



Week 1

Overview: The caravan trip from Rapid City, SD to the IUGFS – Introduces students to the geology of the northern Rocky Mountains through a mixture of roadside geologic stops, field mapping, interpretation projects, and lectures. We look at the Precambrian, Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic rocks to build familiarity with the lithologies and develop an understanding of how they change from east to west.

During this first week students practice rock description, stratigraphic interpretation, mapping, x-section drawing, and note-taking skills. They also get to know their classmates, the faculty, the X429 instructional style, and acclimatize to doing field work in elevations and climate of the northern Rocky Mountains.

The typical day is 7:00 am – 6:30 pm in the field (including driving and lunch). Most days are about 50% field work and lectures at outcrops plus 50% driving. We arrive at the IUGFS on Saturday.