

# General Information about SJBAS Field Trips

**Participation** - Field trip participation is limited to SJBAS members. You may sign up for a field trip anytime by contacting the trip leader directly by email or phone. Leaders need to know how many are planning to go on each trip so they can plan transportation, arrange for permits, and advise participants of trip logistics. Leaders may set trip participation limits. Some trips fill up early, so if you are interested in a trip, the sooner you contact the leader, the better. When a trip fills up, leaders will maintain a waiting list. If you have signed up for a trip and then find that you cannot attend, please contact the leader as soon as possible so others on the waiting list can be notified.

**Safety and Responsibility** - Participants in SJBAS field trips and activities are solely responsible for their own safety. SJBAS field trip leaders are untrained volunteers who plan, organize, and lead the trips, but have no special training or expertise in outdoor safety or hazards and are not responsible or liable for the personal welfare and safety of participants. Each participant is the only expert regarding his or her own abilities. Participants are solely responsible for choosing trips appropriate for their own physical and medical ability; for taking proper clothing, equipment and provisions; for making appropriate decisions in response to terrain, elevation, and weather; and for understanding the inherent hazards of traveling in the outdoors (such as falls, lightning, hypothermia, heat stroke, dehydration, and injuries caused by others).

**SJBAS Field Trip Difficulty Ratings** - Field Trip Difficulty Ratings provide a general sense for the physical difficulty of field trip activities expected under usual circumstances. Some trips will accommodate a range of abilities, but not all trips will accommodate all abilities. It is the participant's responsibility to choose trips that are within his/her ability. If an SJBAS member is uncertain about a trip's level of difficulty, the trip leader can provide more information for those considering signing up.

The following are Field Trip Difficulty Ratings used by SJBAS:

- **Easygoing:** Trip is suitable for members in reasonable health who have no problem walking on mostly smooth, relatively flat surfaces up to 1 mile. For example, touring a museum or pueblo, or participating in a walking tour in downtown Durango. Trips generally take place close to roads and support services.
- **Easy Active:** Trip is suitable for active people in good health. Hikes are usually less than 3 miles on well-defined trails, with elevation gains and losses up to 400 feet. Trips generally take place within a few miles of roads, but not necessarily other support services.
- **Moderate:** Trip is suitable for energetic, experienced hikers. Hikes may be up to 7 miles, mostly on established trails that can be rocky and steep in places, with elevation gains and losses up to 2000 feet. Trips may take place in remote locations.
- **Hard:** Trip is suitable only for physically fit, strong hikers. Hikes are generally strenuous, may be longer than 7 miles, may be on poorly defined trails or off-trail, with elevation gains and losses greater than 2000 feet. Trips often take place in remote locations. Backpacking trips, by their very nature, would be considered "Hard."

Length: Approximate total length of trip, whether out and back, loop, or through hike

Elevation: Approximate total elevation gain (in most cases there would be a corresponding elevation loss)

**Logistics** - Please arrive at the trip departure point on time so as not to hold up the group. If you are driving, be sure that you have sufficient gasoline in your tank before meeting the group. If you are unable to leave with the group at the specified time, contact the leader and agree on where you will meet them.

**Camping and 4WD/HC Vehicles** - Camping trips involve car camping in an established campground or in a dispersed campsite with minimal facilities. Participants must bring all their own camping gear and

food. 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) vehicle is advisable. Participants who do not own such vehicles can usually carpool with those who do. If you are in doubt regarding the nature of a trip, contact the trip leader.

**Trip Planning** - We want you to have fun on our trips and we try to arrange visits to interesting archaeological, historic, and cultural sites. If you have any suggestions regarding places you would like to visit, please attend our annual trip planning session and help develop our field trip schedule. We are glad to fit additional trips into our schedule during the year, especially if you volunteer to be the trip leader.

**Dogs** - One last note, please do not bring dogs on our trips. We're sorry, but dogs simply create too many problems for too many people.