

**Agreement for the Use of Rainforest Science Cooperative Laboratory  
at the BFREE Field Station**

This Agreement is made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by and between *Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education (BFREE)* and the person listed below (*hereinafter "Researcher"*), being:

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sign Name \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed by \_\_\_\_\_

**WITNESSETH:**

WHEREAS, BFREE is a not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to promote scientific research and education, and to conserve the biodiversity and cultural heritage of Belize.

WHEREAS, BFREE desires to make the Rainforest Science Cooperative Laboratory available in order to promote and facilitate cooperative and collaborative research for the benefit of the scientific community and conservation.

WHEREAS, BFREE seeks to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on the Bladen Nature Reserve and other nearby protected areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual agreements contained in this Use Agreement, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

**SECTION ONE: PURPOSE**

This Agreement is made for the purpose of granting Researcher the right to use the Rainforest Science Collaborative Laboratory (*hereinafter "Laboratory"*) for the sole purpose of scientific research and education. For the purposes of this Agreement, the Laboratory means the building, furnishings, and all interior and exterior fixtures required for its occupation and use, including all equipment maintained therein. The Field Station means all buildings and real property possessed by BFREE.

**SECTION TWO: USE OF LABORATORY**

**1. Security Deposit**

Unless waived by BFREE, Researcher agrees to pay a security deposit of \$200.00, within 14 days of visit or upon arrival to the field station. Such deposit may be used by BFREE to pay

any expenses of cleaning and/or repairs or replacement required after use of the Laboratory by Researcher. Should BFREE determine that that Laboratory has been left in good condition, BFREE shall return the security deposit within 45 days of vacation of the Laboratory.

## **2. Daily Use Fees**

Researcher agrees that he or she will pay a sum to BFREE in the amount of \$5.00 per day, additional costs associated with a researcher's stay at the field station are set forth in the Station Use Fee Schedule attached hereto.

## **3. Term of Use**

This Agreement shall remain in force and effect from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

## **4. Rules**

Researcher agrees to abide by all rules and regulations of the BFREE Field Station, as those may be amended from time to time, a copy of which is attached hereto.

## **5. Release and Indemnification**

Researcher releases BFREE from and agrees to indemnify BFREE against any personal liability and/or property damage liability resulting from use of the Laboratory by Researcher. BFREE shall not be responsible for any damage or injury that may happen to Researcher or to Researcher's property from any cause whatsoever during the period covered by this Agreement. Researchers agree to review and sign BFREE's Visitor Health and Liability form attached hereto.

## **6. Compliance with Law**

Researcher agrees to comply with all laws of Belize for the duration of the Agreement.

## **7. Premises Liability**

Researcher shall not injure or deface the Laboratory or the Field Station.

If premises, furnishings, equipment or any portion of the Laboratory or Field Station is damaged during the term of this Agreement, due to the actions of the Researcher or any of the Researcher's guests, Researcher shall pay to BFREE, upon demand, such sum necessary to restore the Laboratory to its present condition which may be in addition to the amount deducted from the security deposit.

## **8. Right of Entry**

BFREE reserves the right to enter, clean and inspect the premises during the period of Researcher's use. BFREE also reserves the right to eject any person or persons behaving in a disorderly manner or contrary to the rules and regulations of BFREE and the laws of Belize, and/or to prevent any damage to or destruction of the premises.

## **9. Use of Facilities**

Researcher warrants that, unless otherwise agreed upon by the parties, the Laboratory shall be used only for the purposes of scientific research and education.

## **10. Right to Use**

BFREE warrants that, unless otherwise agreed upon by Researcher and BFREE, Researcher

has use of the Laboratory during the period this Agreement. Researcher has use of their own equipment, and with permission, use of BFREE's equipment.

### **11. Venue**

Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, jurisdiction and venue, with respect to any suit in connection with this Agreement, shall reside in the courts of Belize. This Agreement shall be construed and interpreted under the laws of the government of Belize.

### **SECTION THREE: EQUIPMENT STORAGE**

Storage space is limited, if you need to store equipment for long-term use, please consult with the Office Manager.

### **SECTION FOUR: SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

#### **1. Information to be Provided to BFREE**

Prior to commencement of the term of the Agreement, Researcher shall furnish BFREE with the following information:

- a) copy of research proposal used to obtain permit
- b) copy of permit from Belize Forest Department and or Fisheries Department, Ministry of Natural Resources
- c) intended use of the facilities, and
- d) list of equipment Researcher expects to bring.

#### **2. Publications**

Researchers are encouraged to acknowledge BFREE in all publications or other body of work resulting from research at BFREE, in the following format:

Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education (BFREE)

Researcher agrees to provide a hard copy and electronic copy of the publication or other body of work to BFREE within one month of publication. Hard copy should be sent to: 2602 NW 6<sup>th</sup> St. Ste D, Gainesville, FL 32609, USA. In addition, electronic copies shall be sent to [info@bfreebz.org](mailto:info@bfreebz.org). BFREE may present the publication or work on their website and add to the field site's library of published works.

#### **3. Ethics and Compliance with Law**

Research carried out in conjunction with the use of the Laboratory and the collection of specimens for research must be done in compliance with applicable domestic and international law. Researchers must be able to assure BFREE that collections were made ethically with proper respect for historic sites, natural populations, natural habitats, and local peoples.

The chosen method should be the least harmful method feasible under the circumstances and always in conformance with law.

Researcher is reminded that the Belize Forest Department Scientific Research/Collection Permit does not provide for legal exportation of specimens. Exportation of flora and fauna requires an Export Permit from the Belize Forest Department and the Belize Agriculture and Health Authority (BAHA).

The following documents are specifically incorporated by reference.

- a) Laboratory Policies
- b) Fee Schedule
- c) Field Station Policies
- d) Visitor Health and Liability Form

### **Laboratory Policies**

#### **General**

- Area is to be kept neat and clean at all times.
- Please respect the needs of other researchers using this lab.
- Nothing should be affixed to any wall, surface, or ceiling.
- Furniture is not to be rearranged or moved without permission.
- Important! Make sure that water faucet is completely turned off after each use.

#### **Refrigerator**

The refrigerator is powered by Butane Gas; the tank is located underneath the lab on the ground floor. The gas powers the refrigerator, the hot water shower, and the stove. Each tank lasts approximately 3 weeks. Butane refrigerators do not cool down as quickly as electric refrigerators. In order to maximize coldness and keep these appliances running smoothly, please note the following:

- Monitor the refrigerator daily to make sure it is running. An exhaust pipe is located in the rear left corner. Place hand over the heat pipe and if no heat exists, the refrigerator has turned off because the tank is empty. If this happens, report immediately to Office Manager.
- Do not place items on top of the refrigerator.
- Ensure refrigerator door seals when it is closed.

#### **Trash**

- Plastic, tin and other non-perishable waste items should be placed in the black trash can under the sink and when full should be carried to the recycle station.
- Batteries and any sharps should be packaged safely and carried out by user when leaving BFREE.

#### **Tools**

- Bring any specialized tools needed for your research or contact the Office Manager to inquire if the tools are available on-site.
- Tools are not housed at the lab. If you require any basic tools, ask the Office Manager.

## **Electricity**

The lab is powered by a solar array. The solar panels are located on the roof. Energy is stored in the four batteries located underneath the lab. The power produced is enough to provide energy for the lights and fans and some small appliances such as laptops, printer, etc. The solar system is small and expensive. In order to maximize power during your stay, use only what you need when you need it. Turn off all lights, fans and other appliances when not in use. If you need to charge items such as camera batteries, etc, please charge during the day when more power is available, and unplug all chargers at night and when not in use.

## **Solar Batteries**

- Do not place anything on top of batteries.
- Do not touch the batteries.

## **Hot water heater**

The hot water heater has been adjusted to provide warm showers. If the heater is not working, please contact the Office Manager. Do not adjust any knobs or settings on the hot water heater.

## **Shower and composting toilets**

The shower provides both hot and cold water and is available for researchers staying in the research cabins. To take a cold shower, simply turn the nozzle on the right 90%. To take a hot shower, simply turn the nozzle on the left 90%.

- To not turn both nozzles on at the same time.
- Make sure both nozzles are completely turned off when finished.

The composting toilets are available for use by researchers staying in the cabins. Please follow the instructions posted in the facility for proper use.

## **Storage**

- If you wish to store any of your equipment or supplies after your departure, please make arrangements with the station manager for proper storage and see the Fee Schedule for associated costs.

## **Reporting and replacing damaged items**

- User is responsible for any damage over and above normal wear and tear and must make arrangements to replace or pay for replacement of damaged items.
- Report damage to BFREE staff. An invoice will be sent to you for payment. Failure to address any damage charges will result in a \$25.00 late fee. The invoice will be sent to your supervisor, Departmental Chair, and or Institution you represent.

**Use of consumables**

- Use only equipment and expendables you have brought or made arrangements to use.

**Check-out**

- On the last day of lab use:
  - Sweep the floor of the lab, as well as porch area and steps.
  - Fill up ice trays before you depart.
  - Lab Equipment should be clean, dry and put away before departure.



# BFREE

Belize Foundation *for* Research & Environmental Education

Expenses for researchers and other visitors to the BFREE field station. Prices are per person except where specifically noted otherwise.

	<b>VISITORS</b>	<b>RESEARCHERS</b>
Conservation Fee	\$15 one-time fee per visit	
<i>MEALS</i>		
Breakfast	\$10	\$8
Lunch	\$12	\$10
Dinner	\$13	\$12
<i>LODGING - DAY RATES (Plus 9% hotel tax for all visitors)</i>		
Tent Camping - Provide your own tent, cold shower access.	\$15	\$10
Bunkhouses - Cold shower access.	\$25	\$20
Cabins - Hot and cold shower access.	\$60 for the first person, each additional person \$10, up to four	\$35 for the first person, each additional person \$10, up to four
<i>CABIN LODGING - MULTI-WEEK RATES (RESEARCHERS ONLY)</i>		
Cabins - One-to-Four-Week Rate	N/A	\$30 for the first person, each additional person \$10, up to four
Cabins - Monthly Rate	N/A	\$25 for the first person, each additional person \$10, up to four
<i>COMMUNICATIONS &amp; RESEARCH</i>		
Lab Access - Includes refrigerator, freezer, stove, oven, power, bench space and storage.	N/A	\$5 per day
Internet	\$5/hour or \$75/month	
Telephone	\$5 and \$10 phone cards available for purchase onsite	
<i>TRANSPORTATION TRUCK (UP TO FOUR PEOPLE)</i>		
International Airport to BFREE	\$400	
Dangriga Airstrip to BFREE	\$250	
Savannah Airstrip to BFREE	\$150	
Punta Gorda Airstrip to BFREE	\$200	
Gomez Sawmill to BFREE	\$100	

US for Belize Foundation *for* Research & Environmental Education

2602 NW 6th Street, Suite D, Gainesville, FL 32607

352-256-1281

[www.bfreebz.org](http://www.bfreebz.org)

[jmarlin@bfreebz.org](mailto:jmarlin@bfreebz.org)

## Field Station Policies

### **Health and Safety:**

- If you have any medical conditions we should know about, please inform the office manager ASAP.
- Make sure you stay hydrated.
- You **MUST** use flashlights at all times when walking around at night.

### **Respect Nature:**

- Do not molest, harm, or kill any wildlife (including venomous snakes).
- Do not chop brush or mark trees with machetes or other tools.
- Remove your flagging when project is complete.

### **Meals:**

- If you have any food allergies or special dietary needs, please let the office manager know ASAP!
- Meal times (unless other arrangements are made)

<b>Breakfast</b>	7:30 a.m.
<b>Lunch</b>	12 noon
<b>Dinner</b>	6:30 p.m.
- Arrive on time for meals. If you decide to skip a meal, please let the kitchen staff know at least one meal in advance.
- If you need a trail lunch, please notify kitchen staff (by breakfast) one day in advance.

### **Phone:**

- Please use a SMART phone card, call collect. Phone cards can be purchased from the office manager or upon arrival in Belize from most gas stations.
- A phone designated for visitor use is located adjacent to the office stairs on the exterior of the building.
- To reach the station from the US, dial 011-501-650-8974. The phone requires calling cards provided by SMART which call only be purchased in Belize.

### **Trails:**

- Many trails are available. See the map on the information board or in the bunkhouse.
- If you go for a hike, let the field station manager or other staff members know where you are going and the approximate time of your return.

### **Campfires:**

- Campfires are only allowed in the fire pit near the kitchen with permission from the field station manager.



**Smoking:**

- Smoking is not allowed in the BFREE buildings.
- Please dispose of your butts properly—in the garbage and not on the ground!

**Bunkhouse rules:**

To make everyone's stay more pleasant, please observe the following:

1. Leave shoes outside the building
2. Keep doors closed
3. Turn off lights when not in use
4. No candles
5. Keep all food and perishables in a sealed container (we don't want pesky rodents or ants!)
6. 9 p.m. is quiet time—please turn down music and talk softly, especially at the dining room.

**Cleaning:**

- Trash is picked up from all buildings on Friday at 2 p.m.
- Outhouses are cleaned every Wednesday.

If you have any questions or problems, please see the office manager.  
Thank you for helping us keep BFREE running smoothly for all of our visitors and staff!



## HEALTH AND LIABILITY FORM



### BELIZE FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (BFREE)

Please fill out this form completely and accurately. Thorough answers will enable us to respond to any problem or emergency that may arise during your stay at BFREE.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ SEX: M \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

I AM HERE AS A: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP  
STUDENT \_\_\_\_\_ RESEARCHER \_\_\_\_\_ VOLUNTEER \_\_\_\_\_ VISITOR

DATES OF STAY AT BFREE: \_\_\_\_\_ BLOOD TYPE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ RELATIONSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS? \_\_\_\_\_

### MEDICAL HISTORY

(PLEASE MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

#### ALLERGIES

- Penicillin
- Iodine
- Heat
- Aspirin
- Other Medication \_\_\_\_\_
- Insects (Bee stings etc) \_\_\_\_\_
- Food: Lactose  
Int./Gluten/Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Fabric: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

If you checked any of the above, please describe your reaction and how you treat it.

\_\_\_\_\_

- SEIZURES  
If so, when was your last seizure? \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you currently on medication? \_\_\_\_\_  
What type? \_\_\_\_\_
- EATING DISORDER
- CROHN'S DISORDER
- FAINTING
- DRUG PROBLEMS

- BACK PROBLEMS
- KNEE/OTHER JOINT PROBLEM
- HEAT EXHAUSTION
- ASTHMA  
If so, are you currently on medication?  
What type: \_\_\_\_\_
- BRONCHITIS
- RHEUMATIC FEVER
- POOR CIRCULATION
- ARTHRITIS
- CHRONIC DIARRHEA
- STOMACH/INTESTINAL PROBLEMS  
If so, are you currently on medication?  
What kind? \_\_\_\_\_
- DIABETES: \_\_injection\_\_pill\_\_diet
- ABNORMAL BLOOD PRESSURE:  
If so, are you currently on medication?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- HYPERTENSION  
If so, are you currently on medication?
- MONONUCLEOSIS
- RAYNAUD'S SYNDROME
- DENTAL/EYE ISSUES: \_\_\_\_\_
- SLEEPWALKING

IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER MEDICAL CONDITION NOT LISTED HERE THAT WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PLEASE ELABORATE:

**Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education (BFREE)  
Waiver of Liability**

The purpose of this **Waiver of Liability**, issued by the Directors, Officers and Managers of the Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education (BFREE) and required to be signed by every researcher, student, teacher, intern and visitor who comes to BFREE (Participants), is as follows:

1. To inform all PARTICIPANTS of the dangers inherent in visiting the natural environmental in Belize and BFREE.
2. To secure the voluntary consent of participants to participate in any activities conducted at BFREE and to ensure that each PARTICIPANT understands the possible dangers that could result from this exposure.
3. To secure from each PARTICIPANT a waiver of liability for BFREE Directors, Officers, and Management for any injury, illness or death resulting from the dangers enumerated below.

The dangers referred to above include but are not limited to the following:

1. Intestinal or other disorders resulting from a change in climate, eating habits, or exposure to foreign beaches, rivers or other bodies of water.
2. Contracting diseases such as malaria, leishmaniasis, cholera, dysentery, parasites, yellow fever, dengue fever, tuberculosis, hepatitis, and rabies
3. Snake bites, venomous and non-venomous
4. Allergic reactions to plants and insects, e.g. poisonwood, mosquitoes, scorpions, doctor flies, and other stinging insects
5. Thorns from sharp vines and other plants
6. Drowning or injuries when snorkeling or scuba diving in fresh water or salt water, e.g. shark, man-o-war, rays, and coral
7. Sprains, contusions and broken bones
8. Infected insect bites and systemic infections, including bee stings
9. Cuts, punctures, abrasions and burns
10. Injuries due to natural disasters, e.g. falling branches and rock slides
11. Injuries due to encounters with wild animals, e.g. large cats, boars and crocodiles
12. Lack of immediate medical attention by trained medical personnel

I have read the above waiver and by signing it agree that I am aware of the possible dangers that may occur as a result of participating in programs sponsored by BFREE in Belize, Central America. Nevertheless, I choose to participate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name of Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness's signature and Date