

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

Pertaining to all Scheduled and Sanctioned Activities and Field Trips of the Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society (WDGMS). My signature on this document is effective from this date: _____ (fill in date). My 'one time signature' signifies I will abide by the Field Trip Rules, Claims, Safety and Release of Liability Document.

Names (Please Print) _____ & _____
Minors (under age 18) included in above family: _____
Address: _____ Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

By signing below, I acknowledge that activities sponsored or conducted by the WDGMS may be hazardous and take place in remote locations and may result in loss, damage, injury, or death.

With full knowledge of these dangers, I hereby agree for myself, all of my family and my heirs to **RELEASE** the WDGMS and any of their officers, representatives, field trip leaders, committees, members, or other trip or activity participants from liability, claims, demands, or any cause of action, and **NOT TO SUE OR OTHERWISE MAKE ANY CLAIM** against the WDGMS or any of their officers, directors, members, field trip leaders, committees, representatives, trip participants or affiliate clubs whatsoever which may arise during my participation or travel to and from any activities of the WDGMS.

I intend this **RELEASE OF LIABILITY** to be effective whether or not any loss, damage, injury, or death **RESULTS FROM NEGLIGENCE** of the WDGMS or any of their agents, leaders, officers, directors, representatives, trip or activity participants or affiliate clubs. I understand that negligence means a failure to do an act that a reasonable, careful person would do, under the same similar circumstance, to protect him, herself or others from injury or death.

I hereby further agree for myself, all of my family and my heirs to **RELEASE** the mine owners, property owners or claim holders of the site that a field trip or activity is held or any of their directors, officers, representatives or agents from liability, claims, demands or any causes of action and **NOT TO SUE OR OTHERWISE MAKE ANY CLAIM** against mine owners, property owners or claim holders, their officers, directors, representative or agents whatsoever which may arise during my participation in any activities of the WDGMS.

I have read and understand the terms of this Release of Liability and the Field Trip Rules, Claims, Safety Document of the WDGMS. I agree to be solely responsible for my own safety and to take every precaution to provide for my own safety and wellbeing while participating in activities of the WDGMS.

Signature: _____ Signature: _____
Date: _____ Club Officer Witness: _____

PERTAINING TO NONMEMBER MINORS (UNDER THE AGE OF 18): A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN MUST READ AND SIGN BELOW:

I am the legal (circle one) parent or guardian of: _____ (print name) and have read the **Release of Liability and the Field Trip Rules, Claims, Safety Document of the WDGMS**. I hereby consent to the terms of this **Release of Liability and Field Trip Rules, Claims, Safety Document** on behalf of the above named minor(s) and give my consent to the participation of the above named minor(s) in all activities of the WDGMS stated above. This named minor(s) will be at all times under the supervision of club member(s):

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Witness: _____
(Name of Parent or Legal Guardian) (Name of Club Member supervising minor)

**WESTERN DAKOTA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY (WDGMS)
FIELD TRIP RULES, SAFETY, CLAIMS AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY DOCUMENT**

FIELD TRIP RULES

All participants are required to sign a current Field Trip Rules, Claims, Safety and Release of Liability Document. This document is also required for minor children (under the age of 18), signed by the parent or legal guardian. In addition, the minor(s) must be under the supervision of the parent or legal guardian at all times.

SIGN UP: Members are required to sign up for field trips, notify the field trip leader(s) if they decide to not attend after signing up or if they need to leave the field trip site early.

PETS: Pets are not allowed on field trips on private property

RETURNING TO FIELD TRIP SITES: When a field trip takes place on private property, club members may not return to the site without the explicit permission and authorization from the land or claim owner(s).

COLLECTING: Collecting specimens is for non-commercial personal use.

SAFETY

SAFETY is of upmost importance to the WDGMS. We want everyone to have fun, collect nice specimens, and return home without any injuries. Please be aware of the following:

***Slips, trips, and falls:** Watch where you are walking or climbing. Steep slopes and ravines are especially hazardous. Rocks and roots protruding out of the ground are also potential hazards.

***Heavy lifting and prying:** Carry or pry what you are physically capable of without causing an injury. Collection bags become very heavy, make several trips to your car if need be. Watch how much you lift and your posture in doing so.

***Falling rocks:** Watch for falling rocks! Large cobbles and boulders may become loose and roll down or fall from walls and roofs of pits. Do not throw rocks of any size! That rock may hit a fellow rock hound. Watch out for collectors working next to, above or below you.

***Rock picks, Hammers and Chisels:** Use in a safe manner according to manufacturer's recommendations. Avoid mushroomed chisel heads as the flared edges could become a dangerous projectile. Wear safety glasses or goggles as well as gloves. Do not pound on rock pick heads as they splinter on impact resulting in dangerous projectiles.

***Dehydration:** Water is important and is the best fluid to prevent dehydration on a field trip. A dry mouth is a sign of dehydration. Going too long without water could cause dehydration and a trip to the hospital.

***Snakes and other predators:** Snakes and other predators are out and about and we are invading their home. Know what is behind that bush or rock. Rattlesnakes are very dangerous when surprised or stepped on. Watch where you walk or place your hands.

***Drive safely:** Field trips may involve driving on difficult, primitive and unimproved roads in remote locations. It is your responsibility to determine your driving and navigation skills and if your vehicle can handle the road conditions encountered on the trip.

***Health Issues:** Field trips may involve extreme, unpredictable weather conditions, as well as hiking and collecting at high altitudes with limited oxygen. Be sure your physical condition can meet these challenges. In most cases, remote areas have no means of timely rescue and evacuation to medical facilities.