ANT COURSE 2015 LOGISTICS AND PREPARATION

June 7, 2015

Key information	
Course site:	Southwestern Research Station (SWRS), Portal
Course dates:	6 to 16 August 2015
Meeting:	Tucson airport, before 4pm on Aug 6
Depart:	Book departing flights anytime after 1pm on Aug 16
Visa:	Most countries can obtain a tourist visa upon arrival
Preparation:	Review course supplies; purchase plane tickets early
Costs:	Pay tuition and station fees by July 1, 2015 ($475 student, $975 non-student) at: http://www.calacademy.org/tickets_ant_course

Important dates:

Aug 6, 2015: Thursday. Students arrive at the Tucson airport and are driven 3 hrs to the Station. Last bus departs airport at 4pm. Foreign students may want to arrive the night before. Better to arrive a night early in Tucson than miss the last bus at 4pm because your flight is delayed. If you arrive late, you will need to make your own transportation arrangements and car rental is very expensive. I

Aug. 16, 2015: Early Sunday morning, students are driven back to the Tucson airport to catch their flights. Do not book a departure flight before noon.

Overview of Southwest Research Station

A brief account of the SWRS facilities, environment, and other introductory information is provided on the Station's web site at http://research.amnh.org/swrs/. Also, visit the Ant Course yearbook (2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011) for images of the field station, instruction room and dorms: http://www.calacademy.org/scientists/ant-course-yearbooks

NOTE: Two to three participants (of same gender) will be housed in very comfortable, dormitory-style rooms. Gender specific bathrooms are located on the first floor. Individuals who might have a problem with sharing such accommodations should reconsider their involvement in the course. Ear plugs may be a good idea. All course participants must stay on Station.

Misc. information: the Station provides laundry facilities (washer, dryer, and detergent) for free. Your station fees cover three meals a day. Veggie meals can be provided but this *must be arranged in*

advance. Email Rose Rothpletz rrothpletz@amnh.org before July 1 if you would like to request Vegetarian or NRM "no red meat" or if you have a severe food allergy. Note the station does not offer vegan nor gluten free options. Contact the station directly for addition concerns about food and housing: swrs@amnh.org, tel: 520-558-2396.

Getting to the Station

ANT COURSE 2015 travel day for arrival is Thursday, August 6. The departure travel day is Sunday, August 16. There are limited pick-up and return times for those wanting a ride from or to the Tucson International Airport on Aug. 6 and August 16, respectively. The Course will provide transportation to and from the station at the scheduled times only. If these times do not work with your travel schedule, we advise you to arrange your own transportation. Driving time between the Tucson International Airport and SWRS is approximately 3 hours one way. If you miss the last shuttle, you must rent a car and drive to the station. Those traveling from outside the USA should strongly consider arriving a day early and spending the night near the airport (see below).

Flying.–If you are flying into Tucson International Airport, vans will be waiting for pick-ups at 12 noon and at 4:00 p.m. The meeting area will be in front of the **American Airlines ticket counter on the airport's upper level**. Instructors will be waiting for you there, standing next to an "ANT COURSE" sign.

If you encounter difficulty in scheduling an arrival time before 4:00 p.m. on August 6, you may want to consider arriving in Tucson on August 5, staying overnight at one of the nearby airport hotels, and then taking a short taxi ride to the airport the next day. It is much cheaper to stay the night in a hotel the night before than to rent a car for 10 days if you miss the last shuttle. A possible hotel is the Best Western Inn at the Airport, 7060 South Tucson Boulevard, Tucson, Arizona 85706; (520) 746-0271. Your other option is to rent a car and drive to the station.

As always happens, planes get delayed. If you encounter significant travel problems on August 6, please contact the Research Station at (520) 558-2396 as soon as you can. Instructors at the airport on the 6th will be calling the Station to learn of any travel problems. NOTE: Brian Fisher will arrive at the Station on August 4, so any problems or questions during the week prior to the course should be sent via email when possible.

For those flying out of Tucson, transport to the airport will be available on Friday, August 16. Vans will leave the Station at 8:30 a.m. and should arrive at the airport around noon on Aug. 16. Therefore, departing flights should NOT be scheduled that leave before 1:00 p.m.

Driving.–If you are driving to the Research Station via Tucson, the Station's web site provides the following instructions: "Interstate Highway 10 to N.M. 80 (Road Forks, N.M.), 25 mi south to turnoff west to Portal (N.M. 533). The Station is 5 mi west of

Portal, by paved road, in Cave Creek Canyon, Cochise Co., Arizona." SWRS is approximately 3 hours from Tucson and 5 hours from Phoenix.

IMPORTANT: Be sure to take Route 80 off of Highway 10, only AFTER you cross the border from Arizona into New Mexico. This is an easy mistake. ** Also, note that the "5 mi west of Portal" is a long 5 miles. The road is narrow and full of curves and turns. The Station will be on the left-hand side of the road and is marked by a sign.

Costs
Note that the course costs exceed tuition paid by students. In effect, all students receive a scholarship thanks to generous ant course donors.

1. Tuition Fee: $475 for students and $975 for nonstudents
2. Station Fee: $670, covers room and 3 meals a day
3. Transportation to and from Tucson, AZ is additional. Students are expected to make their own travel arrangements.
4. Personal expenses are additional. Snacks, drinks, food at airport. Estimated $35.

Paying course tuition fees
Course fees should be paid **by July 1**.Pay at:
https://ticketing.calacademy.org/webstore/shop/ViewItems.aspx?CG=EP&C=ant2

Ant Course accepts checks, money orders, wire transfers, or visa. We do not accept PO's. Please make checks or money orders (in US currency) payable to California Academy of Sciences- Ant Course Fund. Reminder, Purchase orders are NOT accepted. Receipts and invoices for tuition, if needed, can be obtained during the course.

Conditions for reimbursement of Ant Course fees:
Before July 1: reimbursement of 100%
After July 1: reimbursement of 20%

For **credit card** payment of tuition, use online form at:
http://www.calacademy.org/tickets_ant_course

Wire Transfer
(1) **Bank Name and Mailing Address**:
Wells Fargo
550 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94104
(2) **Bank Telephone**: 415-396-4955
(3**) Bank E-Mail Address**: betty.yang@wellsfargo.com
(4) **Aba/Routing Number (U.S. Wires Only):** 121000248
(5) **Swift Or Iban Code (International Wires Only):** WFBIUS6S
(6) **Account Beneficiary/Payee:** California Academy of Sciences
(7) **Account Number**: 4122016397

Please notify Karla Trainor <KTrainor@calacademy.org> when funds are sent and the amount of wire.

Paying course tuition fees

Students are expected to pay Station fees, totaling $670 covering room & board and three meals a day by July 1. . The Station accepts certified checks or money orders (in U.S. dollars), and US credit cards (MC, VISA), but not personal checks. All checks should be made payable to the Southwestern Research Station, and be accompanied by your name and the course title. Mail to: Southwestern Research Station, P.O. Box 16553, Portal, AZ, USA, 85632; or call 520-558-2396 with a credit card number for course payment.

For foreign students:
**SWRS encourages foreign students to send a certified check or money order in net U.S. dollars of $670, or wire transfer the net amount into the SWRS account. Participants may email Rose Rothpletz rrothpletz@amnh.org directly to request wire transfer information. This process will assist the SWRS in avoiding any high foreign tax rates associated with credit card transactions.

In addition, foreign students can pay when they arrive at the Station but they must then pay in cash US$. Email Rose Rothpletz rrothpletz@amnh.org if you plan to pay after you arrive

Course preparation

You should: (1) purchase necessary supplies (see below), (2) review ant terminology. A copy of the morphology section of Bolton 1994 (pages 191-201) is available on the Ant Course home page.

What Ant Course provides

- The following supplies will be available to all students for use during the course. Individuals who have supplies of their own are encouraged to bring them.
- Point punch
- Paper and glue (Franklin Hide glue) for mounting
- Pinning block
- 20 microscopes available; 10 students must bring their own microscope.
- leaf litter sifting Winkler traps
- Labels

What you must bring:

- Some of the following supplies are available from BioQuip Products.
- 2 fine forceps [BioQuip #4524 Rubris #5]
- 2 featherweight forceps [one Bioquip #4748, and one #4750]

- 1 insect storage boxes [BioQuip #1009 or #1001]
- 200 insect pins #3 [BioQuip # 1203B3, or 1208B3 or 1208S3]
- 1 indelible ink Pigma pen (for writing labels) [BioQuip #1154E]
- Microscope. Students are required to borrow or rent a stereoscope from their home institution. It is critical that the dissecting scope magnifies at least 40x. 10 Stereoscopes will be available for rent for $75/each. 20 students must bring their own Stereoscope
- 50 or more vials for collecting ants
- 1 pair scissors, fine point for cutting labels
- Sturdy trowel or small shovel
- Notebook for course lectures, labs and seminars
- Field notebook for use in the field [a small, hardcover notebook works best]
- Flashlight or Headlamp: areas of the Station are very dark at night - flashlights are important; Headlamps are useful for black lighting
- Rugged footwear
- Rain gear [when it rains, it pours], plastic poncho and/or a folding umbrella will suffice.
- Alarm clock
- Water bottle
- Collecting bag or small backpack to carry gear in field.
- Small vials for collecting ants
- Bring Cash for exchanging to local currency in case an ATM is not available
- Small plastic container for keeping live colony

The following items are things that you might consider bringing:

- lap top computer (not required but encouraged)
- Digital Music and speakers will be much appreciated during late night work and end of the course party.
- Black lighting equipment
- Basic office supplies (scotch tape, stapler, paperclips).
- 3-ring notebook for organizing the numerous handouts.
- Ziploc plastic bags
- Containers to keep live ants
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Swiss Army knife (or something of the sort)
- Hand lens (10 x or 20x)
- Earplugs (for peaceful sleeping)
- Swim suit [the Station has an excellent swimming pool]

Misc. supplies and information

The vans on their way to the Station from Tucson airport on August 6 will make a stop at the well-supplied Safeway in Wilcox, Arizona At Safeway, you can purchase those items that you manage to forget, e.g., sun lotion, flashlights, as well as any

special snacks and/or refreshments that you might want to have at the Station. NOTE: At SWRS there is a Gift/Nature Shop that offers snacks, beverages, books, jewelry, clothes, hats, souvenirs and other miscellaneous items.

The local Portal Store (5 miles from the Station) provides basic amenities. We usually stop there on field trip days to stock up on bottled water and sodas.

Sending parcels to the Station

To send a parcel of supplies (scope, light etc.) to the station, use the UPS address:
Southwestern Research Station
ATT: "your name"- Ant Course
2003 W. Cave Creek Road
Portal, AZ 85632
Office phone number - some shippers ask for this (520-558-2396)

Remember to ship supplies to repack lab equipment, including scopes, etc.

When shipping supplies to the Station, you may use FedEx or UPS, with the latter working better from the Station's point of view. Please note: It is near impossible to have 1-day shipping to the Station. Please allow up to 3 days for shipments to arrive. If you have any shipping questions, contact the station at: tel: 520-558-2396

Letters can be sent through the US Mail to: PO Box 16553, Portal, AZ 85632

Specimens collected during the course

We want students to go home with a diverse collection of ants that is correctly identified to genus and species and properly labeled. We will be generating specimen labels at the Station. Remember that you will be returning with one or two insect boxes and should anticipate this for your return packing. Students who do not want to retain the specimens or all of the specimens that they collect should donate them to the course teaching collection.

Staying in contact while at the Station

Remember you are staying at a rugged field station and that communications will be limited. There is no cellular phone service at the Station. There is only one incoming phone where students can receive incoming phone calls and make outgoing calls. This phone is located in the computer lab, located directly above the main office. If interested, you will need a phone card, which you can buy in the Station's gift shop or main office - 128 minutes/$5. You can also use phone cards that you have already purchased.

Please pre-arrange phone calls from your family and friends so that you are available to answer incoming calls. The number is: 520-558-2381. To avoid a missed call, you need to be in the computer room at the time of the call. Additionally, in the event of an emergency, family/friend may call the office phone. The office phone number is: 520-558-2396.