

Kevin Colvin, Field Trip Director

A ROCKHOUNDER'S CHECKLIST

I created this list a ways back for myself and just want to share it with all of you. This list is by no means a complete and comprehensive guide to the gear you want to bring on your trip. This is just a reminder that sometimes the important things can be forgotten—Make your own list, post it with your gear, or put it on your frig. Being prepared for your outdoor adventure is half the fun!

Tools

- Short Shovel—For those hard-to-get spots, or when you're sitting and digging
- Long Shovel—Kind of a no brainer—Big shovel, more dirt removed
- Mining Pick—Really comes in handy when you need to dig down a ways or dig around larger rocks.
- Rock Pick—Often called a geologist's pick. This hammer/pick has a sharp point on one end and a square hammer head on the other end. The sharp point is used for digging, and the hammer head is used for breaking rock.
- Pry Bar—Depending on your area, the length and weight of this bar is important.
- Crevice tool—Helps get out that delicate, hard-to-reach material.

Sledgehammer and Chisel—For breaking up larger material.

Brush—Never hurts to have a brush if you need to gently clean a surface.

Knife—Rope cutting, Crevice picking—a good knife is a must have in the outdoors, even if you're not prospecting.

Axe—Takes care of roots, downed trees, and dangerous branches—an Axe is a handy tool to have around.

Containers

Buckets—I usually take 4 to 6 buckets depending on the area and the distance I need to travel. In the end, when I don't bring a chair, a 5 gallon bucket is a nice substitute.

Backpack—Works great if you don't want to carry a bucket; it also frees up your hands.

Documentation/Guides

Local Map—Never rely solely on a GPS; always bring a map, a topo map if possible.

Hand Field Guide—It's always nice to have a pocket field guide to help identify your material.

Various Tools

Work Gloves—Help protect your hands from injuries.

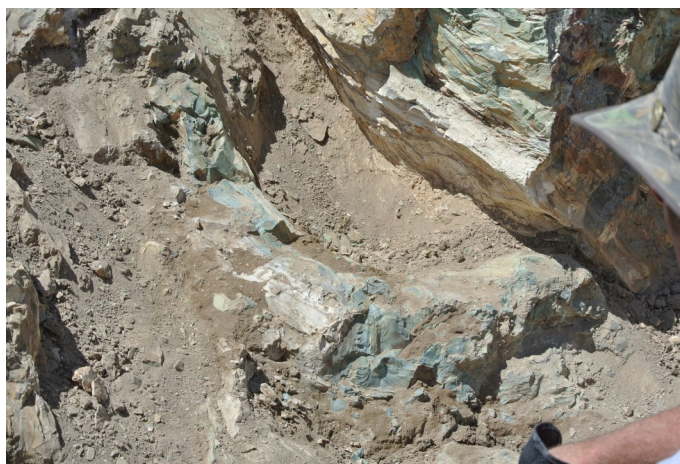
Knee Pads—Helps protect your knees when kneeling on rocky surfaces.

Small Hand Lens—Not needed, but something that is small and fun to have to look at your treasures.

Rope and Tie Downs—I don't leave the house without these babies. They're tools every trip needs.

Compass/GPS—I hate getting lost;—Map/GPS/Cell Phone—You can go just about anywhere.

Eye protection—For the sun, and for when the rocks start flying



Kerry Green in place, McDermitt
Photo: Robin DeVisser