



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York

GEOLOGY FIELD CAMP

May 12th - June 11th, 2010

Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming

General Information:

The campsites are located in western Colorado, southeastern Utah, east-central Utah, and southeastern Wyoming at elevations of 5000' to 9000'. The nights may be cold (25 deg F) to cool (50 deg F) whereas the days are generally warm to hot (65-95 deg F), although daytime temperatures can be as low as 30 deg. The country is semiarid, but there is always the possibility of a wet season and, even lacking that, there are commonly afternoon showers.

It is advisable that you spend some time prior to field camp getting your legs in shape for walking and climbing. On a daily basis, a student mapping an area might walk four or five miles with most of this terrain being hilly. Since we are mapping in the desert (semiarid) regions, it is also very important to have a large capacity canteen (total capacity of at least 3 liters) to take with you into the field.

You are limited to two (2) medium-sized duffle type bags (approximately 24"x15"x15"). You will have to leave anything else at the Denver Federal Center until Camp is over. I've outlined how we suggest that you pack your two bags. Just bring what you need (trust us, we've been doing this for over 20 years and too much "stuff" will just be a pain)!

If you have any questions at all about gear, etc., please email us at geology@buffalo.edu

It's going to be a great summer!!

Field Camp Checklist

BAG #1

Clothing:

- _____ Comfortable field boots or hiking shoes. It is imperative that these be broken in. [Recently some students have successfully completed Camp using athletic-type shoes (i.e. Nike, etc) which are O.K. as long as the weather remains dry. These will not be satisfactory under wet conditions and do not offer ankle support--REMEMBER, "THERE IS NOTHING MORE WORTHLESS THAN A FIELD GEOLOGIST WITH A SPRAINED ANKLE!"]
 - _____ Shoes other than boots (for when not in the field) to give your feet (and shoes) a rest
 - _____ Work pants – 2 pair
 - _____ Work Shirts –2 long sleeved, 2 short sleeved
 - _____ Hiking shorts- 1 pair
 - _____ Sweatshirt or sweater
 - _____ Warm jacket
 - _____ Both heavy and light socks – several pairs
 - _____ Underclothes
 - _____ Winter hat
 - _____ Work gloves/Winter gloves
 - _____ Rain gear (fairly good quality-we work in the rain & wind, ponchos are not suitable)
 - _____ Wide brimmed hat for protection from the sun
 - _____ Sunglasses
 - _____ Bug repellent (some years needed, others not, but you never know...also, make sure you pack it in a sealed bag!)
- Some students bring too many “dressy” clothes. In the West, dress is casual, even in the better restaurants.
 - You will have the opportunity to do laundry about once a week.

Cameras:

Most people wish to bring cameras; you are encouraged to do so. You will certainly see some of the most spectacular geology this country has to offer! Remember, however, that your camera is your responsibility; be certain to lock all vehicles you travel in or—better yet—keep it with you.

Field equipment--most important!!

- _____ Small Flashlight/Lamp/Head Light -- YOU WILL OFTEN BE WORKING ON YOUR MAPS AT NIGHT BY THIS LIGHT--SO MAKE IT A GOOD ONE!!
- _____ Geologic hammer (“rock hammer”)—Estwing is the typical kind
- _____ Hand lens
- _____ Field Notebook [traditional, hardback write-in-the-rain field notebook (7 3/4" x 5") are best—you could bring two just to be safe] See www.riteintherain.com
- _____ Cheap, fine line pens (“Sharpie” type)
- _____ Protractor and plastic ruler (divided into either tenths-of-inches or cm)
- _____ Calculator
- _____ 2H and 3H pencils (you’ll want these hard pencils to write in your field books without smearing)
- _____ Standard set of colored pencils, at least 12 colors (do not get “day-glo” colors!)
- _____ Small pocket pencil sharpener
- _____ Clipboard (legal-size)

BAG #2

Tent:

You will need to bring a tent to camp unless you have made prior arrangements to share with another student (this is in fact encouraged, in order to minimize the total amount of area affected by our camp). Your tent should be of good quality (we may experience extreme weather conditions including high winds). The tent will be considered part of your baggage, so you shouldn't bring the "12-man" variety!

Over the years, the tents that best survive in the "Wild Winds and Weather of the West" are dome tents with full-cover rain flies that have at least three full-length poles. "A-Frame" tents and dome (or other weird-shaped) tents with only two poles (or two plus a little one) have not fared so well in the past (i.e., ripped or blown down in the wind.). In addition, you should bring plenty of tent spikes and some strong (but thin) nylon cord for tying your tent down. Some years are very windy, others not. Better to be safe than sorry. You may also want to bring a cheap plastic tarp that should be smaller than the footprint of your tent, to prevent moisture from getting in from below.

Camping Gear:

- _____ Good sleeping bag plus either a liner, flannel blanket or fleece blanket to be use as a liner [As noted above, nights may be cool or cold. No pillow will be necessary as you can use clothing in duffel bag.]
- _____ Air mattress or sleeping pad
- _____ Toiletries – including a bar of soap with a plastic holder and bio-friendly shampoo
- _____ Small, light towel and wash cloth
- _____ Plate or bowl, spoon, fork, knife--**UTENSILS WILL NOT BE PROVIDED BY CAMP!!!!**
- _____ Plastic "tupperware" sandwich box (to keep your peanut butter & jelly lunch from getting squashed in your backpack!)
- _____ Cup for hot beverages
- _____ Canteen(s) - enough to hold at least three liters of H₂O (large bladder pack or several water bottles).
- _____ Soft backpack for day hikes (no frame, roughly 2000 cu. in.)
- _____ Pocketknife (packed in checked luggage!!)
- _____ Baby wipes or solar shower (for "no shower" days)
- _____ Sun block
- _____ Chapstick with sun block
- _____ Toilet Paper for the field (you can buy this out there)
- _____ Large ziplock bags (to keep your stuff dry in the field and to write in when the weather is bad)