

# MIAMI UNIVERSITY GEOLOGY FIELD STATION - 2010

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

**\*\*\*\*\* You MUST have a Passport to facilitate travel to and from Canada \*\*\*\*\***

1. The course begins on **Saturday, June 5**. If flying, your arrival point is the Jackson, WY airport. Miami University vans will make pick-ups at the Jackson airport (wait adjacent to the baggage conveyor) as needed starting at approximately Noon on Saturday, June 5. The final pick-up will be made no later than 3:00 PM, Saturday, June 5. Participants planning to drive personal vehicles or to be dropped off should arrive at Timberline Ranch between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM, Saturday, June 5. No personal vehicles will be used during the traveling portion of the course. Miami University vans will depart from the ranch at 1:30 PM, Saturday, June 5 with the ranch arrivals in order to arrive in the Jackson Hole area by 3:00 PM. We will rendezvous in the Jackson Hole area at **3:00 PM, Saturday, June 5**. All participants **MUST** be present by this time.
  2. Students will use their own camping gear and cook their own food during the first two weeks of the course. Lightweight backpacking style equipment is strongly suggested, as luggage space is limited. Sharing is encouraged where possible. At the field station in Dubois, you will be quartered in cabins. Tents are *not* used at the field station. Breakfast and dinner are served in the dining hall at the ranch and lunches are carried and eaten in the field.
  3. Double-decked bunks and mattresses are provided at the ranch. Temperatures at night often drop below 32°F. Since you will have a sleeping bag along for the two camping weeks, plan to use this as your bedding at the ranch.
  4. **Clothing and Personal items:** Field clothes are worn on most occasions. Temperatures may be high during the day and quite low in the evening. A difference of 40°F in a period of 24 hours is not unusual. Be prepared for high wind, bright sun, rain/snow, night temperatures between 20° - 40°F, and day temperatures between 50° - 90°F. **[See information on back side of this page].**
  5. **Note on packing:** Pack lightweight gear in duffel bags or soft, collapsible suitcases. **Large, rigid suitcases, footlockers, and trunks are prohibited. As with airline travel, you are limited to a maximum of two luggage items (soft-sided only) plus a carry-on (day pack) for the traveling portion of the course.**
  6. An up-to-date tetanus vaccination is recommended.
  7. You must carry domestic health care and international travel insurance. Miami University requires all international course participants to purchase HTH Worldwide Insurance. More details will be provided following receipt of your application materials.
  8. **Your address while at the field station will be:**

**Geology Field Station  
c/o John and Barbara Wells  
Timberline Ranch  
4127 US Highway 26  
Dubois, WY 82513**
- Any gear, supplies, etc. that you will not need during the two traveling weeks may be forwarded to the above address. **Be sure to have all necessary gear and supplies with you when we rendezvous in the Jackson Hole area at 3:00 PM, Saturday, June 6.**
9. The Geology Field Station (Timberline Ranch) is located northeast of Jackson, Wyoming, southeast of Yellowstone National Park, and northwest of Rawlins, Riverton, and Lander. A more exact description of the location is 15 miles northwest of Dubois, Wyoming, on U.S. Route 26/287. **The phone number at the Ranch is: (307) 455-2513.** Leave this number and the above address with your family.
  10. Air transportation is available to Jackson, WY. **Make reservations as soon as possible if you plan to fly. Plan to arrive on the Friday before the course begins (June 4) if necessary, and depart on the Saturday after the course ends (July 10; no earlier than 9:00 AM departure from Jackson).** There is no space at the Ranch for early arrivals or late departures.
  11. There is no public transportation available from Jackson to Dubois.

### CLOTHING:

- Safety glasses (**required**, if not wearing glasses) and sunglasses.
- **Field hat** with brim and field (work) gloves.
- **Rain Gear** – Summer in the mountains is a relative concept so a good outer layer is necessary.
- Both light and heavy socks (two pairs per day).
- At least one pair of **field or hiking boots in good condition**; if you buy a new pair, they should be "broken in" before the class begins. An additional pair of hiking or running shoes is highly recommended.
- Hiking/running shoes and/or sandals (when not in the field), shower sandals.
- Warm clothes including warm gloves and a warm hat or fleece/hooded sweatshirt (**Think layers!**).
- Long-sleeved shirts, t-shirts, long pants with pockets, and shorts.
- There is no need for dressy clothing. In the West, dress is casual, even in better restaurants.
- You will have the opportunity to do laundry at least once per week.

### PERSONAL ITEMS:

- **Driver's license, Passport, and Health Insurance cards.**
- Cell phone, pocket money, check book, ATM card (good way to get cash in Canada) and credit card.
- Small first-aid kit, Vaseline, chapstick, sunscreen, insect repellent, foot powder or baby powder.
- Personal toiletries and medicines for headache, constipation, allergy, heartburn, athlete's foot, etc., as may be needed.
- Towel and wash cloth.
- Flashlight and pocket knife.
- **Good warm sleeping bag and pillow** – a mummy bag rated to 20°F is an excellent choice.
- Soft backpack for day-hikes (no frame, ~2000 cu in.).
- Camera and binoculars (not mandatory, but useful).
- **Personal water containers for the field (plan to carry at least 2-3 liters at all times).**

**Bring your gear in duffel bags or soft, collapsible suitcases. Large rigid suitcases and trunks are prohibited. Please pack lightweight equipment, if possible. Students do not need computers during the traveling portion of the course; internet access points are limited and no special arrangements are made for such access. There is limited wireless internet access at the ranch.**

### REQUIRED COURSE SUPPLIES:

Assorted pencils, colored pencils, pens, a good eraser, a protractor, and a calculator.

Small package of ruled paper or spiral notebook.

**Geology pick (not a sledge hammer) and hand lens (10x is very satisfactory).**

Felt-tip marking pen(s) for marking samples; cloth or plastic bags for rock samples that you may collect.

**Field notebooks, Brunton compasses, hand-held GPS receivers, portable two-way radios, a large first-aid kit, bear (pepper) spray, and food storage containers are standard field equipment supplied by the course. Computers and printers/scanners are available at the ranch but not during the traveling portion of the course. Internet access is available in Dubois, and limited at the ranch.**

**CAMPING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES:** The gear listed below is necessary for the traveling portion of the course.

- **A good 3- or 4-season tent (borrow and/or share if possible) with a waterproof ground cloth.**
- **A good warm sleeping bag and pillow, and a mattress pad to put under your sleeping bag.**
- A small, simple cooking pot; hot/cold drinking cup; and knife, fork, and spoon set. Large pots for boiling water and large serving utensils are provided.
- Small camp stove if you own one – a least three, two-burner camp stoves and propane are provided.
- Zip-loc plastic bags for storage of toiletries, food, or other aromatic items (we will be in bear country).
- Money to buy the food you like to eat during the traveling portion of the course (about \$10/day). Think cheap, simple, fast, and group cooking. **There are frequent opportunities to purchase food during the traveling weeks.**

**Put all your camping gear in a soft duffel or soft pack. Please do not bring a frame pack. We will not backpack, but a good daypack is essential.**