

## LIFE ON EARTH--COVENANT

### I. PREAMBLE--SPIRIT/PHILOSOPHY

Life on Earth is a coordinated study. By this we mean that academic activities in the program are inextricably related to a central core of content which is to compose a minimal and common body of knowledge for everyone--students and faculty--participating in the program. Coordination (bringing together the different knowledges and skills of many individuals) comes about through sharing which originates in some common basis of understanding. We attempt to create this common basis of knowledge for the program in the core content. Thus, in the interests of coordination, when there is a conflict, participants in the program agree to give program activities precedence over their own individual academic pursuits.

### II. GOALS FOR STUDENTS IN THE PROGRAM

1. To learn facts, field and lab techniques, hypotheses and theories necessary for the analysis and interpretation of the evolution of the earth's crust and the history of life on earth.
2. To learn to develop independent opinions and express thoughts effectively. To learn to use technical literature and write a scientific paper.
3. To learn to work both independently and cooperatively.

### III. RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

1. To come, on time, to all program meetings (seminars, lectures, labs, field trips, etc).
2. To prepare ahead of time for activities.
3. To keep a journal in addition to field and laboratory notebooks. This journal and the notebooks are to be handed in periodically for evaluation.
4. To turn in all assigned work on time.
5. To plan and carry out the logistical arrangements for field trips.
6. To periodically evaluate, in writing, themselves, the faculty and the program.
7. To seek evaluation from the faculty.

### IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FACULTY

1. To plan and arrange the academic content of the program and program academic activities. To notify students as far in advance as possible of planned activities.
2. To hold regular faculty seminars for evaluation and improvement of their teaching and for their own intellectual development.
3. To manage miscellaneous program business--budget, book and film orders, official records, etc.
4. To come, on time, to all program meetings.
5. To have office hours for individual consultation with students.
6. To evaluate students, each other and the program.

### V. CREDIT AND EVALUATION

Credit is earned if a student meets, in a manner acceptable to the faculty, all the responsibilities listed in section III of this document. Credit will be awarded, on an all-or-nothing basis, in three three-unit segments. Students will be informed at the end of each segment if they have earned credit for the segment.

Students will be evaluated on the quality and quantity of their field, laboratory and seminar work, written work (notebooks, journals, papers) and mastery of skills and program content.

### VI. CHANGING THE COVENANT

This document may be changed by a 2/3 majority of students with the unanimous concurrence of the faculty.

I agree to abide by the conditions of this document \_\_\_\_\_

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