

Rockhounding, Safety & Public Land Use

Rockhound's Code of Ethics

Rockhounds, both as individuals and collectively as members of clubs or tour groups, pride themselves on their good manners in the field. They know that maintaining their good reputation is important in order to keep the welcome mat out at collecting sites. This code of ethics is in general use throughout the rockhounding community and is posted here for your information.

1. I will respect both private and public property and will do no rockhounding on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
2. I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
3. I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
4. I will use no firearms or blasting material in rockhounding areas.
5. I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind -- fences, signs, building, etc. I will leave all gates as found.
6. I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
7. I will discard no burning material -- matches, cigarettes, etc.
8. I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to people or livestock.
9. I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
10. I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
11. I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter regardless of how found.
12. I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collection areas.
13. I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service or other proper authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other material on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
14. I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
15. I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and "public image" of rockhounds everywhere.