

**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN**  
**GEOS 898: METHODS IN GEOSCIENCE FIELD INSTRUCTION**

**Application for Tuition Assistance – Summer 2025**

Two levels of tuition assistance are available to support participation in the 2025 Summer field course:

- (1) A limited number of full-tuition scholarships are available through the GeoNet Program;
- (2) Tuition reduction of 20% and \$300 in tuition support is available to teacher participants.

In addition: It is encouraged that all teachers receiving financial support apply to participate in the GeoNet Program (see the attached flyer). The GeoNet Program provides a \$1,000 stipend to support the professional development activities of participating teachers.

**Your name:**

**Your email:**

**Name of the school where you teach:**

**Educational Service Unit:**

**Title I school?** ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ I don't know

**Rural school?** ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ I don't know

**Please consider my application for:**

- ☐ full-tuition scholarship (4 awards are available)
- ☐ tuition reduction and \$300 in tuition support (most applicants receive support)
- ☐ all of the above

**Prepare an application statement in the space below**

**Please address the following:**

- (1) Describe what you want to gain from this inquiry-based geoscience field course.
- (2) Predict how immersion within an inquiry-based course might impact your future teaching.
- (3) Without consulting any resources, in your own words please define and describe 'scientific inquiry'.
- (4) Do you currently engage your students in inquiry in the classroom? If so, explain how?
- (5) What classes are you teaching now, and what do you anticipate teaching in the 2025-26 school year?
- (6) Describe ways in which you might integrate Earth & Space Sciences (ESS) content (NGSS or NCCRSS) in your existing science courses (physics, chemistry, biology, earth sciences).
- (7) Other motivations to participate in this summer geoscience field course.

**Application Deadline** for full-tuition support: **May 15<sup>th</sup>** attach application in email to [dharwood1@unl.edu](mailto:dharwood1@unl.edu)



## Connecting and Expanding the Nebraska Geoscience Teacher Network

### Benefits:

- **Retreats:** Engage in hands-on learning and gain new strategies for incorporating geoscience content into the classroom.
- **Field Trips:** Explore Nebraska's geological phenomena firsthand.
- **Collaborative Curriculum Development:** Share ideas and develop innovative lesson plans.
- **\$1000 Stipend:** Participate in GeoNet activities and receive a stipend to support your professional development.

Sign up for more  
information and  
application details:  
<https://scimath.unl.edu/geonet/>



### About GeoNet:

GeoNet aims to build a strong community of Nebraska science educators through workshops, field trips, and collaborative curriculum development.

### What's Involved:

Attend 2 retreats and work with a small group of teachers throughout the school year to develop and revise lesson plans to be used in the classroom.

#### Cohort 1:

- **July 13-15, 2025** – Summer retreat at Schramm Park
- **Summer 2026** - Summer retreat at Cedar Point Biological Station on Lake Ogallala. Dates TBD.

#### Cohort 2:

- will follow in 2026-2027



Contact Info: Mindi Searls (msearls2@unl.edu)

Nebraska Math & Science Summer Institutes (NMSSI) &  
Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (EAS)

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

**GEOS 898: METHODS in GEOSCIENCE FIELD INSTRUCTION**

Section 591 Class #2947 3 graduate credits Summer Sessions 14 to 29 June 2025



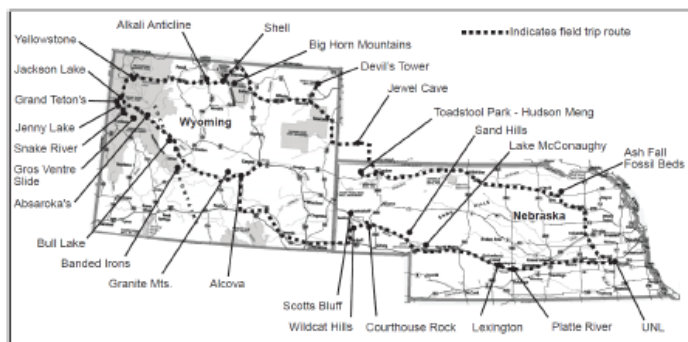
This course, directed toward in-service teachers (target grades 5 -12), comprises a 16-day inquiry-based field course and science-immersion discovery experience in Wyoming, Nebraska and South Dakota. The primary aims of this course are to improve educators' ability to teach inquiry, gain knowledge and understanding of geoscience, and to demonstrate effective teaching methods that teachers can integrate into K-12 science learning environments. We demonstrate and discuss the NGSS-style 3-D framework within course activities.

**What recent participants said:**

*"I have never learned or done so much in 2 weeks ever in my life." "I felt like I was on 'Survivor', and I was succeeding."  
"I'm inspired to continually bring up opportunities for wonder in my students." "This is truly the best course I have ever taken."  
"I learned more about geology, myself, others, life, inquiry, etc. than I ever have or could have in one year." "Awesome trip!"  
"We grew into a team that worked together & supported each other." "The food was excellent! they should write a cookbook."*

**Goals of this experience are to:**

- demonstrate inquiry concepts and skills that K-12 educators are expected to understand and employ;
- provide all participants with a 'tool-kit' of effective inquiry-based teaching practices in all science fields.
- inspire science educators to use inquiry and geoscience as unifying themes in their teaching activities;
- enhance the 'geoscience experience' for in-service science educators and their future students.



**Details:** All costs for food, accommodation & transport are provided at no cost. You get a fantastic trip, 3 graduate credits, and an amazing exposure to geoscience & inquiry. A 20% tuition reduction & \$300 tuition scholarship are available from NMSSI & EAS. In 2025: a limited number of full-tuition scholarships are available for teachers at Title I or rural schools.

This is a wonderful experience and an opportunity to network with other teachers and sharpen your skills in inquiry-based science. Through interesting and challenging activities and exposure to unique geological phenomena participants will discover the history of the Rocky Mountains and join a network of educators.

**Watch:** Two short videos describe the course, and teachers describe how they benefitted from this engaging experience.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pm3IPNPEaCA>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tul0I8XQ\\_HI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tul0I8XQ_HI)

For more information and to express interest please contact: Dr. David Harwood [ddharwood1@unl.edu](mailto:ddharwood1@unl.edu)

**Summer registration:** opens in early March. Start the process at: <http://scimath.unl.edu/nmssi/>

Tuition cost breakdown (3 credit graduate course) with support:

\$365 per credit (in-state resident rate) \$1,095 cost for 3 credits

20% tuition reduction \$ 219

Tuition support provided \$ 300

**Cost to participants** **\$ 576** + ancillary UNL fees (~\$50 to \$80)

**In summary:** ~\$38/ day for a 15 day trip and a 3 credit graduate course!