



GEL3530 Field Geology & GEL4400 Applied Volcanology
May/Summer 2025

Field Trip Policies and Liability Waiver

TO: Students Participating in EAS Field Trips
FROM: Chairperson of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department
SUBJECT: Field Trip Policies and Liability Waiver

FIELD TRIPS: GEL1530/3530/4400 May 19 - 31, 2025

Name (Print):	Student ID: 900
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All participants **MUST INITIAL & SIGN** this **LIABILITY WAIVER** in order to be eligible for registration!

All students participating in field trips taught by the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (EAS) should be aware that there is always an element of risk in such trips. These risks involve travel by vehicles, including commercial, state, and private vehicles, and in certain cases travel by canoes and rafts, walking as pedestrians on or near roadways, as well as strenuous hiking in mountainous terrains which are sometimes in remote areas. Instructors will use all reasonable precautions and students need to exercise prudent behavior during field trips, but even then there exists the possibility of an accident. Students need to assess their own physical abilities and not exceed their capabilities. Students must be alert and aware of possible risks and dangers during field trips.

Policies, Rules & Regulations for ALL Participants

Read carefully and **initial each item** on the line provided. Your initial indicates **FULL** understanding and acceptance of each policy, rule &/or regulation.

All students are under the professional responsibility concerning the consumption of alcohol, as well as impairing drugs and medications. While marijuana is legal in many States, consumption or smoking of recreational “weed” during the trip is prohibited. To keep all involved safe, a **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY** will be enforced concerning alcohol and marijuana.

Smoking, including e-cigarettes, will **NOT** be permitted during the trip and in the vehicles (A great time to quit!!!) unless there is a designated smoking area in / at those places we visit. Because of eminent fire dangers in many areas visited, absolutely **NO** smoking will be allowed during field hikes or outside designated areas. Students who smoke should be considerate of nonsmokers during field trips.

On overnight trips, there will be strict enforcement of “quiet hours.” Quiet hours will begin at 10:00 PM and will extend until 6:00 AM the next day. During this time, there will be no loud music, boisterous activity, or other disturbance allowed.

No firearms are allowed on field trips. If you have a Concealed-Carry Permit, you may bring a firearm **ONLY** with pre-approval. A copy of the current permit must be on file with the instructor(s), and the firearm **MUST** be concealed at **ALL** times (NO showing to others). The use of the firearm for recreation or practice is **NOT** permitted!

Students with medical problems, including but not limited to asthma and allergies, **must** consult with instructor prior to participating in field trips. Such students **must** carry appropriate medications with them **AT ALL TIMES**. In case of a medical emergency during the field trip, such students must be prepared to pay for expenses incurred for their evacuation.

Students will exercise common sense at all times. Students **MUST** also adhere to the Buddy System when going anywhere.

Students who violate any local, state, or federal statutes or who violate any of the field trip policies or stipulations or who fail to conform to directives from the instructor may be immediately dismissed from the field trip. The instructors have the right to terminate any driver or other student found in violation of these responsibilities, and such actions will terminate him or her from continuing on the trip. The fees already submitted shall be non-refundable in such cases. Terminated drivers of vehicles with passengers may also be responsible for additional charges accrued by their passengers for trip continuance, e.g., rental car. Such students may also be subject to a failing grade in the course, be required to withdraw from the course, and be subject to disciplinary action by the University.

(OVER - Signature required on reverse side)

Policies, Rules & Regulations for Drivers and/or Personal Vehicle Use

Read carefully and **initial each item** on the line provided IF APPLICABLE. Your initial indicates FULL understanding and acceptance of each policy, rule &/or regulation.

All drivers of either private, leased, or state vehicles must have valid driver's licenses. A copy must be on file with the trip leader(s).

All drivers of State vehicles must attend and pass the required training meeting at the University of Northern Colorado Motor Pool facilities. Contact Dr. Kackstaetter (kackstae@msudenver.edu) for details if you desire to drive a State vehicle.

All drivers of private vehicles must have current insurance coverage as required by Colorado law.

All drivers of private vehicles must commit to a **ZERO** alcohol & drug policy at ALL times.

Students should be aware of the State of Colorado liability insurance situation as follows:

Use of Personal Vehicle - Auto Liability

When an employee or student uses their personal vehicle for university business or to transport other students on authorized field trips, the student's or employee's personal automobile policy will provide the primary coverage if an accident or car damage occurs.

If the limits of the policy are not sufficient to cover the damages, the State self-insured liability coverage may be effective, but as extended coverage only. This extended coverage is in force only when the vehicle is being used for business purposes and not when in use for personal reasons.

Colorado no longer requires that medical bills that result from an accident be paid from each driver's insurance immediately regardless of fault (formerly "Personal Injury Protection"). Insurance companies now operate on the basis of legal liability for negligence, which is a more complex process especially when negligence is disputed or shared. Injured parties must now either pay the bills themselves or submit them to their own health insurance company. Companies that provide benefits under such circumstances typically require the injured party to agree that the health insurance company will be reimbursed from any judgment or settlement against a negligent driver.

Further, students driving their personal vehicles are responsible for any damage to their vehicles related to road damage, including, but not limited to, tire, oil pan, and body damage.

In consideration of my being permitted to participate in this activity, I, the undersigned hereby: release and hold harmless the Trustees of Metropolitan State University of Denver, the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and respective employees, from all claims, losses, damages, or expenses because of property damage or personal or bodily injury incurred or caused by me during or in conjunction with the above mentioned activity. In filling out this form, I acknowledge that I fully understand the risk that is inherent to off-campus activities. Furthermore, I have fully read and understand the department policies and my liability and do accept the restrictions.

Print Name

Date

Sign Name

-Signature may be substituted by typing your FULL name in the designated signature field-

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO
Dr. Uwe Kackstaetter or Dr. Aaron Adams
Hardcopy: SI2017
or email: kackstae@msudenver.edu or