

Eastern Missouri Society for Paleontology Field Trip Rules and Procedures, March 2012

As the EMSP field trip season begins, it is necessary to publish a reminder of the rules, procedures and etiquette all field trip participants are expected to follow. Club members are encouraged to attend as many activities as possible. The following information will guide members in knowing how to act safely and responsibly.

- 1.** EMSP sponsored field trips are open only to current club members. Trip participants 18 years of age and older should be prepared to show a picture ID if asked for identification. Membership must be established prior to the field trip date. Memberships to the club will not be "sold" to non-members on the day of the trip. For the purpose of EMSP sponsored activities, a family membership is defined as those club members living at the same address. Grandchildren, nieces and nephews accompanied by club members are permitted to attend field trips if all other requirements have been met, however, they are considered guests and are not covered by the club's liability insurance. Members may not bring guests unless prior approval is given by the trip leader. Guests are not covered by the club's liability insurance. When proof of insurance is required by the field trip host (quarry, etc.), only current EMSP members are permitted to attend. It is recommended that guests wishing to attend more than one field trip become paying members of EMSP.
- 2.** EMSP members and approved guests wishing to participate in a club sponsored trip must have on file a signed **Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk Agreement and Release of Liability** form (Liability Waiver), current for the year the trip is held. If a member is under 18 years old, this form must be signed by the child's parent or legal guardian. Children not living at the same address as the accompanying club member (grandchildren, nieces, nephews etc.) must have this form signed by their parent or legal guardian. For the purpose of EMSP sponsored activities, a legal guardian is court appointed.
- 3.** All EMSP sponsored field trips will have a designated trip leader who will assure compliance with all field trip rules and safety practices, including those that are site specific. For trips to *active quarries*, the trip leader will maintain a clipboard containing a current club member roster, Liability Waiver file (including blank forms) and a sign in/out sheet. The trip leader and all officers of EMSP will have the final authority over who may participate in the field trip and have the right to expel any person from a site for violation of safety rules or operational procedures. Severe or repeated offenses may require further action by the EMSP board, including (but not limited to) denial of future field trip eligibility or expulsion from the club.
- 4.** For trips to *active quarries*, trip participants must preregister with the trip leader before the date of the trip. Be sure to talk to the trip leader in person or by phone. Phone/email messages are not acceptable because field trip leaders may not check messages regularly. Don't take the chance of being left out because your message was missed. Some quarries require a head count before the event, thus, non-registered members who show up on the day of the trip may be denied entry.

5. All participants of an *active quarry* trip will sign in before entering the quarry and sign out when they leave. Most *active quarry* trips will be "lock in" events. This means there will be specific arrival and departure times. If you need to leave at other than the established times, arrangements must be made with the trip leader prior to the trip date and you will still need to sign out before leaving.

6. An approved hard hat, orange fluorescent vest, steel-toed boots and safety glasses will be required of all participants on *active quarry trips*. These are quarry company and government mandates. The requirements are not frivolous, but are meant to make you more visible to quarry workers and each other and to protect your eyes, head and feet from injury, as well as possibly saving your life. These safety items are also recommended, but not required, for field trips to road cuts and other localities.

Field Trip Safety and Etiquette

The following safety and etiquette rules should be followed on all EMSP field trips, but are especially important when collecting in an active quarry. Remember that we are guests at fossil sites. How we conduct ourselves bears heavily on whether we are invited back.

1. Arrive at the scheduled time (not significantly early or late) and do not stay beyond the prescribed departure time. Don't expect the group to wait for you more than 10 minutes beyond the arrival time.
2. Children are usually welcome on field trips, however, they are the responsibility of their parent, guardian or accompanying adult *AT ALL TIMES* while on the trip. Although we try to be family friendly, be aware that there will be age restrictions for some trips.
3. Keep a safe distance from quarry walls and cliff edges. A general rule of thumb is a distance equal to the wall height. The quarry walls have been shaken and fractured by blasting and can be very unstable. Rock falls and collapses can occur at any time without warning. At some quarries, employees keep careful watch on collectors and failing to follow this rule will cause you to be removed from the property.
4. To avoid accidents from falling rock, be aware of other collectors above and below you.
5. Do not throw rocks or other material and do not allow children to do so.
6. We are a family friendly club. Alcohol, drugs, firearms, fireworks and explosives will not be permitted on any trip.
7. A first aid kit should be carried by all members as part of their equipment.
8. Safety glasses or goggles should be worn when breaking or sawing rock.
9. Safety glasses or goggles, dust mask and ear protection should be worn when using a portable rock saw.

- 10.** Keep away from all quarry machinery and vehicles, whether they operating or not.
- 11.** Stay away from all wires, plastic devices and other items that could be remains of explosives or detonators. Report the location of these things to the trip leader immediately.
- 12.** Be careful where you reach. There may be snakes, spiders or other critters where you can't see.
- 13.** Leave your pets at home. A collecting site is no place for an animal when your attention is focused on hunting fossils. No pets are ever permitted in any *active quarry*.
- 14.** Leave each collecting locality better than you found it. Remove all litter and garbage and don't forget your tools.
- 15.** Respect each other's diggings. If someone has marked an individual fossil or digging spot with a tool, coat or definite marker, respect that site and find another.
- 16.** Don't crowd another collector. If someone is having great luck in a particular place, don't butt in. Find your own "glory hole".
- 17.** Be considerate in the amount of material you collect. It is easy to overload a vehicle or boat you are sharing with others.