

Eastern Field Trip Alliance (EFTA) Membership Application

A Field Trip Sharing Program of the Eastern Federation



Please fill out the following membership application form and email it to EFMLSinc@gmail.com to apply for membership in the EFTA Field Trip Sharing Program of the EFMLS Field Trip Committee. To prevent transcription errors, printed and mailed forms are not accepted; only emailed forms are accepted.

Full Name of the Society: _____

To be accepted, the Society applying for membership in the EFTA Field Trip Sharing Program must qualify as described below and it must provide all of the information requested. By submitting this form to the EFMLS Field Trip Committee, the Society is affirming that it meets all of the requirements for a EFTA Hosting Society as described below, and will abide by all of the rules and requirements listed.

(1) The Society is a fully paid and active member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc (Due: March 1, annually)

(2) The Society is covered by field trip liability insurance for the current year. (EFMLS insurance is due November 15, annually) Please indicate the type of liability insurance below.

EFMLS Insurance ___ **SFMS Insurance** ___ **Private Insurance** ___

(3) TWO or more e-mail addresses must be provided to coordinate the set-up and distribution of field trip information to the EFTA Coordinator. EFTA is also requesting back-up contact e-mail addresses. Field Trip Leaders and Newsletter Editors are appropriate candidates for this.

Society Leaders for EFTA designated trip-

Name: _____ **Email address #1:** _____

Mobile phone: _____ (of Primary Leader)

Name: _____ **Email address #2:** _____

Name: _____ **Email address #3:** _____

(4) Please provide the following for the President of the Society:

Name: _____ **Email address:** _____

Mobile phone: _____ **Mailing Address:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

(5) The Society's Board of Directors has agreed in their official meeting minutes to host a rock, mineral, fossil or related* field trip to a location that can accommodate at least one member per EFTA Member Society. The Society as a whole must commit to the responsibilities of being a member of the EFTA program. Note: Trips should include some collecting, but trips to other geology related*, non-collecting sites are acceptable if the host Society provides value-added features that distinguish the trip from any other day at the site. The EFTA Field Trip Committee must approve all trips, so be sure to consider the nature of the trip when choosing a site.

(6) The Society agrees to provide the EFTA Field Trip Committee with a specific, non-conflicting, future month in which it will host its EFTA field trip. The EFTA Coordinator will provide an initial range or list of months from which the Society must choose. Subsequent hosting month/year is determined in EFTA membership renewal.

(7) When choosing a collecting location for hosting a trip, the Society agrees to abide by the following rules:

a) **The location must be within a radius of 300 miles (400 miles if located on a coastal border) of the Society's home location or the Society is the only organization that can obtain exclusive access to a**

Eastern Field Trip Alliance (EFTA) Membership Application

desirable collecting site outside the 300 mile range. This ensures a wider dispersion and a better diversity of collecting sites

- b) **To ensure the diversity of trips, the location cannot be a location where another Society has already hosted a EFTA trip in the calendar year.** Exceptions may be granted depending on individual circumstances.
- c) **If the location is a commercial site, the hosting Society should request a discount and exclusive access for the day of the trip.** It is acceptable if a discount and or exclusive access cannot be negotiated, but they should be requested. These terms make the site more desirable as a EFTA trip versus any other day.
- d) **The general public, Societies that are not members of the EFMLS, and Societies that are members of the EFMLS but are not covered by liability insurance are not allowed to collect at the hosted location on the same date as the EFTA trip.** Because of this rule, easily accessible public locations are generally not suitable for EFTA field trips. Exceptions may be granted depending on individual circumstances.
- e) **EFTA field trip details, whether for the host Society or another hosting Society, must not be published publicly before or after the trip.** These details include the name if it is a commercial site, directions to the site, and pictures that have GPS coordinates embedded in them. Before and after the trip, dates and generic descriptions can be published without specific details about the location of the site. Societies are encouraged to promote the fact that they offer field trips, so after a EFTA trip, reports without detailed information about the location of the site as well as pictures without GPS coordinates embedded can be published. Websites, newsletters posted on websites, Facebook pages, Twitter, Instagram, and all other social media must be carefully managed in this matter. This is to prevent the general public from visiting a trip site before, during, or after the trip. When in doubt, please contact the EFMLS Field Trip Committee.
- f) **The field trip location should be large enough to accommodate at least one person per EFTA member Society.** It should have adequate parking for a large group of collectors and enough potential material for a large group. If such a location is not possible, the Society may limit attendance to **no less than one person per EFTA member Society** and require pre-trip registration. Attendees should provide the host Society with their name and the name of the EFTA Society of which they are a member. In this situation, the host Society must provide a registration contact phone number and/or e-mail address on the EFTA Field Trip form.

(8) If possible the Society should provide members to act as guides at its hosted field trip. These members should be familiar with the collecting location and should stand ready to identify specimens and to direct field trip attendees to more productive areas.

(9) The Society agrees to follow the rules below to provide the EFTA Coordinator a completed "Field Trip Form" for its EFTA.

- a) **The host Society is required to submit its field trip form before the first of the month prior to the month of their hosted trip, e.g. the April hosting Society must e-mail the completed field trip form to the EFTA Coordinator before the first of March.**
- b) **IMPORTANT!!!** If the field trip form is not received by the **10th of the month** prior to the hosting Society's EFTA field trip, the trip will be **cancelled** and the **offending Society will be dropped immediately from the EFTA field trip sharing program and will not be allowed to attend EFTA field trips.** For example, a Society hosting an April EFTA trip must submit their field trip form by March 10th. If a Society is dropped for not providing a scheduled trip, it may re-apply for EFTA membership only after at least 1 year and must meet all current membership requirements to be accepted.
- c) **The EFTA Coordinator will evaluate the submitted trip to ensure that the location and date for the trip are acceptable. If a proposed trip is rejected, the hosting Society must provide an alternate proposal (or proposals) until an acceptable date and location are agreed upon.** This is to ensure that EFTA field trips adhere to the EFTA field trip rules.

(10) EFTA field trips can be published as an "official" field trip for the Society's own members only. A Society must not invite members of the general public, Societies that are not members of the EFMLS, or EFMLS member Societies that are not covered by field trip liability insurance. **Only Societies that are members of the EFTA may attend EFTA field trips.** If a Society is not a member of the EFTA but their members attend a EFTA trip, they are not contributing to the program by hosting a trip, but they are receiving the benefits of the program. That is not fair to the EFTA member Societies who work hard to provide great trips. EFTA trip leaders may use their discretion to invite individual members of an EFMLS Society that is covered by field trip liability insurance and is not a member of the EFTA, but not the entire Society.

Eastern Field Trip Alliance (EFTA) Membership Application

The EFMLS EFTA Field Trip Sharing Program will provide the EFTA member Society with an e-mailed Field Trip Notice for each EFTA field trip. When possible, notices will be e-mailed by the first of the month before the month of the trip, e.g. e-mailed on June 1st for a EFTA trip taking place during the month of July.

Membership Renewal Rules

- **Renewal is due upon completion of the Society's hosted trip.** A hosting reminder with the latest month/year the Society can choose will be sent at least one month before the Society's hosting month.
- **Hosting month/year must be a non-conflicting, open month/year i.e. only one EFTA trip is allowed per month.** Exceptions may be granted depending upon individual circumstances.
- **The Society must choose an open month from the next available month through the latest month provided by the EFTA Coordinator.**
- **Any member Society that has not renewed within six (6) months of completing their hosted trip will be suspended from attending EFTA field trips and will not receive EFTA field trip notifications until it renews.**
- **Any member Society that has not renewed within twelve (12) months of completing its hosted trip will be dropped from EFTA membership.** The Society will not receive EFTA field trip notifications and cannot attend EFTA field trips. The dropped Society cannot re-apply for membership in the EFTA field trip sharing program for at least 1 year after being dropped. After 1 year, the Society may submit a membership application and must meet all current EFTA membership requirements to rejoin.

The renewal month limit is calculated as follows:

Last hosting month + Number of EFTA Societies + 6 months = latest month/year allowed

Example for a Society that hosted in January 2018 with 31 member Societies active:

January 2018 + 31 months = August 2020 + 6 Months = February 2021 (latest month/year the Society can choose)

To renew, the January host Society would simply choose an open month between the next available month and February 2021, then send their choice to the EFTA Coordinator.

Optional Field Trip Report

Following completion of a hosted trip, an optional field trip report is requested from the hosting Society. The field trip report must be sent to the EFTA Coordinator who will prepare the report for submission to the EFMLS News newsletter. Besides letting the EFMLS know the trip was completed, field trip reports encourage other Societies to join the EFTA. The more Societies in the EFTA, the longer the interval between hosting responsibilities. A report can be just a paragraph or two. Pictures are optional, but highly recommended.

EFTA Membership Agreement

By submitting this form to the EFTA Field Trip Committee, the Society is affirming that it meets all of the requirements for a EFTA hosting Society as described above, and will abide by all of the rules and requirements listed.

Prepared by the EFMLS Field Trip Committee, August 7th, 2019