Unit descriptions cheat sheet

Be sure to include the following information in all of your unit descriptions.

**Igneous rock unit description**

* Brief composition and type of igneous feature (e.g. basaltic cinder cone, granitic pluton, basaltic dike)
* Overall color on weathered and fresh surfaces
* Texture = crystal size (aphanitic, phaneritic, porphyritic); sizes if visible
* Detailed mineral composition, if visible, including phenocrysts
* Other distinctive features (vesicles, joints, etc.)

**Sedimentary** (and metasedimentary) **rock unit description**

* Basic composition (e.g. sandstone, limestone, etc.)
* Overall color on both weathered and fresh surfaces
* For clastic rocks: Grain size, sorting, and rounding
* Bedding: thickness and general character (e.g. cross-bedded, etc.)
* Nature of contacts (e.g. sharp, gradational, etc.)
* Other distinctive features (fossils, veins, etc.)

**Unconsolidated sedimentary deposit unit description**

* Geomorphic feature and location (e.g. alluvial fan north of the cinder cone, glacial moraine south of the creek)
* Overall color of entire deposit (not individual clasts)
* Clast size, sorting, rounding
* Broad rock types that make up the deposits
* Bedding: thickness and general character
* Other distinctive features