

Field Trip Rules for Participation

Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

FIELD TRIPS - GENERAL RULES

Below are basic rules for participation in MGMS sponsored field trips. Additional field trip rules may be published separately or conveyed orally. Waivers for Participation may be required. DMC field trips may also have additional requirements and possibly fees.

1. Every field trip participant must be a member of MGMS (or an invited club). To participate in any MGMS or Dixie Mineral Council field trip, you must be a current member in good standing. Dues must be current (received) before the day of the field trip. The Field Trip Chair or Trip Leader may ask for verification of your club affiliation.
2. You must abide by the MGMS rules, published or conveyed orally, governing proper activities in the field concerning conduct, safety, preservation, and protection of our resources. You must also abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics, DMC Field Trip policies, and DMC host club rules if you attend a DMC field trip.

Rules include, but are not limited to: staying within the announced field trip boundaries, staying with the group, no early arrivals or late departures. No firearms are allowed on one's person or in one's gear on MGMS field trips.
3. You must follow all instructions of the Field Trip Chair or Leader(s) and safety person(s).
4. Adults are responsible for the junior members included on their membership application. Parents/guardians must keep their children within their sight and hearing distance at all times. Children must be supervised.
5. You must not damage the property on which we hunt. Most field trips take place on private property. You must respect the wishes of the owner. Obey instructions from the landowner and trip leader about gates. Drive vehicles only where permitted and do not trample crops when crossing fields.
6. MGMS obtains permission to hunt on private property only for the scheduled day and time of the field trip. It is MGMS policy that we go into a hunt sites as a group - no early arrivals at the site or on the property. It is also policy that no individuals may continue to hunt after the group leaves. The hunt permission does not give members authorization to return to the hunt site at another time.
7. Please do not visit a hunt site immediately before any field trip. Also, do not go to a site ahead of the group on the day of the field trip. Meet and convoy with the rest of the group so that everyone will have equal access to the site.
8. GPS site location should not be published. *Turn off GPS camera settings as well as location tracking/sharing apps while at the hunt site.*
9. Only take what you can reasonably use. No commercial collecting is allowed.
10. Be aware of that there are certain inherent and unpredictable dangerous environmental field trip hazards. Examples are: danger from wild and domestic animals, poisonous or venomous animals, insects, plants, and risk of overheating if proper precaution is not taken.

Participants assume all risks inherent in field trip activity. Participants release The Society, the Southeast Federation, the DMC Host Club, and the land owner of any and all liability for claims or lawsuits by the undersigned participant arising out of any field trip.

Field Trip Rules for Participation

Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

11. MGMS and any other entity sponsoring field trips in connection with MGMS (including Dixie Mineral Council) releases the land owner, claimant, or lessee from liability or responsibility for claims or lawsuits for any incident that may occur during our collecting activities on their property.

EXCEPTIONS TO FIELD TRIP RULES

Exceptions to established field trip rules and procedures must be approved by the Field Trip Chair or Leader. In some circumstances, the Trip Chair or Leader may wish to discuss the exemption request with the Governing Board or President. The exception(s) will be for a specific field trip.

If you have received permission from the Trip Leader to go directly to a specific hunt site.

- a. You must wait at the gate on the main road until the group arrives;
- b. You must go in as the last of the group; and
- c. You must check in with the trip leader before you start your hunt.

FAILURE TO COMPLY

While participating in any Society function, a member who fails to comply with any of these *Rules for Participation*, any additional established rules, or *fails* to comply with instructions of any Governing Board member, Field Trip Chair or Trip Leader, Safety Person, or another Leader will be subject to disciplinary action.

Non-compliance could result in action from reprimand up to and including revocation of membership.

UPDATES

MGMS may or may not require members to sign *Field Trip Rules* forms annually. When the *Field Trip Rules for Participation* are updated by the Governing Board, members will be provided a copy of the updated regulations and asked to acknowledge receipt and acceptance of the updated *Rules* at that time. Members who have accepted these *Rules* understand that these regulations remain in effect until updated or revoked by MGMS.

MEMBER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge that I have read all of these *Field Trip Rules for Participation*. Any questions which have occurred to me have been answered to my satisfaction. I acknowledge that these regulations are a supplement to the *General Rules for Participation in Activities of Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society Activities*.

I understand and acknowledge that these *Field Trip Rules for Participation* shall remain in effect until updated or revoked by MGMS.

I am voluntarily, and with full knowledge of these regulations, participating in MGMS activities and functions. I agree to abide by all rules and restrictions governing MGMS activities both written and those conveyed orally.

Printed Name

Signature of Adult Participant

Date

Field Trip Rules for Participation

Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

DMC Program Field Trip Policies

Dixie Mineral Council (DMC)

1. All societies that have agreed to host a field trip and join the DMC Field Trip Sharing Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee will be called an "associated" club.
2. Only associated clubs will be allowed to publish (electronically or hard copy) DMC program field trips as their official monthly field trip. (Benefit of membership!) DMC member clubs are the only societies to receive details of all future field trips from the DMC.
3. Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance.
4. For insurance purposes, all associated clubs must publish all DMC program field trips as "officially recognized" field trips of their society.
It is required that all persons who attend a DMC program field trip be a member, in good standing, of an SFMS club. Since a family membership covers everyone in a family who can attend, your SFMS club will need all family member names on their membership roll.
5. All sites visited by the DMC field trip sharing program are *not to be revisited* unless they are on public domain property road cuts, national forests, etc., or on privately owned land with the owner's permission. This is the quickest way to lose access to a host club's field trip location. Therefore, if an associated club or one of its members breaks this crucial DMC field trip policy, their future DMC program field trip information will be forfeited!
6. Please do not visit a site immediately before a DMC program field trip.
Also, do not go to a site ahead of the group on the day of the field trip. Meet and convoy with the rest of the group so that everyone will have equal access to the site.
7. Do not park your vehicle where it is blocking the road, a gate, or another vehicle.
8. Always fill in all your holes.
9. Don't litter.
10. Never disturb buildings or other facilities at a collecting site.
11. Only take home what you can reasonably use!
12. PLEASE keep your vehicle locked at all times.

In addition to the DMC program field trip rules, everyone should follow the AFMS Code of Ethics while on SFMS field trips.

Field Trip Rules for Participation

Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

AFMS Code of Ethics

American Federal of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

Revised July 7, 1999 at the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) Annual Meeting