

Safe Fieldwork Guidelines

Teachers Planning for Safety in the Field

- Communicate with the site contact person about the project—letting him or her know how many students will visit, when they will be there, and what they will be doing.
- Make sure students conduct fieldwork in open, well-lit environments.
- Notify parents about the project, including the purpose and details about the fieldwork required of students.
- If possible, visit the site beforehand at the time when students are likely to be going there to note potential problems.
- Inform students about potential hazards, such as restricted or unsafe areas at the data collection site.
- Do not ask students to speak to strangers without preliminary arrangements.

Student Dos and Don'ts for Being Safe in the Field

- Let your parent or guardian know where you are going and when you will be back.
- Always go into the field with a buddy.
- If someone is expecting you, introduce yourself when you arrive and notify him or her when you leave.
- Do not meet with strangers in a private place.
- Only go to public, well-lit places to collect data.
- Behave courteously with everyone you meet while collecting data.
- Obey regulations, warnings, and all printed or verbal instructions at the site.
- Use common sense and do not engage in risky behaviors, such as running through uneven terrain, walking close to the edges of cliffs, or entering unsafe areas, such as unknown alleys, caves, or canyons.