Field Trip to Franklin and Ogdensburg, New Jersey

The zinc mines in Franklin and Ogdensburg (Sterling Hill Zinc Mine) in Sussex County, New Jersey have produced more than 300 mineral species, by far the richest localities in mineralogy. Of 300, nearly 200 species are unique to these towns. Moreover, almost 100 minerals are known to fluoresce. Needless to say, Franklin and Ogdensburg are "the place to dig"!

We're planning to make a two-day trip during the Columbus Day weekend. We have three events scheduled, and each participant meets at the specified time and location. He/she is free to attend any of these events, although I think all three are quite exciting.

For this field trip, we have arranged a special night collection at Sterling Hill Zinc Mine. Red/green fluorescent minerals are everywhere! We can also look for hydrozincite, wollastonite, "crazy" calcite, etc. On Sunday, we'll tour the Sterling Hill Zinc Mine. Again by special arrangement, we will have a Geologist as our tour guide and the tour will focus on geological aspects of the mine. Later in the afternoon, we are also allowed to do some field collection at the mine and the surrounding field.

Itinerary:
October 9 (Saturday)
1 - 4 PM Tour of Franklin Mineral Museum ($8)
Collection at Buckwheat Dump (free up to 5 pounds)

7 - 9 PM Night Collection at Sterling Hill Zinc Mine (fluorescent minerals!)
Collection fee = $1 per pound

October 10 (Sunday)
11 AM - 2 PM Tour of Sterling Hill Zinc Mine ($8)
Field collection at Sterling Hill Zinc Mine

What you need:
Sturdy footwear (we'll be in a field), Jacket (the temperature inside the mine is about 60 deg F), Baseball cap (water drips inside the mine), Safety eyewear (to protect your eyes from ultraviolet lamp; most of plastic goggles will do, rock hammer, chisel, bucket
I have four portable UV Lamps to share.

Transportation: You provide your own. Please note that New York City is only about 60 miles away, and you can make a nice excursion to American Museum of Natural History (for meteorite fans), or Broadway shows, etc.

Lodging: There are several motels nearby. I have used Sussex Motel and Rolling Hill Motel, both on Rt. 23. $55/night. There are more in the area. Students have camped at a nearby state park as well.

Rolling Hills Motel 127 State Rt 23, Sussex, NJ  (973) 875-1270
(5 miles from Franklin)

Sussex Motel 187 State Rt 23, Sussex, NJ (973) 875-4191
(6 miles from Franklin)

Days Inn, 15 Rt. 94 in McAfee, NJ 973-827-4666
(6 miles from Franklin)

Questions?: Chief Noda, cnoda@bridgew.edu
508-531-2998 (day); 508-587-5675 (night)

Internet:
Franklin Mineral Museum www.franklinmineralmuseum.com/
Sterling Hill Zinc Mine www.sterlinghill.org/

Driving (from Brockton, MA) (easier drive):
1: Take I-90 W/MASS PIKE/MASSACHUSETTS TURNPIKE

2: Merge onto I-84 W via exit number 9 toward HARTFORD/NEW YORK CITY (Portions toll). 161.9 miles

3: Merge onto NY-17M/US-6 W via exit number 3W toward MIDDLETOWN. 0.5 miles

4: Turn LEFT onto US-6. 3.5 miles

5: Turn LEFT onto NY-284. 16.0 miles

6: Turn LEFT onto NJ-23 S. 6.8 miles

7: End at Franklin NJ

In town of Franklin, look for brown signs "Mineral Museum". Or ask locals. Everyone knows, and Franklin is not a large town. Approaching from North, you will see some shopping malls on left. Once you're past Wal*Mart and Dunkin Donuts, start looking for signs "Mineral Museum" on your right. Follow the signs.

Ogdensburg is on Rt. 914. From Franklin, you keep going south on NJ-23, and turn right (go south) on NJ-914. In a mile or so, you will pass the town of Ogdensburg (small). Keep going another 1/4 mile or so, and you will see a sign for Sterling Hill Zinc Mine on your right. Again, follow the signs.

The total distance is about 255 miles from Bridgewater, and it takes me about 4 hours and 30 minutes, up to 5 hours.