The intent of the summer field class is to maximize the benefits of the scientific learning processes in Montana. In our course we live together for a period of some 4 weeks. Our work schedule in combination with the rigors of the field work, and the close proximity of all of us taking part in the field experience, requires that we all make the experience as positive for all those involved. Safety at all times is paramount to success and the continuation of this capstone course. Maintaining a culture of respect and safety is the only way such a program can succeed. Personal responsibility and accountability at all times is essential to this process. Similarly, willingness to participate is essential. Driving requires not only the full attention of a sober driver but that of the person in the front seat who serves as navigator. All passengers are expected to assist the driving team when backing up or in traffic. While many activities including field work, classroom discussion, meals, road trips and days off are communal endeavors, each person (students, faculty, and staff) also requires some privacy and personal time as time allows. The community we build at field camp is dedicated to excellence in scientific learning but to function effectively, all attendees are expected to practice on a daily basis respect for each other, equipment, vehicles, safe driving, study quiet time, and the special places in which we work and live. Unnecessary risk taking is unacceptable. Compliance with rules and expectations helps each of us do our best and the synergy of our community magnifies the learning process. We can only perform well if we feel comfortable. This requires attention to other people’s feelings and rights, and equity in sharing in the communal work load. Consideration of others, their privacy, and sensibilities is essential. Effective communication is essential and is the student’s responsibility. Each person in the field courses is expected to be an engaging, contributory, communicative member of the class actively involved in daily dialogue of academic and safety matters. We have a zero tolerance policy at all times, including days off, of any behavior that incurs unnecessary risks, causes offense, or compromises the working efficiency of the group as a whole, especially while driving. The adverse impact of serious accidents far supersedes the best performances of students so it is imperative to avoid all types of accidents. We cannot let the worst dominate the best, so be thoughtful and careful at all times.

Examples of behavior that are not tolerated include: intoxication, being late for morning departures, or at designated places at the end of the work day, or lateness for meals. Other types of inconsiderate behavior that are not tolerated include offensive language, humor, ridicule, or harassment of people because of their sex, sexual orientation, or any other trait. Personal awareness and sensitivity to all others is required at all times. Any activity or interaction that causes any attendees harm or personal discomfort must be reported to the faculty member in charge immediately. They will consult appropriate University officials for actions to take and will implement University workplace safety and harassment policies immediately. Students are not permitted to have firearms or fireworks in their possession or in the vehicles during the 4 weeks of summer field camp. All students will help clean up the camp and their place in the bunkhouse including the micro wave oven, bathroom, shower, and refrigerator.

George Brimhall