

HOW TO RESPOND TO ADVERSE WEATHER

The Program Manager will use the following protocol to guide the decision making process of field trip implementation during rain events and heat days.

Adverse Weather Criteria

Rain

- Lab field trips should not be canceled due to rain
 - Move any outdoor activities inside
 - Schedule buses for any schools that would normally walk
 - Communicate with teachers to have students come prepared for a short walk in the rain from the bus stop to the lab. Instructors can hold tarps for students to walk under if they have no rain jackets
- Day of decision: rain falling on the ground
- Canceling/rescheduling criteria for coastal field trips
 1. More than 0.25 inches in total of predicted rain fall during the trip time
 2. An event that is predicted to last all morning rather than just a few minutes
 3. More than a 10% - 15% chance of rain of substantial rain consistent throughout the morning is predicted

Heat

- Review SDUSD heat policy:
https://www.sandiegounified.org/sites/default/files_link/district/files/dept/policies_and_procedures/pp4032.plnstructor
- Check predicated temperature AT FIELD TRIP LOCATION.
 - If less than 82 degrees: no changes
 - If 83 – 92 degrees F: ensure each station has a canopy and 5-gallon water container with ample cups, make sure there are water breaks at the beginning and end of each station
 - If 93 – 95 degrees F: consider location and rescheduling. E.g. all canyon trips should be reevaluated for heat, based on time of day of trip and distance into canyon.
 - If >95 degrees F: reschedule trip

Weather Observation Timeline

The Program Manager should set a daily calendar item to check weather, and trips at risk (see below for criteria) should be noted.

- Use a weather site that uses NOAA data: www.wunderground.com

If adverse weather is predicted for a coastal field trip:

- 10 days out, review weather predictions daily.
- 5 days out, communicate with staff and schools that we are watching the weather and communicate the criteria for canceling and/or rescheduling.

- 3 days out, give an update to staff and schools; begin communication with other partners (such as field trip site hosts) – if necessary.
 - If trip is a Monday – ask school if they would prefer the call be made on Friday at the end of the day or Monday morning at 7 AM.
 - Collect teacher cell phone numbers in case communication occurs outside normal business hours.
- The day before at 4 PM:
 - If weather predictions have a small chance of changing and are adverse enough, begin canceling/rescheduling.
 - If weather is still unpredictable communicate to staff, schools, and volunteers that the decision will be made at 7 AM the next morning.