

THE ROCK COLLECTOR'S CODE OF ETHICS

The following rules were adapted from the Code of Ethics of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies. These rules are heartily endorsed by the DNR Geological Survey Division and should be observed at all times when collecting minerals, fossils, and any other materials on public or private lands in Michigan. Lets all enjoy our great natural heritage to the fullest and not spoil it for all who come after.

Respect all property, both private and public. Do not collect on privately-owned land without permission from the owner.

Observe all laws, rules and regulations governing collecting on public lands.

To the best of your ability observe boundary lines of property you plan to collect on.

Do not use firearms or blasting materials in collecting areas.

Do not cause willful damage to fences, signs, buildings, or any other property.

Leave all gates open or closed as you found them.

Build fires only in designated, safe areas, and be certain they are completely extinguished when you leave.

Do not discard matches, cigarettes, or other burning materials.

Fill all excavation holes which are a possible danger to livestock or humans.

Do not contaminate wells, creeks, rivers, ponds, or lakes.

Do not cause damage to collecting material or take home more samples than you can reasonably use. Leave something for the next collector just as the last one left something for you.

Leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

On a field trip cooperate with your leader and all those in authority.

Report to the U. S. Forest Service or Michigan Department of Natural Resources any archeological remains, vertebrate fossils, meteorites, petrified wood or other outstanding or unusual mineral or fossil specimens or other material on public lands which you feel should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations and for public educational and scientific purposes.

Observe the "Golden Rule". Use good outdoor manners and conduct yourself in such a way as to add to the stature and public image of rockhounds and

Appreciate and, protect our heritage of mineral resources.

Further hints to the collector

Buy and use a good reference book.

Become acquainted with other collectors in your area.

Encourage organized study and work to improve meetings you attend.

Visit museums and other collector's collections.

Do not destroy specimens you cannot collect. Do not collect more than a reasonable amount of material from one locality.

Start your collection off general then specialize as you learn.

Keep good written records of your collection.

Plan a cataloging system.

Keep information about the mineral (name, locality, date, how or who collected it, etc.) on cards or in a book and number each specimen to correspond to a catalog entry. Paint a small white rectangle in an inconspicuous place. Print catalog number in ink on rectangle. Cover with a clear protective coating.

Learn how to properly clean and prepare specimens.

Wrap specimens in the field with identification to avoid damage and memory loss.

Allow for proper display and storage of your specimens.

Do not ruin a specimen in your attempts to identify it.

Keep upgrading your collection.

Learn to use a hand lens.

Look but don't touch.

Department of Natural Resources
Geological Survey Division
Lansing, Michigan

SEW

8-76