

Skin in the game – towards an AGS Outreach & Education Program

K-12 geoscience education in Arizona suffers from a lack of resources and a shortage of teachers with Earth science training. A number of Arizona Earth science institutions and organizations have stepped up to fill the education-resource gap – see below for some prominent players.

There's plenty of room and opportunity for the Arizona Geological Society (AGS) to establish an *Outreach and Education program* and get some skin in the game.

At the AGS Executive Committee meeting of April 9, 2015, we passed a motion to establish a committee to explore an "AGS Outreach and Education" program.

We need an AGS member to step forward and chair the committee. Interested? Please contact Mike Conway at Michael.conway@azgs.az.gov. We also need several individuals from the general membership to join and support the effort. Do you know someone with the experience and drive to move this forward?

At this stage our chief objectives are to find a chair and interested members to:

1. Explore models for a sustainable outreach and education program;
2. Make recommendations on how to structure an outreach and education program;
3. Support AGS's ExCom in its efforts to develop a meaningful program to help meet the Earth science needs of Arizona's K-12 children.

Last, this approach is consistent with the recent AGS position paper on "*The Importance of Teaching Geology at K-12 Levels*" (<https://arizonageologicalsociety10.wildapricot.org/Position-Statements>).



Some prominent Earth science outreach programs in Arizona

- The Univ. of Arizona's Lowell Institute for Mineral Resources brings mineral and mining concepts to thousands of Arizona students annually (supported by the Mining Foundation of the Southwest).
- Arizona State University's ESEO program hosts open houses, special events and a geoscience festival each year.
- Volunteers from Phoenix's Earth Science Museum visit hundreds of classroom and reach thousands of students annually with instructional mineral and rock sets.
- Each year at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, students from the University of Arizona's Dept. of Geosciences partner with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society to staff the successful Jr. Education Earth Science area for more than 2,000 children and family participants

For additional information or to volunteer your services: Michael.conway@azgs.az.gov; 520.209.4146.

Respectfully yours,

Mike Conway

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