EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIP TO LESSOR’S QUARRY

University of Vermont, Department of Geology

Due to multiple acts of vandalism at Lessor’s Quarry, the University of Vermont, Department of Geology is more cautious about allowing visitors on site. We want visitors to continue to have access to the unique geologic educational site, so now we have an application for permission to visit Lessor’s Quarry.

Teachers and group leaders will need to show a greater understanding of the educational and research value of the Quarry. \*We ask that you know what fossils are found at the site, and have a basic knowledge of the geologic history, and to be able to read the rock-record through the faults, faulting and folds, cross-cutting, and even some stress and strain terms. Don’t worry, you don’t have to be a geologist. We have several educational documents about Lessor’s Quarry and others about fossils and the region that are available under “Educational Materials” on the Perkins Museum of Geology website (https://www.uvm.edu/perkins/educational-materials) that can supplement your knowledge.

By preparing for the field trip in this way, you can better impart to the students an appreciation for what they are seeing at Lessor’s Quarry. Without foreknowledge, the Quarry just looks as if it is a solid mass, when in fact, it is a delicate and intricate site that is easily damaged. However, with knowledge and care, Lessor’s Quarry, the Middle Ordovician (~450 million years old) fossiliferous Glens Falls Limestone, can be protected and preserved well through the Anthropocene epoch and beyond.

**Visit Lessor’s Quarry at Your Own Risk. Please read information below.**

Geology Department faculty members who most frequently use the site warn against having a group larger than 25 individuals, that is, the total of students plus instructors/chaperones. Larger groups must divide the group-size accordingly for maximum safety; otherwise, people are forced to unstable sections of the site. We recommend that leaders have several adult chaperons.  Individuals may visit the Quarry, but must also follow the rules stated below.

EVERYONE, including adults, should stay AWAY from all edges! In addition, there are parts of the Quarry that are especially unsafe. The south, east, and west walls of the site are loose and crumbling and prone to rockfalls. This has been exacerbated by Vermont’s extreme weather conditions. Some walls, especially the west wall, have life-threatening overhangs. The safest sections of the site are the north and the center.  What may look stable to the naked eye, could very well be unsound, therefore, teachers, please prevent students and chaperones from going close to unstable Quarry walls. It is best to stay at ground level and discover the many fossils on the ground and face of the Quarry.

As always, absolutely no hammers are allowed at this site.  Hammering and attempts to sample the site destroy the delicate features preserved in the rock. Please . . . only viewing, sketching, or photographing should take place at Lessor's Quarry.

Please do not allow anyone to remove lose or fallen samples. It is tempting for visitors/students to each want just one sample, but the loose and dislodged pieces are as much a part of the resource as the solid, intact Quarry itself. Therefore, only allow students to take digital images or make drawings rather than removing samples.  Although the quarry is a large rock site, it is, nonetheless, breakable and finite. Do not remove any Quarry fragments.

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APPLICATION

PERMISSION TO VISIT UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT’S LESSOR’S QUARRY

Please answer the following questions:

1. Your name and contact information;
2. Institution name, grade level, number of students, number of adults to assist in supervising the group;
3. Request a few times and dates for your visit;
4. First-time visitor, or returning visitor; circle one
5. Lesson plan objectives . . . how the physical visit to Lessor’s Quarry supports your teaching;
6. How you plan to manage the group to protect your students and staff, as well as the site itself.
7. Questions about the Quarry . . .

I (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have carefully read, and will obey all information outlined above in ***Visit Lessor’s Quarry at Your Own Risk.*** I have also apprised my adult assistants of the same information, and provided them with their own copy.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Submit application to geology@uvm.edu 1- 2 weeks prior to your anticipated visit.