I. Introduction
Located about 10 miles outside of Kemmerer, Wyoming, the 52 million old limestone deposits of the Fossil Butte Member of the Green River Formation will be our excavation site. Dr. Lance Grande has been doing fieldwork in these deposits for over thirty years, and teaching assistants Jim Holstein and Akiko Shinya (Field Museum staff) for over ten years. All students, teaching assistants, and Field Museum scientists will be camping at the field site. Although camping conditions are quite rudimentary (no daily showers), we will go to town on a daily basis for lunch breaks and getting supplies. All students will need tents, warm sleeping bags, sunglasses, sunscreen and boots appropriate for fieldwork. The elevation is about 7,500 ft. above sea level, so some people might need a day or two to adjust. The countryside is beautiful, with a lot of sagebrush, but few trees. In general, we work the fossil beds from 8:00AM to noon, and again from 3:00 – 7:00PM. We break in the middle of the day because the sun is directly overhead, which makes it difficult to spot fossils in the quarry floor. We use this time for lunch and trips to the small town of Kemmerer.

Over the years we've brought back thousands of fossils that will benefit science for years to come, but part of the enjoyment of the trips for the staff is working with the fresh enthusiasm of the Stones and Bones students who every year put their hearts into the fieldwork. Most students find the course to be an extremely memorable and positive experience. Below are the answers to many of the frequently asked questions by parents and students to prepare for one of the most unique and educational experience a student can have.

II. Preparing for Fieldwork
Stones and Bones has one week of classroom exercises at the Field Museum followed by two weeks of fieldwork at the dig site then one more week at the Field Museum to conclude the course. Students will be tent camping at the field site so it would be useful for them to have some practice setting up their tents before the trip. After the first week of class, the students and staff fly to Salt Lake City (this is the closest major airport to the field site) where will have rental vehicles to take us to the field site. We send the field gear including the student's gear ahead in Field Museum trucks (this usually leaves Chicago 2-3 days before the flight to Salt Lake City). We prefer to fly without checking any luggage as this saves time moving through the airport so we ask students to prepare accordingly by having enough clothes and personal items to last through the weekend before our flight. Likewise, when we return from the field site all the gear will return to Chicago in the museum vehicle so the students will not see their belongings for a couple of days. We will have time to do laundry halfway through the fieldwork, so
students don't have to bring too many clothes. Toiletries and other personal purchases are the responsibility of the students so they should have cash or other method of payment on hand.

III. Field Site Climate
The field site is located 10 miles from the town of Kemmerer, Wyoming on the Lewis Ranch off of state highway 30 at an elevation of about 7,500 feet. Our excavation season typically takes place during the last week of June and the first week of July, though the exact dates are contingent upon the class schedule and changes slightly from year to year. The climate of the locality is semi-arid desert and the expected weather at this time of year can vary greatly. We usually have daytime temperatures that range from the upper 60s (Fahrenheit) to the upper 90s. Nighttime temperatures can occasionally drop to the mid 30s. Though the weather is typically dry, occasionally there is a thunderstorm and/or windstorm, with wind velocity increasing as the daytime heat increases. Winds usually calm by bedtime. We camp near the excavation site on an exposed butte that offers little to no natural shelter so we are reliant on the quality of our tents and gear to protect us from the elements. In cases of lightning, we have everyone wait out the storms in the vehicles, which offer the best protection. With the variability of the weather we encourage all students to be prepared for all weather extremes (warm clothes, rain gear, plenty of sunscreen, hats etc.).

IV. Altitude and Working Conditions
The field site is at about 7,500 feet in elevation. The combination of the heat and altitude can cause dehydration and a mild altitude sickness (symptoms that include dizziness or light headedness, fatigue or weakness, nausea etc.). To acclimate to the condition, all of us must drink plenty of water and wear sunscreen (sunburns can occur much faster at higher elevations). The dryness of the environment combined with the dust of the quarry can cause some students to have occasional nosebleeds. If students have tendency to have nosebleeds, we encourage for them to bring nose sprays (we also have several in our medical kit.). We need to be aware of students with respiratory conditions so we can accommodate their needs (i.e. having them work in a less dusty part of the quarry). We work in the quarry during daytime hours only when it is sunny (these are the best conditions to find fossils) so students need to be prepared for hours of solar exposure. Hats with a brim, sunglasses and sunscreen are a must. If a student is prone to sunburn, they may want to wear a light long-sleeved shirt. There is a fair amount of physical exertion working in the fossil quarry. We have regular water and snack breaks and monitor for signs of exhaustion. If a student shows signs of heat exhaustion, then we will either let him/her relax in the shade or in one of the vehicles with air conditioning. There are often mosquitoes and biting flies in the area in the evenings so insect repellent is recommended but not required (we usually have repellent on hand).
V. Daily Schedule
We wake up at 7am, have breakfast consisting of cereal, oatmeal, fruit, muffins, etc. and start excavation in the quarry by 8am. We work until 11:30am and break for lunch in town. We go to town during the hottest part of the day (Midday is also the less than optimal time to search for fossils) for a picnic at the local park. After lunch the students can rest in the shade, visit the public library or use the public pool and shower (there is a $2 charge for use of the pool and shower). We head back to the quarry at 2:30pm and work until around 7pm. The students are divided up into dinner details. Every student will take a turn helping with cooking and cleanup. We also have a student cook-off during the course of the trip where we divide up the students into two teams. Under supervision, they are given a budget and are responsible for planning, cooking and cleaning up of a meal. After dinner is free time when students can work on their journals, tell stories around the campfire (weather permitting), or play a game of Bocce Ball. Students are in their tents at 10:30pm and we start fresh the next day.

VI. Communication
We realize that it is important to stay in touch with your loved ones so there are no restrictions on cell phones, smart phones etc. (We don't recommend bringing lap top computers to Wyoming due to dust and battery charging issues). There is cell service at the field site/camp site but it can be spotty. Some carriers work better than others at the site but most, if not all carriers have a good signal in town. Students can also use Internet in the library (they also have free Wi-Fi). The library is also a good place to charge phones.

VII. Emergencies
If there is an injury or other medical emergency, we have staff that is skilled in backcountry first aid. The nearest ER is in Kemmerer, Wyoming about a twenty-minute drive from the field site and the nearest trauma center is in Salt Lake City, which is usually reached by helicopter from Kemmerer. Staffs carry the medical forms for the students at all times with parent contact and insurance information.

VIII. Gear Checklist
Below is a list of items that each student should bring to attend this program. Field items will be put on a truck that will meet the group in Wyoming, they do not need to be packed to bring on the plane. Stones and Bones students will be roomed together and personal items can be left in the locked dorm room while they are in the field.

Recommended Gear List
- Small backpack (carry-on size)
- Water bottle
- Field notebook and pencils
- Sleeping bag for cold weather (temperature rating 30F-40F), or Sleeping bag for warm weather (temperature rating above 40F) and a
light blanket
✓ Sleeping pad for camping
✓ Small dome tent (Note: It can be very windy and rainy. Bring a low profile tent that will not blow away in high wind. A large high profile family tent is not adequate for this camp. See the picture below.)
✓ Head lamp (It is more useful than a hand-held flash light.)

✓ Shorts, long pants, T-shirts, long sleep shirts, socks, underwear
✓ Warm jacket and/or sweatshirt (It can be cold in the evening and early morning.)
✓ Rain jacket
✓ A pair of work gloves or garden gloves
✓ Hiking boots
✓ Hat with a brim
✓ Bandanas
✓ Sunglasses (You wear sunglasses or glasses for eye protection in the quarry.)
✓ Swim suit or shorts
✓ Towel
✓ Toiletry kit: tooth brush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, lotion, etc. (Note:
Packing some travel size bottles may be handy for the weekend when students don’t have all of their belongings. See Section II.)

- Photo ID to check in at airport
- Sunscreen (You need a lot of this!)
- Chapstick with sunscreen
- Prescription medication if needed
- Cash or debit/credit card for personal items, pool usage, souvenirs etc.

Optional Items

- Pillow
- Light blanket
- Hat and gloves for cold weather for those who tend to be cold
- Sandals or casual shoes
- Camera (Note: we share all our pictures at the end of the trip.)
- Nose spray (Note: we have several bottles in our medical kit.)
- Laundry bag (Note: we supply laundry detergent.)

If you have any questions, contact:
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