NMGS 2026 FALL FIELD CONFERENCE STYLE GUIDE

To simplify writing and editing, this documents contains an evolving list of terms that can cause issues in the editing process.

ALBUQUERQUE STREET NAMING CONVENTION

Albuquerque is geographically divided into four quadrants of unequal area that are officially part of mailing addresses, placed immediately after the street name. They are Northeast (NE), Northwest (NW), Southeast (SE), and Southwest (SW). Albuquerque's official quadrant system uses Central Ave for the north–south division and the main railroad tracks for the east–west division. I-25 and I-40 are also sometimes used informally to divide the city into quadrants but are not official dividers.

PLACE NAMES

- Rio Grande rift (not Rio Grande Rift)
- Albuquerque Basin
    - Can locally divide into Santo Domingo sub-basin, Calabacillas sub-basin, and Belen sub-basin
- San Juan Basin (not San Juan basin)
- Rio Puerco Valley (valley capitalized)
- Western Cordillera (capitalized)
- Sierra Nacimiento
- Sandia Mountains; can be abbreviated as Sandia Mts (not Sandias or Sandia's)
- Llano de Albuquerque
- Town of Atrisco Grant
- Elena Gallegos Open Space
- Albert Simms Park
- Albuquerque Metropolitan Flood Control Authority. Can be abbreviated to AMAFCA after initial use
- Rio Grande Valley
- West Mesa
- Rio Rancho (or City of Rio Rancho)
- Hagan Basin. Can be called Hagan embayment if referring to the geomorphic region.
- Española Basin
- Arroyo de las Calabacillas
- Kirtland Airforce Base. Can be abbreviated to Kirtland AFB

ROADS

- Interstate 25. Can be abbreviated to I 25
- Interstate 40. Can be abbreviated to I 40
- U.S. Route 550 or State Road 44. Can be abbreviated to US 550 (not Highway 550)
- State Road 44 (can be abbreviated to NM 44)

- State Road 528. Can be abbreviated to NM 528
- State Road 165 (Placitas Road). Can be abbreviated to NM 165
- Tramway Blvd. (NM 556)
- Paseo del Norte Blvd. (NM 423)
- Sandia Crest Road (NM 536)
- Coors Blvd. NW (NM 45)
- Alameda Blvd. (NM 528)
- Rio Rancho Blvd. (NM 528)
- Forest Road 333. Can be abbreviated to FS 333
- State Road 14. Can be abbreviated to NM 14.
- State Road 47 or 2nd St. NW
- State Road 45 or Unser Blvd. NW. Can be abbreviated to NM 45
- State Road 47 or Broadway Blvd. NW or Broadway Blvd. SW depending on location. Can be abbreviated to NM 45
- State Road 448. Can be abbreviated to NM 448; note that NM 448 is also called Corrales Road NW north of the intersection with NM 528 and Coors Rd NW to the south of the intersection.

Other Words

- All faults: use word fault in lower case
- ash fall (two words) (e.g., ash-fall deposit)
- base level (two words)
- bedform (one word)
- bedset (one word)
- cattle guard (two words)
- core-stone
- dip slope (two words)
- eolian not aeolian
- ground water (two words)
- platey (do not use platy)
- ponderosa pine (not just ponderosa)
- power line (two words)
- road log (two words)
- sandbody
- substop (one word; no hyphen)
- toward (not towards)
- viewpoint (one word)
- Sea level (two words, singular)
- University of New Mexico (spell out for the first encounter; can abbreviate subsequently)
- two track (not 2-track)
- Open pit (n) vs open-pit (adj)

Abbreviations

- Circa: *ca.*

Units

- Driving distances in miles (not in km)
- All other units (thicknesses, elevations, etc.) use metric first followed by English equivalent in parentheses.
- Use of ~ is permissible for "approximately" before numbers (without a space between this symbol and the number)
- Avoid mixing stratigraphic vs. age positions (use lower case, except at beginning of a sentence or if it is part of a formal term):
    - Time: late, middle, early
    - Relative position: upper, middle, lower
- Geological age terms:
    - Use uppercase "My" for million years as a time interval.
    - For geologic ages, use Ma (mega annum), e.g., million years ago
    - For age ranges, place older age before younger; e.g., "between 27 and 23 My"

Figure Numbers

- Road Log 1: Figure 1.01, 1.02, etc.
- Road Log 2: Figure 2.01, 2.02, etc.
- Road Log 3: Figure 3.01, 3.02, etc.
- Papers and mini papers: Figure 1, 2, etc.

Use authors' spellings for

- Stratigraphic names
- Place names and locations
- Common, scientific, or Indigenous language terms: For plants, use common name followed by Indigenous name (where appropriate), scientific name in in italics in parentheses at first use. E.g., narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*)

Formatting and Punctuation

- **Waypoint** (but not also ALL CAPS). Use square [] brackets around GPS location information
- Stop numbers (These are H2s) **(STOP 1: all caps and bold.** Title of stop is just in bold)
- Subheadings underneath stops (These are H3s)
- Sentences or phrases with directions (e.g., **Turn right**) or instructions (e.g., **Return to vehicles**). (Should be consistent) **ZERO ODOMETER (all caps and bold)**
- REZERO, not RE-ZERO
- Semicolon between zip code and email address for corresponding author. No comma or other punctuation at the end of author name and address line
- Periods at the end of the figure and table captions
- Heading should be REFERENCES not "References Cited"
- Abbreviation for figure (e.g., Fig. 1.03) for call outs in the text.
- Use semicolon in parentheses when a figure callout and citation are in the same parentheses (e.g., don't have closed parentheses and open parentheses back-to-back). Example: (Fig. 2; Hook, 1983) not (Fig. 2) (Hook, 1983)

- Negative sign: Use glyph for minus sign in Times New Roman from InDesign: − (Copy and paste it from here into Word)
- En dash (shortcut on Mac, option &hyphen character) between numbers (e.g., 10–20)
- Use en-dash between chronostratigraphic units for boundaries or units that straddle more than one chronostratigraphic unit; e.g., Cretaceous–Paleocene boundary. Do not use a slash or regular dash.
- Use en dash (shortcut on Mac, option & hyphen character) between stratigraphic units at a contact: Morrison–Dakota contact
- Use semicolons when multiple papers are cited (e.g., Izett and Wilcox, 1982; Dethier, 2001)
- Soil orders are capitalized
- Dashes in measurements and "wide," "tall," etc. with conversions, e.g., 1 m (3.3 ft)-wide. Or 40-m (131-ft)-tall

Other

- 30x60-minute quadrangle (not 30'x60' quadrangle)
- 7.5-minute quadrangle (not 7.5' quadrangle)
- Spell out chemical elements or constituents, unless they are in a list of 5 or more constituents
- For in-text citations with multiple sources, put them in order of ascending date (Obermeier, 1996; Bartholomew et al., 2002; Jackson et al., 2016). For citations with more than one paper by a single author, separate them with a comma, not a semicolon (Hobbs, 2016, 2021)
- Use Mw for earthquake magnitude

Stratigraphic Terms

- Chinle Group
- Dakota Formation
- Entrada Sandstone
- Cliff House Sandstone
- Point Lookout Sandstone
- Satan Tongue
- Mulatto Tongue
- Mesaverde Group
- Santa Fe Group. Subdivisions can be:
    - upper Santa Fe Group
    - middle Santa Fe Group
    - lower Santa Fe Group)
- Use Bryan and McCann's Santa Fe Group/Fm termination only for historical comparisons (upper buff, middle red, lower gray)
- Zia Formation
- Cerro Conejo Formation
- Arroyo Ojito Formation
- Ceja Formation
- Sierra Ladrones Formation

- Arroyo Ojito Formation
- Tuerto gravels or Tuerto formation
- Ancha Formation
- Madera Group
    - Where possible, try to use formation terms, such as Gray Mesa Formation or Atrasado Formation
- Ceja Formation
    - Rio Puerco Member, Ceja Formation
    - Atrisco Member, Ceja Formation
    - Santa Ana Mesa Member, Ceja Formation
- Geomorphic surfaces:
    - Sunport surface
    - Llano de Albuquerque surface
- Quaternary Rio Grande terraces
    - Use geomorphic terms only for geomorphic surfaces associated with the preserved top of Rio Grande terrace deposits:
        - Primero Alto
        - Segundo Alto
        - Tercero Alto.
    - Use lithostratigraphic terms for formalized Rio Grande terrace deposits (associated geomorphic surfaces are shown in parenthesis for reference):
        - Arenal Formation (Primero Alto)
        - Los Duranes Formation (Segundo Alto)
        - Edith Formation
        - Lomatas Negras Formation (Tercero Alto)