

FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES

Field trip postings are made to members via their email.

All trips are weather pending. Cancellations will be posted via email, either the day before or the morning of the trip. If the weather appears bad, check your emails!

Be on time at the meet site. Field trips depart from the meet locations at the time specified.

On the trail, watch the vehicle behind you. If you make a turn off the trail, make sure that the vehicle behind you sees your turn. The only exception is on a very dusty road. An example is Aguila Rd, in which case feel free to stay back out of the dust at a reasonable distance. The turn guideline still applies: if you make a turn, wait until the vehicle behind you catches up and sees your turn.

Your trip leader is responsible for the group. If the field trip is far off a main road/trail, it will be expected for you to stay with the group until we return to the main road. If you need to leave early, make sure that you know the way out and notify the trip leader of your plans. If the collection site is close to pavement/has easy egress, participants can leave when they need to.

If a closed gate is encountered on the trail, the trip leader will open the gate. The second vehicle in line will move aside and become the last vehicle in the group and then close the gate behind them. This applies to both ingress and egress of the trip. (If the gate is open on the trail, it will remain as such.)

Each vehicle must carry their own basic or advanced first aid kit, shovel, rock equipment, plenty of water, drinks, snacks, lunch, sunscreen, hats.

Respect the land and stay on the trail. Do not "hog" the collecting site! Be reasonable, and leave specimens for others to find.

Have fun and share your great rock experiences!

The trip leader will:

Be aware of property ownership (BLM, State Trust, Private, Active Claim, National Forest, etc) and if a state trust permit is required, this information will be shared at the posting of the trip. If the claim is privately owned, the trip leader will obtain the necessary permissions and make others aware of the claim ownership.

Be responsible to ensuring all participants arrive at the collection site, and either escort them out, or ensure that the participants know the way out.

Explain the type(s) of rocks that are at the collection site and/or what rocks are possible to obtain at the site.

Be aware of trail conditions so an accurate posting (re: vehicle needs, walks, etc) can be made. If the condition is unknown, that will be stated in the posting.

Participants will:

Obtain a State Trust land permit, if needed. If needed, will have an OHV sticker on their off-road vehicle.

Be on time at the meet site.

If you need to leave early, pay attention to the trail to the collection site so you know the way out, and notify the trip leader of your need to leave early.

ROCK HOUNDING IN ARIZONA

Rock hounding is the collection of reasonable amounts of mineral specimens, rocks, semi-precious gems, petrified wood, and invertebrate fossils. Invertebrate fossils are the remains of animals that didn't have bones, such as shellfish, corals, trilobites, crinoids and mollusks. This also includes plant fossils.

The material collected must be for personal use, and must not be sold or bartered.

In Arizona, BLMS sets the "reasonable" limits for personal use as up to 25 pounds per day, plus one piece. There is a limit of 250 pounds per year per person. A piece that weighs over 250 pounds requires a permit.

Collection cannot include motorized or mechanical devices, including heavy equipment or explosives. Metal detectors are acceptable.

GUIDELINES for the Rock Hound

1. Research the area you are going to. Know what land designation you will be on. (BLM, National Forest, private land, etc) Take a map. If you are stopping (for any reason) on State Trust Land, have your permit.
2. Do not attempt backcountry travel in an inadequate vehicle.
3. If you are by yourself, TELL SOMEONE your destination and anticipated return time/date.
4. Leave all gates in the position you found them.
5. Carry sufficient water.
6. Wear sensible clothing. Include a hat and sunscreen.
7. Never, ever litter. If possible, leave the place cleaner than it was when you arrived.
8. Do not "hog" the site. Leave plenty of specimens for others to find.
9. Bring a first aid kit with you.
10. Carry an emergency supply of food.
11. Stay with your vehicle.
12. When stuck in the sand, clear the sand away from the tires and lay vegetation within the ruts. If all else fails, remove about half of the air from the tires.
13. Never leave pets or children unattended; they can get into serious trouble.
14. Never leave fires unattended, and do not even light one in dry or windy conditions.

Excerpts from "Gem Trails of Arizona" and "Rock Hounding Arizona"