

General Information about SJBAS Field Trips

To minimize logistical problems and the difficulties of leading excessively large groups, field trip participation is limited to San Juan Basin Archaeological Society members and their immediate families, and to members of affiliated chapters. We don't wish to be too arbitrary or inflexible, however – if you aren't a member, and wish to join us on one of our outings, call the trip leader and ask if space is available and if suitable arrangements can be made for a non-member to join the group. Better yet, pay our nominal dues and become a member of the San Juan Basin Archaeological Society – you won't regret it!

A field trip sign-up sheet is usually circulated at the meeting immediately preceding each trip, and after the meeting is turned over to one of the trip leaders. If you intend to go on a trip, be sure to sign the sheet, or call the leader and ask to have your name added to the list - the leaders need to know how many are going on each trip so that they can plan transportation and arrange for permits and other matters. The leaders also use the list to advise participants of possible postponements or other changes of plans. And, if you've signed up for a trip and then find that you can't attend, remember to advise the leader of your change of plans – this is important.

Please do your best to be at the trip departure point no later than the specified time, so as not to hold up the group – sometimes we have a tight schedule, and simply cannot wait for latecomers. Also, if you are driving your own car, be sure that you have sufficient gasoline in your tank before meeting the group. If you suspect that you will be unable to leave with the group at the specified time, contact the leader and find out where you might be able to catch up with the group – this can usually be arranged.

A few definitions: Trip Leader (TL), To Be Determined (TBD), Trip Participation Limits (TPL) are often legally required or at the discretion of the TL. A day trip (DT) is simply that, a relatively short excursion of only a day's duration, or possibly less. A car-camping trip (CCT) is usually a longer excursion to more distant sites, with participants camping in an established campground or in an isolated area near a road; considerable hiking may be involved, but participants will return to their cars at the end of the day. A Motel Trip (MT) involves one or more nights in a local motel. If a trip is listed as a CCT (or MT) trip, some attendees may desire to stay at a motel (or car camp) instead. Please ask the TL if your desire is a viable option. A number of our trips require that we travel on rocky or unpaved roads, where a four-wheel-drive (4WD) vehicle or other high-clearance (HC) car or truck is advisable. Participants who do not own such vehicles can usually get a ride with those who do. A backpacking trip (BPT) is a longer outing during which the participants will spend at least one night in a roadless area, carrying their food and camping gear in a backpack; some of these trips are quite strenuous, whereas others are relatively easy, and if in doubt you should ask your TL about the probable level of difficulty of the trip. Optional trip choices indicate that a shorter or longer trip than that listed on the schedule can be arranged for some participants. Service trips are work-play outings that include a substantial amount of site survey or other work for an agency such as the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, or an Indian tribe. If you are in doubt as regards the nature of a trip, contact the TL, who can also tell you whether the excursion will be an easy, relaxed affair or an arduous trip appropriate only for experienced hikers in good physical condition.

Remember – we want you to have fun on our trips, and we try to arrange visits to unusually interesting archaeological sites. If you have any suggestions regarding places you'd like to visit, plan to attend our annual trip planning sessions and help us with our field trip scheduling. Also bear in mind that we are glad to fit additional impromptu excursions into our schedule if you have any great sites or digs that you'd like to visit, especially if you'll volunteer to be a TL!

One last note: no dogs on our trips, please. We're sorry, but dogs simply create too many problems for too many people, and they frighten the wildlife that we like to see on our outings.