

MIAMI UNIVERSITY GEOLOGY FIELD STATION - 2010

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. How long has the Miami University Geology Field Station been in operation?

Summer 2010 is our 64th consecutive year of operation.

Q. Will I need a Passport?

YES.

Q. What are prerequisites for the Field Courses?

Physical Geology and at least six additional credit hours in advanced geology courses, preferably Sedimentology/Stratigraphy, Structural Geology, and Petrology, or permission of the Director.

Q. Where is the Field Station located?

Fifteen miles NW of Dubois, Wyoming, on U.S. 26/287. A large wooden sign on the south side of the highway marks the field station. **The mailing address is Timberline Ranch, 4127 US Highway 26, Dubois, Wyoming 82513 (307-455-2513).** UPS makes deliveries directly to the ranch.

Q. Is there phone and internet access at the Field Station?

A credit card phone is available at the Field Station and some cell phone networks provide weak reception. There is spotty wireless internet access at the ranch; an internet café is available in Dubois. Stops are made in Dubois at the end of most field days.

Q. When should I plan to arrive at and depart from the Field Station?

If traveling by air you should plan to arrive at the Jackson Airport **no later than 3:00 PM, Saturday, June 5, 2010.** If driving a personal vehicle you will leave the vehicle at Timberline Ranch; please arrive at the ranch **between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM, Saturday, June 5.** If someone is dropping you off on Saturday, please use the ranch as the drop point, again between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. Be on time! Arrive early and enjoy the scenery. If necessary, stay in Jackson or Dubois the night before – no accommodations are available at the ranch for early arrivals. Miami University vans will transport you either from the airport or from the ranch to our rendezvous point in the Jackson Hole area. The course ends at **5:00 PM, Friday, July 9.** Please plan on departing from the ranch on Saturday, July 10 if flying; or, if driving your own vehicle, you may depart on Friday evening, July 9, after the course is finished.

Q. What do we need to bring for the camping trip during the first two weeks?

Borrow, share, and/or rent equipment. It does not have to be fancy or brand new, but it must work. Try out your equipment before you begin the course. A list of suggested equipment is provided separately. The field course will provide stoves. **Bring your camping equipment and clothing with you! Do not send them to the field station!** UPS to the field station only the gear you will use exclusively at the field station.

Q. What are a typical day's activities while stationed at Timberline Ranch?

Vans depart for the field at 8:00 a.m. Lunches are eaten in the field. Vans return to camp at about 5:00 p.m. Dinner is at about 6:00 p.m. Evening lectures/discussions go from about 7:30 - 9:00 p.m., after which time you are encouraged to work on projects/maps. In the field, emphasis is on observation and interpretation. Faculty and teaching assistants are present to point out features and to answer questions. There will be numerous individual assignments and projects rather than a long final report.

Q. How much walking will we do?

Students walk on the average of about three miles a day. It will seem like much farther because of the altitude and because of the up and down nature of the trails. A three-mile hike at 9,000 feet elevation is approximately the same as a seven-mile hike at 1,000 feet elevation.

Q. Will students be expected to do any dangerous climbing?

No technical or dangerous hikes or climbs are a part of the course, but strenuous activities are. **You must be in good physical condition!** For safety reasons, students work in groups of two or three.

Q. Is the study area usually hot or cold?

Climate is usually mild in the study area. Evenings and mornings are cool. Afternoons are warm and sunny. However, it is expected that every student will be prepared for sudden thundershowers or a rapid change in temperature. Highly variable weather can be expected at any time, particularly during the first two travel weeks, including snow!

Q. Can I arrange to be picked-up at airports other than Jackson Airport?

NO.

Q. Is it possible to ride to the Field Station in Miami University vans?

Yes. There is a \$50 charge, plus your food and lodging. More information will be available on this topic once enrollment is set. Keep in touch if you are interested.

Q. Are there doctors and hospitals near the Field Station?

The nearest hospitals are 70 miles away. Dubois, Wyoming, 15 miles distance, has a well-trained life-squad and clinic with direct communication with the staff of the nearest hospitals. **Accident/medical insurance is essential.** If you take routine medication, bring a copy of your prescription, an extra supply of medicine, and inform a student or faculty member if necessary.

Q. Will we be able to purchase drug store and similar items at the Field Station?

We will be making regular stops in Dubois during the entire time we are housed at the ranch. You will be able to purchase all kinds of sundry items.

Q. Is there dangerous wildlife in the field areas?

There are a few poisonous reptiles, particularly in the Snake River Plain region. Bear and moose are common in the national parks, and bear are present throughout the northern U.S. and Canadian Rocky Mountains. Be careful and do not hike alone or at night. More details will be provided and discussed at the beginning of the course and as appropriate.

Q. Do I have to be in unusually good physical condition to take this course?

You must be in good normal health. Students with high blood pressure, heart problems, sun allergies, asthma, or obesity may find the field course difficult. No student is expected to attempt anything beyond his or her normal physical limits. Most important is real enthusiasm for geology and for outdoor activities. Do not sign up for the course if you are not eager to work outside. **You must be willing to tolerate the uncertainties and inconveniences of travel and outdoor work.**

Q. What is the food like at Timberline Ranch?

A normal day's menu is cereal, pancakes or eggs for breakfast, lunch meat/cheese and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for lunch, casserole, pasta, or basic meat/potato/vegetable entree for dinner. Food is simple, but nutritious and filling. **Special diets are not easily accommodated, although basic vegetarian requirements can be accommodated. Please contact/inform us well in advance if you have special dietary needs.**

Q. What are the accommodations like at Timberline Ranch?

Students sleep in single or bunk beds. Each student furnishes his or her bedding (sleeping bags recommended). Most of the accommodations have an attached bathroom with toilet, sink and shower; otherwise a washhouse-bathroom is available.

Q. Where can we do laundry?

During the first two traveling weeks there will be a couple of opportunities spaced throughout the period. During the remainder of the course you will have access to a laundromat in Dubois, Wyoming. Vans will travel to town two evenings per week for laundry and will return before midnight.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT US:

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