

TOPEKA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC., RELEASE OF LIABILITY

By signing below, I acknowledge that all activities sponsored or conducted by the Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. (TGMS), a non-profit organization, may be hazardous and may result in loss, damage, or death.

With full knowledge of these dangers, and in consideration for my acceptance as a member of the TGMS and participant in any and all field trips and activities sponsored by the TGMS, and the services and amenities to be provided by the TGMS in connection therewith, I confirm that I have read the foregoing and voluntarily assume all risks of such damages and hazards occurring in connection with the outing or activity. I hereby agree for myself, all of my family, and heirs to RELEASE the TGMS and any of its trip leaders, club officers, club members, hosting land owners and claim owners, instructors, guides, or representatives from liability, claims, demands, or any causes of action.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT AND BY SIGNING IT, I AM GIVING UP MY RIGHT TO SUE OR OTHERWISE MAKE ANY CLAIM against TGMS or any of its trip leaders, club officers, club members, hosting land owners and claim owners, instructors, guides, or representatives which may arise during my participation in any and all activities of the TGMS.

I intend this RELEASE OF LIABILITY to be effective whether or not any loss, damage, injury, or death RESULTS FROM NEGLIGENCE of the TGMS or any of its trip leaders, club officers, club members, hosting land owners, and claim owners, instructors, guides or representatives. I understand that negligence means failure to do an act which a reasonably careful person would do, or the doing of an act which a reasonably careful person would not do, under the same or similar circumstances to protect himself, herself, or others from injury or death.

I agree to be solely responsible for my own safety and to take every precaution to provide for my own safety and well-being while participating in the activities of the TGMS. Also, I understand that on TGMS trips, there may not be rescue or medical facilities or expertise, which may be necessary to deal with potential injuries to which I may be exposed. I understand that these risks exist and notwithstanding them, I wish to participate in TGMS activities.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE AGREEMENT AND HAVE FULLY INFORMED MYSELF OF ITS CONTENTS BEFORE I HAVE SIGNED IT. ALSO, I PLEDGE TO UPHOLD THE CODE OF ETHICS ATTACHED TO THIS RELEASE.

Printed Name (Please print legibly): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

IF UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, PARENT OR GUARDIAN MUST READ AND SIGN BELOW

I am the legal guardian of the above minor and have read the above RELEASE. I hereby consent to the terms of the RELEASE on behalf of the named minor, and give my consent to the participation of the above named minor in all activities of the TGMS on the terms stated.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

"Code of Ethics"

- ◆ I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- ◆ I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- ◆ I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- ◆ I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- ◆ I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- ◆ I will leave all gates as found.
- ◆ I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- ◆ I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- ◆ I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- ◆ I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- ◆ I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- ◆ I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- ◆ I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- ◆ I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- ◆ I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- ◆ I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- ◆ I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

Revised July 7, 1999 at the AFMS Annual Meeting