

TRIAGE

Safety Contract, 2008

Team Researchers in a GLOBE-al Environment (TRIAGE) will involve hands-on laboratory and field activities. Some science activities have potential hazards if certain equipment is not handled properly. Safety in the science lab and in the field is an important part of the scientific process. To ensure safety, a list of rules has been developed and is called the TRIAGE Safety Contract. These rules must be followed at all times. Additional safety instructions may be given for certain activities. All participants in TRIAGE and their parent or guardian must sign this contract before being allowed to engage in science activities - both in the laboratory and in the field.

Laboratory Safety Rules

1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the lab. Horseplay, practical jokes, and pranks will not be tolerated.
2. Follow all written and oral instructions carefully. Ask questions if you do not understand all the instructions.
3. Equipment, supplies, animals, or other materials in the lab may not be touched without permission.
4. Always carry a laptop computer or microscope with both hands.
5. Perform only authorized and approved experiments.
6. Keep your hands away from your face, eyes, and mouth while using science materials or when working with either chemicals or animals. Do not taste anything in the lab unless specifically instructed to do so.
7. Wear safety glasses or goggles when instructed.
8. Keep your work area in the lab neat and clean. Clean all work areas and equipment at the end of the experiment. Return all equipment clean and in working order to the proper storage area.
9. Follow all instructions and dispose of any waste materials generated in an experiment.
10. Report any accident (spill, breakage, etc.) to the teacher immediately.
11. Consider all chemicals used in the lab to be dangerous. Do not touch, taste, or smell any chemicals unless specifically instructed to do so.
12. Treat all preserved specimens and dissecting supplies with care and respect.
13. Use scalpels, scissors, and other sharp instruments only as instructed:
 - a. Never cut any material toward you - always cut away from your body.
 - b. Report any cut or scratch from sharp instruments to the teacher immediately.
14. Open storage cabinets or enter the lab preparation room only with permission.
15. Chemicals, equipment, supplies, or animals may not be removed from the lab without permission.
16. Handle all glassware with care. Never pick up hot or broken glassware with your bare hands.
17. Handle animals with care and respect:
 - a. Open animal cages and containers only with permission.
 - b. Never handle any animals without supervision.
 - c. Do not tease or handle animals roughly.
 - d. Report any animal bite or scratch to the teacher immediately.
18. Use extreme caution when using a hotplate.
19. Dress properly - long hair must be tied back. Wear lab aprons when instructed.
20. Learn where the safety equipment is located and how to use it. Know where the exits are located and what to do in case of an emergency or fire drill.

Field Safety Rules

1. All work in the Ecosystem Preserve must be supervised by TRIAGE staff.
2. TRIAGE staff will provide guidelines for safe use of all field equipment that must be followed at all times.
3. Field equipment may only be used for purposes approved by TRIAGE staff.
4. No student is allowed to work in the Ecosystem Preserve individually; at a minimum, students must be in pairs with a TRIAGE staff member.
5. Be aware that there is poison ivy in the Ecosystem Preserve. Staff will do their best to limit exposure to it and to help students identify and avoid it. The best precaution against the West Nile Virus is protection. It is important that students wear clothing that covers the body and apply bug spray.
6. The Ecosystem Preserve is just that - a Preserve. Therefore, no students are allowed off the established pathways unless accompanied by a TRIAGE staff member.
7. No running or play is allowed in the Ecosystem Preserve.

Safety Contract Agreement

I have read and understand each of the safety rules set forth in this contract. I agree to follow them to ensure both my own safety and the safety of others in the science lab and in the field. I also agree to follow the general rules of appropriate behavior for a classroom and for the field at all times to avoid accidents and to provide a safe learning environment for everyone. I understand that if I do not follow all the rules and safety precautions, I will not be allowed to participate in TRIAGE.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

RELEASE AND CERTIFICATION:

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We feel that you should be informed of TRIAGE's effort to create and maintain a safe science classroom/laboratory environment and field experiences. Please read the list of safety rules. No student will be permitted to perform science activities unless this contract is signed by both the student and parent/guardian and is on file with TRIAGE. Your signature on this contract indicates that you have read this Science Safety Contract, reviewed it with your child, and are aware of the measures taken to ensure the safety of your son/daughter in TRIAGE.

Your signature on this contract also indicates that you release and waive TRIAGE and its affiliates and their respective staff members and employees from all liability to you or the student for any and all injuries incurred by the student pursuant to the student's participation in the TRIAGE program, including during any transportation to or from TRIAGE-sponsored events.

In addition, your signature below certifies that the participant has health insurance coverage covering injury or illness to the student while participating in the TRIAGE program. The health insurance information must also be listed on the Emergency Contact Information Form.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date