

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT AND RELEASE (this "Participation Agreement")
Name of Program: NEIGC (New England Intercollegiate Geological Conference) 2026
Name of the Host: University of Rhode Island ("the Hosts")

I. PROGRAM

Participants are individuals who voluntarily have elected to attend the NEIGC 2026 on October 2-3-4, 2026 that will involve activities including but not limited to traveling by motor vehicle to various sites for geology field trips, an optional Friday evening meet & greet reception and an optional Saturday banquet at designated third-party locations in the Kingston RI area (hereinafter and collectively, the "Program").

The Program includes field trips to various locations that are part of NEIGC 2026 and are described in the registration materials and field trip guides. Some important information that will help ensure your comfort and success is below. Before departure, read or skim the field trip guide. If you have concerns about your participation, ask the field trip leader(s) to let you know what to expect from the field trip in terms of destinations, timing, and access to toilets and privacy. While in the field, please treat each other with patience, kindness, and respect. Expect to be walking on rugged terrain, making observations and taking notes, discussing, and possibly collecting samples. Because these activities are outdoors, expect sun, wind, weather of all kinds, insects (such as mosquitoes, ticks, and bees), and potentially hazardous plants (such as poison ivy). Dress appropriately: wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots that cover your whole foot; bring extra layers of clothing to stay warm and dry; bring protection from the sun and insects. Look out for your health: bring enough water and any medicines that you might need; bring your ID and health insurance card just in case; inform the field trip leader(s) with whom you arrived regarding any health or medical conditions that you have that could limit your full involvement in field activities or could place you or the group at risk. Be cautious of vehicular traffic. In populated areas, stay with your group and be aware of your surroundings. Use eye protection if rock hammers are used. Do not leave rock fragments or other debris on roads. Please ask the field trip leader(s) for more information if you have concerns about the field experiences for the day.

II. CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION - ALL PARTICIPANTS

The following Conditions of Participation shall apply to ALL Program Participants. Failure to comply with any of the following shall lead to disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the Program. If a Participant is suspended or dismissed from the Program for violating any of the below rules, neither the Participant nor the Guardian will receive a refund of any monies paid to the Program Hosts, but will be required to pay any monies still owed the Program Hosts for participation in the Program.

Participant and Guardian agree to be bound by the following Conditions of Participation:

- 1) The Participant will conform to the Geological Society of America (GSA) Code of Conduct, as stated within the most current Code of Conduct, while participating in the Program. Failure to conform to the GSA Code of Conduct is grounds for the suspension or termination of Participant's participation in the Program. The most current Code is available at: <https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/EventConductCode/GSA/Events/Conduct.aspx>
- 2) The Participant and Guardian (if Participant is a Minor) will execute this Participation Agreement. Failure to execute the Participation Agreement and all applicable Exhibits hereto may result in termination of the Participant from the Program.
- 3) Participant may not undertake, or seek to undertake, any illegal activity. Specifically, if the Participant is charged with a crime during his/her participation in the Program, the Hosts may suspend or terminate the Participant's participation in the Program.

III. CONSENT TO FULLY RELEASE HOSTS FROM CLAIMS

A. DISCLAIMER

Participant and Guardian (if Participant is a Minor) understand and acknowledge that the Hosts, their principals, directors, officers, agents, employees, members and volunteers (the "Hosts") are not responsible for any injury, death, loss, theft, or damage sustained by Participant while participating in the Program, however caused, including by the negligence of the Hosts.

B. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS

- 1) Participant and Guardian (if Participant is a Minor) have reviewed the Program, the physical environment and conditions under which the Program will be conducted and the Conditions of Participation in this Participation Agreement and understand and approve the anticipated activities of Participants in the Program.
- 2) Participant and Guardian (if Participant is a Minor) acknowledge that they are familiar with the activities that Participant may participate in while a Participant in the Program, which may include, but are not limited to, traveling to and from destinations in and outside of Rhode Island, and engaging in activities related to the Program.
- 3) Participant and Guardian (if Participant is a Minor) acknowledge that they understand the risks, dangers, and hazards associated with Participant's participation in the Program, including, without limitation the risk of severe or fatal injury to Participant and others, including, but not limited to, the risks stated in this Participation Agreement.

C. ASSUMPTION OF RISKS

Participant and Guardian (if Participant is a Minor) acknowledge that participation in the Program, including, but not limited to traveling to and from destinations in Rhode Island, and engaging in activities related to the Program can be HAZARDOUS AND PRESENT A DANGER to Participant. Participant and Guardian believe and represent that Participant is qualified to participate in the Program and that if at any time Participant believes the conditions of the Program to be unsafe, Participant will immediately discontinue further participation in the Program. In recognition of the inherent risks of activities which the Participant will engage in while participating in the Program, Participant and Guardian voluntarily assume the Participant's risk by choosing to participate/allowing Minor Participant to participate in the Program. Participant and Guardian understand that the Hosts do not assume any risk or liability due to Participant's participation in this Program.

These risks include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) The risks associated with travel to and from location(s) to be visited during the Program, including transportation provided by commercial, private and/or public means including but not limited to airplanes, trains, ship, buses, automobiles and taxi/limousine services.
- 2) The risks and hazards associated with Participant's participation in the Program. Risks may be caused by Participant's own action or inaction, the actions or inactions of other participants, the actions or inactions of spectators, employees, agent representatives, and contractors or other third parties of the Hosts or third parties where the Program is taking place, the condition of the facilities, including third-party facilities, in which the Program takes place.
- 3) The risk of improper maintenance, neglect and dangerous physical conditions at facilities where the Program activities will occur and/or the negligence of the Hosts. Some risks cannot be predicted or controlled. There may be other risks and social and economic losses either not known to the Hosts, Participant or Guardian or which are not readily foreseeable at this time. Participant and Guardian voluntarily assume all of these risks.

- 4) The risks associated with participation in the Program, transporting to or from the Program, or as a result of any natural disaster, extreme weather condition or event, or any other occurrence during Participant's participation in the Program, natural or otherwise. The potential injuries that could result from participation in the Program include, without limitation, broken bones, soft tissue damage, stress put on joints, muscles, and other body parts, torn muscles and/or ligaments, sprains, posture, hip and knee injuries, emotional distress, eye damage, cuts, wounds, scrapes, abrasions, and/or spinal injuries, shock, electrocution, paralysis, and/or death.
- 5) Theft, loss or damage of personal property during the Program or any Program-related travel.
- 6) The risk of bites such as tick bites, bee bites, and encounters with animals and reptiles living in the site environments.

D. INDEMNIFICATION AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

Participant and Guardian voluntarily consent to Participant's participating in the Program. In consideration of the Hosts' acceptance of Participant's participation in the Program, Participant and Guardian agree:

- 1) **TO ASSUME AND ACCEPT ALL RISKS** arising out of, associated with, or related to Participant's participation in the Program, even though such risks may have been caused by the negligence of the Hosts. This assumption and acceptance of all risks include, without limitation, any medical expenses that Participant or Guardian may incur as a result of Participant's personal injury or illness.
- 2) **TO BE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURY, LOSS, OR DAMAGE** which Participant might sustain while participating in the Program, even though such injury, loss, or damage may have been caused by negligence of the Sponsor.
- 3) **TO REMISE, RELEASE AND FOREVER DISCHARGE** the Hosts, their principals, trustees, officers, agents, employees, members and volunteers, and each and every land owner, municipal and/or government agency upon whose property the Program is conducted, from all liability, actions, causes of action, suits, judgments, claims and demands and **FOREVER WAIVE** any claim for damage arising from any cause whatsoever even though such liability, actions, causes of action, suits, judgments, claims and demands may have been caused by the negligence of the Hosts and/or their principals, trustees, officers, agents employees and volunteers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THE ABOVE DOCUMENT, INCLUDING THE LANGUAGE SET FORTH IN THE SECTIONS ENTITLED "PROGRAM" AND "CONSENT TO FULLY RELEASE HOSTS FROM CLAIMS" AND THE SUBSECTIONS ENTITLED "DISCLAIMER," "ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS," "ASSUMPTION OF RISKS," AND "INDEMNIFICATION AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY" AND FULLY RECOGNIZE AND UNDERSTAND THE TERMS, CONDITIONS AND RISKS SET FORTH IN THESE SECTIONS AND SUBSECTIONS. I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I AM SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY, WITH THE INTENT TO BE LEGALLY BOUND ON MY BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF MINOR, AND THAT I INTEND MY INITIAL BELOW AND/OR MY SIGNATURE AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT AND/OR SUBMISSION OF ACCEPTANCE ELECTRONICALLY TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR ANY AND ALL NEGLIGENT ACTIONS OF THE HOSTS AND THAT I AM GIVING UP MY RIGHT AND THE RIGHT OF MINOR PARTICIPANT TO SUE THE HOSTS FOR NEGLIGENCE. I UNDERSTAND THAT, IF THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT ARE UNACCEPTABLE TO ME, I SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE OR ALLOW MINOR TO PARTICIPATE, AND MINOR AND I WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE, IN THE PROGRAM.

I ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE THAT THE WAIVERS, RELEASES AND OTHER INDEMNIFYING LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN THIS AGREEMENT ARE ESSENTIAL AND MATERIAL TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT, AND

WITHOUT AGREEMENT TO SAID TERMS, I, OR MINOR, COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM. I HEREBY REPRESENT THAT I HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY LEGAL COUNSEL OR HAVE BEEN GIVEN AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO BE SO ADVISED AND UNDERSTAND AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE SIGNIFICANCE AND CONSEQUENCE OF THIS AGREEMENT AND OF THE MATERIAL AND ESSENTIAL TERMS CONTAINED THEREIN. I UNDERSTAND THAT, IF THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT ARE UNACCEPTABLE TO ME, I SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE OR ALLOW MINOR TO PARTICIPATE, AND MINOR AND I WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE, IN THE PROGRAM.

IMPORTANT – BY REGISTERING FOR NEIGC 2026, YOU ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE THAT YOU HAVE READ THE ENTIRE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT, INCLUDING EXHIBITS, AND HAVE DISCUSSED THE ENTIRE CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION WITH MINOR, INCLUDING EXHIBITS, AND THAT YOU AND MINOR UNDERSTAND THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET FORTH HEREIN.