



**University at Buffalo**  
*The State University of New York*

# **GEOLOGY FIELD CAMP**

## **May 15<sup>th</sup> - June 14<sup>h</sup>, 2013**

### **Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming**

#### **General Information:**

The Campsites are located in western Colorado, southeastern Utah, northeastern 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 water bottle (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 in Denver 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 40 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](mailto: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](http://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 the hard pencils to write in your field books without smearing)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Softer pencils for the maps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Standard set of colored pencils, at least 12 colors (do not get “day-glo” colors!)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Small pocket pencil sharpener
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clipboard (legal-size) for maps

## **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 you 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, bowl, cup, 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 H<sub>2</sub>O (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
- \_\_\_\_\_ Large ziplock bags (to keep your stuff dry in the field and to write in when the weather is bad)