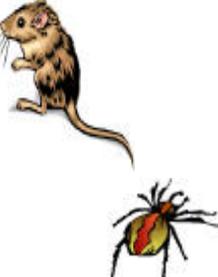


	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Field Study Precautions</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Orienteering, first aid, weather forecasting, plant/animal identification, respect for the environment and other skills WILL come in handy while doing field work of any type.</p>
	<p>Proper attire – Dress for the field, and your activities. Wear light-colored, long-sleeved shirts, long pants, boots, and a hat for protection against sun & heat exhaustion, poisonous plants, biting bugs, and reptiles. Avoid wearing anything strong-smelling in the field (perfumes, after shave, etc.). Don't forget the bug repellent, first aid kit, and snake bite kit.</p>
	<p>Situation Awareness -- Be alert to your situation and the numerous ways in which it may change. Your compass is your friend. Know where you are, relative to your origin, and destination. Make sure someone knows where you are going and when you plan to return. Carry hand-held radios or cell phones for communication with others.</p>
	<p>Watch the Weather -- When working outdoors, watch the weather as though your life depended on it because it just may. Florida is the lightning capitol of the world. Good shelters include enclosed buildings with plumbing and/or wiring, fully enclosed cars (not convertibles) and lower elevations. Beware of flash floods.</p>
	<p>UV Hazards -- Wear protective glasses that block at least 99% of all UV rays. Wear a wide-brim hat to protect your head. Wear a long sleeved shirt - you can always roll up the sleeves, and long pants. Use sunscreen, particularly on the nose, hands, ears, and neck.</p>
	<p>Dehydration –Drink plenty of fluids – water and sports drinks to balance electrolytes. Symptoms include apathy, confusion, nausea, and fatigue, although some individuals show no symptoms at all. Avoid caffeine and alcohol.</p>
	<p>Heat Exhaustion –If overheated, seek shade and water. Heat exhaustion can develop after exposure to high temperatures and inadequate replacement of fluids. People working in hot environments are especially vulnerable. If heat exhaustion is untreated, it may progress to heat stroke, which is a medical emergency.</p>
	<p>Take a Buddy – Never go into the field alone. Always have at least one other person with you when working outdoors. It's all too easy to "vanish" even when in sight of civilization.</p>
	<p>Environment – We're not here to destroy the environment, we're here to study it and utilize its resources. That implies the <i>obligation</i> of good stewardship.</p> <p>Pack it in, pack it out. It's a simple mantra and it includes carrying out your water bottles, apple cores and banana peels, and if possible, also the trash left by others.</p> <p>Bear in mind that ALL natural members (plants and animals) of an ecosystem play vital roles in nature and can even serve our interests. For example, rattlesnakes are one of nature's pest controls because they help to restrict rodent populations that can spread Hantavirus, plague, and fleas. Seeing one should be considered a real treat and not an opportunity to molest it or kill it.</p>

	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Field Hazards</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">some hazards you may encounter in the field if you spend enough time out there include:</p>
	<p>Poisonous Reptiles (snakes & lizards); Know what poisonous snakes are in the area before you go. Most likely you will see several lizards and snakes in the field. All will be interesting, most will be harmless, and some will be venomous. Though these animals can be very dangerous, NONE are to be feared unless YOU behave foolishly. Nearly all snakebites are successfully treated. Do not panic. Panic increases danger to the victim by increasing heart rate, and it spurs carelessness among everyone. Seek medical attention, but do not rush. Minimize movement, avoid walking, if possible.</p>
	<p>Arthropods (bees, wasps, spiders and scorpions). Although not aggressive, Black Widow spiders may bite when the web is disturbed or when trapped in clothing or shoes. Black Widow Spiders and Scorpions can be found on the underside of rocks and ledges, in plants, woodpiles, etc. If attacked by bees: Move slowly away from the insects; Cover your head and face. Better your hands get stung than your eyes, nose and mouth. Seek shelter such as a car or house, but avoid water as bees will often wait for the target of their aggression to surface.</p>
	<p>Large Animals (alligators, Florida Black Bears, Florida Panthers, wild pigs, and wild dogs). Though alligators normally avoid humans, they will vigorously defend their nests. Pepper spray is an effective deterrent for bears, cougars, dogs, and most animals; leave the area immediately, but do not run. Feral dogs can be highly aggressive and may readily attack humans without fear.</p>
	<p>Poisonous Plants (Poison ivy, oak, sumac, and stinging nettles). Know what these common plants look like and avoid them. Wear long pants and socks in areas where these plants may be present. Don't touch anything that has come in contact with these plants, including clothing, work gloves, pets, etc. There may be oil or nettles still present that can affect you. These plants can still affect you when they are dead.</p>
	<p>Wildfire -Chances are you'll only ever see a wildfire from a distance, though you should be informed about the fire risk in your field area <i>before</i> going out there. Be aware of dry conditions/drought, hot weather, high winds, lightning, etc.</p>
	<p>Zoonosis is defined as a disease communicable to humans under natural conditions. Hantavirus is carried by rodents, especially the deer mouse. Avoid coming into contact with rodents and rodent burrows or disturbing dens (such as pack rat nests). Do not play with or handle any rodents that show up at a camping or hiking site, even if they appear friendly. Lyme disease is a complex illness caused by a corkscrew-shaped bacterium. In addition to tick bites, Lyme disease may be spread by contact with body fluids of infected individuals, and <i>may</i> be possible from animals to humans. Rabies is carried by many small animals.</p>

Reference: For more "Research Outdoorsmanship", see <http://www.geo-outdoors.info>