Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

in cooperation with the
YELLOWSTONE BIGHORN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON – YBRA GEOLOGY FIELD CAMP SUMMER 2027

June 7 – July 11, 2027

GENERAL INFORMATION

The UH-YBRA geology field camp program is based at the Yellowstone Bighorn Research Association (YBRA) camp near Red Lodge, a small town southwest of Billings, Montana. The camp has classrooms and a lodge where the lounge, dining room and kitchen are located. Faculty and students will board in cabins and dorms within YBRA camp.

The Geology field camp program also includes field trips to Yellowstone or Grand Teton National Park. During this time, students will stay at Yellowstone or Grand Teton National Park camping sites and also at the University of Montana Western campus in Dillon, Montana.

> **IMPORTANT**: Students are expected to participate in normal but often strenuous activities of a field course such as hiking, climbing in steep terrain and at high altitude, camping, etc. If you have any physical or medical condition that might limit your ability to participate in these activities, you must obtain permission from your doctor, in the form of a letter, which should also contain an explanation why your condition will not interfere with your participation in this field program.

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 requires that the university make reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities as defined under the act. Students who feel they need assistance under the ADA guidelines should contact a field camp director to discuss such consideration before enrolling. When possible, and in accordance with 504/ADA guidelines, we will attempt to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who request and require them. Furthermore, to be eligible for accommodation as afforded by the ADA, students who feel they need assistance under the ADA guidelines should request assistance by registering with the UH Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center. Please call (713) 743-5400 for further assistance and information.

COURSE INFORMATION

GEOLOGY FIELD CAMP
GEOL 3355: Field Geology 1
GEOL 3360: Field Geology 2

The geology field camp program is designed to enable undergraduate geology majors to learn how geologic problems are defined and addressed in the field, to enhance their field measurement and mapping skills, and to bring their growing technical skills to focus on a series of field problems in sedimentary and igneous rocks, and neotectonic mapping and geomorphic analysis.

Geology Field Camp consists of two courses: GEOL 3355 and GEOL 3360. Note that the University of Houston Geology major students are required to enroll in **both** GEOL 3355 and GEOL 3360 for a degree in Geology. Students from other institutions may choose to take Geology Field Camp for 6 credit hours or only 3 credits hours. Students who chose to enroll in only 3 credit hours will be enrolled in GEOL 3360. Registering for 3 credit hours will result in lower tuition, but the length of the camp, daily schedule, and amount of work will remain the same as those seeking 6 credit hours.

Recommended Prerequisites for Geology Field Camp

GEOL 3345: ***Structural Geology*** (or equivalent). Properties of earth minerals and their behavior in stress fields; description, classification, and interpretation of geologic structure.
GEOL 3145: ***Structural Geology Laboratory*** (or equivalent). Techniques for solving problems in structural geology.
GEOL 3350: ***Principles of Stratigraphy*** (or equivalent). Principles of stratigraphy applied to problems of geometry, composition, and time relations of stratified rocks.
GEOL 3150: ***Principles of Stratigraphy Laboratory*** (or equivalent). Stratigraphic problem solving.

Note that the University of Houston Geology major students must have successfully fulfilled **all** prerequisites to attend Geology Field Camp.

Because field training is a desirable experience early in a geologist's career, we also encourage students early in their undergraduate program to take a field course as soon as possible after they have identified their interest in Geology. Instruction in basic field techniques, methods and observations are included in both sessions.

Research Opportunities

Students have the opportunity to present the results of their projects at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting. This involves working as a group both during the project, as well as writing an abstract and completing a poster presentation for the annual meeting.

ADMISSION

Summer 2027 Application Deadline: February 19, 2027

There are two steps in the admission of UH-YBRA field camp program:

- **Step One** – **Preliminary Admission**: Complete the online application found at the UH Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences website:

  http://www.uh.edu/nsm/earth-atmospheric/undergraduate/ybra-field-camp/

  Through the online application, submit a copy (does not have to be an official copy) of your transcript and proof of health insurance by **February 13th**, 2027. Notification of admission for qualified students will be emailed as reviewed and accepted, but typically no later than March 14th. Late applications will be considered at the discretion of the department.

- **Step Two** – **University of Houston (UH) Admission and Registration**: after being admitted to field camp program:

  - **Current UH Students**: You will be registered for GEOL 3355 and GEOL 3360 (6 credit hours).

  - **Non-UH Students**: must first apply for admission to the University of Houston as a **visiting student** for the summer of 2027 by April 15th by visiting: https://www.applytexas.org/

    At this time, you will be required to submit your **official transcript** to the UH Admission Office, as well as **proof of recent meningitis vaccination:** **https://www.uh.edu/enrollment-services/registrar/courses-enrollment/policies/immunization/index.php**
    Once the non-UH student is admitted to the University of Houston, our office will place you in the field camp course(s) to which you have been admitted.

- **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS** – International students must apply for admission to the University of Houston as a **transient student** for the summer of 2027 **by April 1st**. Department faculty and staff cannot assist in obtaining visas.

Students with disabilities as defined under the American Disability Act (ADA) must register with the UH Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center to be eligible for accommodation as afforded by the ADA. Please call (713) 743-5400 for more assistance and information.

TUITION AND FEES

NOTICE: Tuition and university fees calculation as presented below are **approximations** only. Please consult the University of Houston website for more updated information (www.uh.edu/financial/)

Tuition – Tuition and university fees for the field program will depend upon residency status of the student, as well as whether the student is seeking 6 credit hours or 3 credit hours for the summer field program (*see chart below*). Texas non-resident students who receive scholarship of at least $1000 through the University of Houston may qualify for in-state tuition.

University Fees – include administrative and support fees for the courses. Note: these fee amounts are approximations only and may be subject to change by the university.

Room, Board and Vehicle Fees – the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences collects an additional fee of **$2,500 per student** for lodging, food, vehicle and other equipment expenses during field camp. These payments will **not** include: (1) travel to and from Montana, and (2) cost of meals during 3 days of camping outside YBRA facility. Prior experience indicates that students should bring approximately $200 to buy meals for three field days in Yellowstone National Park.

TEXAS RESIDENTS

Three credit hours option (Geology)	
Tuition for 3 credit hours	$ 1,157 (appx.)
University fees for 3 credit hours	$ 500 (appx.)
Room, board and vehicle fee	$ 2,500
Total	$ 4,157 (appx.)

Six credit hours option (Geology)	
Tuition for 6 credit hours	$ 2,314 (appx.)
University fees for 6 credit hours	$ 516 (appx)
Room, board and vehicle fee	$ 2,500
Total	$ 5,330 (appx.)

TEXAS NON-RESIDENTS

Three credit hours option (Geology)	
Tuition for 3 credit hours	$ 2,750 (appx.)
University fees for 3 credit hours	$ 500 (appx.)
Room, board and vehicle fee	$ 2,500
Total	$ 5,750 (appx.)

Six credit hours option (Geology)	
Tuition for 6 credit hours	$ 5,500 (appx.)
University fees for 6 credit hours	$ 516 (appx.)
Room, board and vehicle fee	$ 2,500
Total	$ 8,516 (appx.)

TRANSPORTATION

Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation to Montana/Houston at the beginning of field camp and departure from Montana/Houston at the end of field camp.

Students must report at YBRA camp no later than 5:00PM on the first day of camp. Geology students should make arrangements to leave camp after 10:00AM on the last day of camp.

By air: Students may fly to Billings' Logan Airport which is approximately one hour's drive from Red Lodge, Montana. Pick up and drop off at the airport will be available at designated times. For organizational purposes, please provide us with your travel itinerary.

By car: Students may also drive their personal vehicles to camp. These vehicles are not allowed to be used for official camp activities and must be left at the YBRA facility when the camp moves to Dillon for the second half.

By bus: Greyhound bus (www.greyhound.com) arriving in Billings is also available. Pick up and drop off at Billings' Logan Airport will be available at designated times. For organizational purposes, please provide us with your travel itinerary.

Health Insurance – The University of Houston requires all students to carry health insurance while at the field camp. Students must provide proof of health insurance (copy of insurance card) before leaving for field camp. If you do not carry health insurance and want to purchase health insurance through the University of Houston for the summer semester you may sign up here:

https://uh.myahpcare.com/

Scholarship and Financial Aid – is not available directly from the UH Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, except for students who attend University of Houston and who qualify for financial aid from the University of Houston, or who are awarded an UH Alumni Scholarship. Some students from other institutions who would ordinarily qualify for financial aid on the basis of need have been able to transfer part of their financial aid packages from their home institutions; other have been able to acquire scholarship or loans from their home institution. Each applicant is encouraged to contact his or her financial aid officer for more information. Both NAGT and GSA offer field camp scholarships.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Virginia Sisson, UH-YBRA Field Camp Director
Telephone: (713) 743-7634
Email: vbsisson@uh.edu

Dr. Alexander Robinson, UH-YBRA Field Camp co-Director
Telephone: (713) 743-2547
Email: acrobinson@uh.edu