer to treat the injury unless you have been trained to do so. Do not move an injured person, especially if the injury involves broken bones. The best course of action is to find help in the form of an instructor as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Policies Concerning Drugs and Alcohol

1. We do not encourage the use of alcoholic beverages by students. We recognize that students need to make individual choices concerning the use of alcohol. We support the choice not to drink and actively discourage the misuse of alcohol. Intoxication in no way releases a student from full responsibility for their behavior and its consequences.
2. Alcohol consumption is not allowed during instruction.
3. Alcohol consumption is not allowed during the day (6 AM to 6 PM).
4. No hard liquor including, vodka, whiskey, etc. is allowed – in vans, in hotels, or in town.
5. Alcoholic beverage can be consumed by those who are of legal age, but this should be done only in moderation and only at appropriate times and places. Public rowdiness and/or drunkenness will not be tolerated.

6. Drinking shots, chugging, and drinking games are not permitted at any time during field trips.
7. Students are allowed to buy and consume beer in moderation.
8. Consumption of beer in the vans, even when parked, is strictly forbidden.
9. The use of illegal drugs is strictly forbidden; this includes recreational drugs. All controlled substances are forbidden in hotels or in the field. Anyone caught using drugs will be dismissed from the course.