

KEWEENAW MINERAL DAYS

Recommendations to Help You Have an Enjoyable Experience

Safety is always first!

All collecting requires safe practices and use of common sense. At all times maintain awareness of yourself and your physical surroundings. Stay off the steep slopes and loose rock. Follow the instructions of the trip guides. Be mindful of others collecting in your area.

Eye protection of some kind is required, and must be supplied by participants!! Rock chips can fly a long way, so you are just as likely to be struck with a chip from another person as you are from your own activities.

Full-length jeans and supportive footwear are strongly recommended. Work gloves can be useful.

The Sun should be a concern to all, as most rock piles have no shade!! Sunglasses, a head covering, and sunblock are recommended.

A rock hammer and 5-gallon plastic bucket are essential items. In addition to a rock hammer, a chisel, trowel, and rock rake come in handy too. The bucket is an easy way to carry your specimens, but an old backpack will work too.

Water for cleaning specimens is a good idea, as newly exposed rocks are coated with “muck.” A small spray-bottle of water and/or a container of water will work.

A metal detector for finding native copper is a valuable tool. The museum will have a limited number of metal detectors available for rent. It may be possible for you to rent a metal detector from a vendor in your area. The newly exposed rock is very dirty. However, there is no substitute for your eyes and some collectors find equal success without the use of a metal detector. Metal detectors are of NO value if you are looking for a nonmetallic mineral such as datolite.

Bring or plan on purchasing packing materials to get your treasures home intact. Newspaper, paper towels, toilet paper or dry cleaning (plastic) bags work well for padding. Newspaper is good for larger specimens. Plan on boxes to store your specimens.

Carry drinking water with you. Plan your water containers before you leave home. Bring more than you think you will need, as rock piles can be quite hot.

Bring a variety of clothing. Field trips proceed as scheduled, rain or shine. In the past, we've had weather with sun and near perfect temps around 75 degrees to sunny with extremely hot temps from 90-105 degrees, with fog and rain, and with cold temps of 40-50 degrees. The weather is greatly affected by Lake Superior and is less predictable than elsewhere. If it does rain, at least it will wash muck off of the newly exposed rocks.

Causal dress is appropriate for everything.

Black flies and mosquitoes are usually not too bad on the rock piles, but a can or bottle of insect repellent in your vehicle is recommended. Bug nets are usually not needed but can be purchased locally.

There are NO toilets at the collecting sites. You will need to drive to a nearby toilet or plan to use the natural facilities among the trees.

If you attend and have more tips, please do let us know so we can make this list better.