

GEOLOGY 496
2007 DEATH VALLEY FIELD COURSE

**CHECKLIST OF ITEMS TO BRING, NOTES, & FIELD
COURSE REGULATIONS**

CHECKLIST:

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| _____ Sleeping bag (<i>essential!</i>) | _____ Work gloves |
| _____ Sleeping pad (<i>essential!</i>) | _____ ≈ \$100 cash |
| _____ Pillow case (empty) | _____ Sunglasses |
| _____ Knife, fork, spoon, cup,
bottle opener, plate | _____ Tent with ground cloth
(optional) |
| _____ Flashlight | _____ Toothbrush & toothpaste |
| _____ Camera | _____ Caps: stocking & other |
| _____ A change of clothing | _____ Mechanical pencils |
| _____ Hiking boots | _____ Poncho or raingear |
| _____ Towel, soap, deodorant!!! | _____ Book, playing cards, frisbee, etc. |
| _____ Band-aids, and other supplies | _____ Sun screen (<i>essential!</i>) |
| _____ Field notebook (provided) | _____ Matches (<i>required</i> of each person) |
| _____ Posters and presentation
materials | _____ Cooking gear, if desired
(share in “cooking group”) |
| _____ Canteen(s) (2 quarts) | _____ Mittens & other warm gear |
| _____ Guidebook (provided) | _____ Plane ticket |
| _____ T.P. or Kleenix | _____ Photo i.d. (<i>required</i> for plane travel) |
| _____ Swimsuit | |

WEATHER:

Expect it to be blazing hot . . . and expect it to be sub-freezing. Climatic extremes are generally controlled by relative elevation, and we’ll go from extreme to extreme as we travel. Mittens, a stocking cap, and a windbreaker with layers of clothing underneath is generally sufficient for the colder climatic stops.

Daytimes on the valley floor can be intensely hot. Pack ample water. Sunscreen is essential.

Although rainfall is rare in Death Valley, it can occur — especially as mists. Expect periods of very strong winds, including at nighttime.

FOOD:

There will be one major grocery stop in Las Vegas on the first morning, March 11th. Plan on purchasing enough food to suffice through lunchtime on March 16th. After that, prepared meals will be the norm. Because of baggage limitations imposed by air travel, your access to cooking gear will be highly limited. Remember that fuel and fuel-containing devices are not allowed on airplanes.

A restaurant and general store are located at the Furnace Creek Inn, within an easy walk of our campsite at Death Valley.

Your field trip fee covers a box lunch (\$10) on March 14th.

SHOWERS:

Count on not having a shower until the evening of March 16th. We might occasionally have access to the swimming pool at the Furnace Creek Inn, but (if so) that will be on a fee basis.

CRITTERS:

This is generally not a big deal, but be aware that rattlesnakes (especially sidewinders) are in the Park and are active in March. Scorpions might be active, as well. All wildlife, including snakes and scorpions, are protected within the Park. Please respect that rule.

VANS:

We'll likely be taking three rental vans (two "15-passenger" and one minivan). The minivan is for luggage and will be left parked during most of our daytrips. Drivers must be 25 years, or older.

Although we do not know for sure what ours will be, vans rented in Las Vegas are often quite luxurious — fully carpeted and with nice upholstery. Please be careful to keep the vans really, really clean. Thoroughly drain all pop cans and pop bottles, and please do not dispose of them under the seats.

NOTES AND CONDITIONS:

1. Please treat your hotel and other housing sites with respect. Noise to a minimum, with doors to your rooms closed. Leave rooms clean. Remember, that you are representing NDSU.
2. Breakfast and dinner will be at the respective campgrounds, lunch somewhere on the road.
3. The Department makes no guarantee regarding the quality of campgrounds, the availability of showers, water, or toilets, the regularity of meals (or other forms of "regularity"), weather-related conditions, etc. Come prepared for the worst.
4. Participants who become ill while on the trip will be taken to the nearest hospital for treatment. It will be the individual's responsibility to obtain and pay for return transportation to Fargo.

At all times, participants should use all precautions to assure a safe and healthy trip.

5. Students who have lost or damaged departmental equipment or who have other financial obligations to the department will be issued an "Incomplete" for their course grade if compensation is not received by final exam week.

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THE FOLLOWING RULES ARE TO BE OBSERVED DURING THIS TRIP:

1. Respect all property and persons.
 - a). Do not throw rocks/snowballs at people, animals, quarry equipment etc.
 - b). Mineral/rock collecting within Death Valley National Park is prohibited.
 - c). Do not damage fences, and remember to close all gates.
 - d). If asked to leave private property, do so without comment, question, or gesture.
2. Along cliffs, treat all faces as unstable, liable to collapse. NEVER work immediately under a face.
3. Be careful at all roadcuts. Rock picks, hard hats, and goggles have never proven to be significant protection against semi's rolling at 60 mph!
4. Be careful when hammering on rock. Rock and steel slivers can cause permanent injury. Wear gloves and safety glasses.
5. Remember to respect your colleagues when in quarries, mines, river cliffs, railroad cuts, etc. Never climb directly above a colleague. Never dislodge rocks onto those below. NOTE: the climber is responsible.
6. During camping hours, please remember to be courteous to others in the campground. Keep noise to a minimum, and be careful with fire.
7. Trash bags are available from D.P.S. Use them!!!

Make every effort to leave the campground cleaner than the condition in which you found it.

This includes everyone pitching in the morning to clean up all debris, including pull tabs, cans, non-flammable firepit debris, cigarette butts, etc.

Remember that whether or not we're invited back to these localities in the future is dependent on your actions today.