Introduction: NASA’s RISE2, GIFT, and GEODES teams frequently perform field research with overlapping science objectives, work sites, and personnel. This recurring collaboration presents an opportunity to refine and share resources, including Safety Plans, Codes of Conduct, and a Field Bill of Rights, that apply to all three teams’ research expeditions.

Motivation: Field research is an immersive work environment. This setting offers distinct benefits, including accelerated professional development and scientific progress. Field work also carries inherent risks that include and go beyond physical hazards. Boundaries between work and personal life are reduced, and interpersonal tensions can be amplified. When harassment and discrimination occur in the field, they are difficult to escape. These threats disproportionately impact members of groups that have been historically excluded from the field, including people of color, LGBTQ+ people, and women, with those who belong to more than one marginalized community experiencing compounded effects. Consistent procedures and expectations make it easier for all team members to contribute to a safe, professional work environment. [1]

Field Code of Conduct and Bill of Rights: A clear and enforceable Code of Conduct, supported by leadership and agreed upon by all team members, can mitigate some of the challenges of field research. However, in the 2014 Survey of Academic Field Experiences (SAFE), fewer than 40% of respondents recalled seeing a Code of Conduct during field work [2]. An effective Code of Conduct should state unacceptable behavior, explain prescribed responses to misconduct, outline pathways for reporting adverse experiences, and include reference materials for use in response to incident reports [3].

Our Field Code of Conduct is supported by a brief Field Bill of Rights outlining basic accommodations that all participants can expect while participating in field work with our teams.

Field Safety Plans: Field Safety Plans are site- and task-specific. Examples of past RISE2 and GIFT safety plans are available on the GIFT website [4]. These documents include considerations ranging from personal protective equipment to wildfire safety, in-camp protocol, medical emergency response, search and rescue, and more.

Iteration: Before each field expedition, field leadership works to revise the Field Safety Plan, Code of Conduct, and Bill of Rights based on new knowledge, trip-specific needs, and team feedback. Sample versions of these living documents are publicly available [4].

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Safety Plan. The safety policies and strategies in the Field Safety Plan draw on our field leads’ years of professional training and experience. The authors would like to acknowledge the University at Buffalo and Arizona State University Geology Field Camps, the National Outdoor Leadership School, The Red Cross, and the Central Massachusetts Search and Rescue Team for inspiring safety in the field.

Code of Conduct. Earlier versions of the Code of Conduct were written and field-tested by the Goddard Instrument Field Team. The current revision also draws inspiration from the Codes of Conduct laid out by the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) [5] and the Western Wildfire Experiment for Cloud Chemistry, Aerosol Absorption, and Nitrogen (WE-CAN) [6].

Bill of Rights. Our Field Bill of Rights is inspired by a similar document from the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists [5].