**Student Environmental Science Lab Safety Contract**

**Environmental Science Lab Safety Rules:**

Environmental science lab safety rules are guidelines designed to help keep you safe when experimenting. Some equipment and chemicals in an environmental science laboratory can cause serious harm. It is always wise to follow all lab safety rules. Don't forget, the most helpful safety rule is to use plain old common sense. The following lab safety rules are a sample of the most basic rules that should be followed.

**Be Prepared:**

Before you enter a lab, you should be prepared for and knowledgeable about any lab exercises that are to be performed. That means you should read your directions and pay attention to verbal instructions.  
Review your notes and relevant sections in your textbook before your lab begins. Make sure you understand all procedures and purposes, as this will help you understand the lab activities you will perform.

**Be Neat:**

When working in a lab, make sure you keep your area neat and organized. If you happen to spill something, ask for assistance when cleaning it up. Also remember to clean your work area and wash your hands when you are finished.

**Be Careful:**

An important lab safety rule is to be careful. You may be working with glass or sharp objects, so you don't want to handle them carelessly.

**Wear Proper Clothing:**

Accidents do happen in a lab. Some chemicals have the potential to damage clothing. With that in mind, you want to make sure that the clothing you wear is something you could do without if it becomes damaged. You will also want to wear proper shoes that can protect your feet in case something gets broken. Sandals or any type of open-toed shoes are not recommended.

**Be Cautious With Chemicals:**

The best way to remain safe when dealing with chemicals is to assume that any chemical you handle is dangerous. Be sure you understand what type of chemicals you are using and how they should be properly handled. If any chemical comes in contact with your skin, wash immediately with water and inform your lab instructor. Wear protective eyewear when handling chemicals.

**Wear Safety Goggles:**

I know that safety goggles are not stylish and can fit awkwardly on your face, but they should always be worn when you are working with chemicals or any type of heating apparatus.

**Locate Safety Equipment:**

Be sure you know where to find all safety equipment in the biology lab. This includes such items as the fire extinguisher, first aid kit, broken glass receptacles, and chemical waste containers. Also be sure you know where all the emergency exits are located and which exit route to take in case of an emergency.

**Environmental Science Lab Don'ts:**

There are several things in a lab that you must always avoid.   
**Do Not**

* eat or drink in the lab, this includes water and gum
* taste any chemicals or substances you are working with
* use your mouth for pipetting substances
* handle broken glass with bare hands
* pour chemicals down the drain without permission
* operate lab equipment without permission
* perform your own experiments unless given permission
* leave any heated materials unattended
* place flammable substances near heat
* engage in childish antics such as horseplay or pranks

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read and agree to abide by the safety regulations above as well as printed or orally given by my teacher. Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_