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# Earth Science Week 2006

**“Be a Citizen Scientist!”**

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## *Highlights and News Clippings*



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## **Highlights and News Clippings from Earth Science Week 2006**

### *Introduction*

Held Oct. 8-14, 2006, the ninth annual Earth Science Week celebrated the theme “Be a Citizen Scientist!” This theme focused on the ability of ordinary citizens — students, teachers, and the general public — to make observations, collect data, test results, and participate in real scientific research. Each year, AGI organizes Earth Science Week as a service to its member societies, with generous help from major partners which provide funding, donated materials, organize events and publicize the celebration. Partners in 2006 included the United States Geological Survey, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists Foundation, the National Park Service, NASA, and NOAA.

Participation in Earth Science Week 2006 remained strong. People in all 50 states and in more than five countries participated in events and activities. More than 1,200 people nationwide entered AGI’s Visual Arts, Essay and Photography Contests, up a significant 155 percent from 2005. In addition, the total number of visitors to the Earth Science Week website in October 2006 rose 22.5 percent from October 2005.

Earth Science Week events ranged from educators teaching Earth science activities in their classrooms to open houses held at major USGS field stations. A detailed list of events is can be found in Section 1. This list represents only events reported directly to AGI to date, so please notify Earth Science Week staff if your participation is not listed.

Additional events are highlighted in Section 2, which compiles a variety of news releases and other items on related activities by members of the geoscience community. Please consult these highlights to learn about activities organized by other Earth science enthusiasts and to generate ideas for future Earth Science Week participation.

Each year, more and more people are introduced to Earth Science Week by reading or watching a news story in the media. This year, print media coverage of Earth Science Week reached more than 876,600 readers. Section 3 provides a compilation of examples of print media that appeared in publications advertising Earth Science Week events and materials. In addition, television viewers watched news coverage of Earth Science Week on their local stations in three states.

This Highlights and News Clippings report is designed to give an overview of the activities organized by AGI and other organizations for Earth Science Week. We hope that this information on 2006 events and publicity inspires you to develop your own Earth Science Week celebration next year. As always, please visit [www.earthsciweek.org](http://www.earthsciweek.org) for event planning, materials, resources, and support. Contact Earth Science Week staff at [info@earthsciweek.org](mailto:info@earthsciweek.org) for assistance in planning for Earth Science Week.

## Section 1

### **Earth Science Week 2006 Summary of Activities**

#### **Earth Science Week Toolkits**

For 2006, AGI distributed more than 15,000 Earth Science Week Toolkits to teachers and geoscientists across the country. Kits were sent to recipients in all 50 states and several countries. In addition to the thousands distributed to science educators nationwide by major program partners such as the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), more than a dozen AGI member societies requested complimentary shipments of kits for distribution this year, as well as a vast majority of state geological surveys (31).

The kits featured AGI's traditional event poster and school-year calendar showcasing geoscience careers, classroom investigations, and important dates of Earth science events. Also included were posters, flyers, electronic disks, bookmarks, and activities from AGI, USGS, NASA, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Park Service, the Joint Oceanographic Institute (JOI), EarthScope, the Geological Society of America (GSA), Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS), the National Weather Service, S'COOL, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), The Smithsonian Institution, the Soil Science Society of America, the Society for Sedimentary Geology, the Association of American State Geologists, and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG).

A special component of this year's kits was an activities poster for the elementary grades created in collaboration with Scholastic Inc., the global education publisher, with generous support from the American Geological Institute Foundation. The poster, entitled "The Wonders of Earth," included a teaching guide to promote geoscience education, as well as *K-5 GeoSource* ([www.k5geosource.org](http://www.k5geosource.org)), AGI's new online Earth-science professional development tool for elementary teachers. (In addition to distribution through Earth Science Week Toolkits, the teaching guides were direct-mailed to more than 150,000 educators nationwide, potentially reaching an estimated five million students.)

#### **Web Resources**

The Earth Science Week website ([www.earthsciweek.org](http://www.earthsciweek.org)) was updated regularly to reflect the new theme, contests, proclamations, events, and classroom activities for 2006. As a result, the site was viewed by more than 15,400 visitors in October 2006 and by more than 64,000 visitors over the entire year. This increase in visitors of 21 percent from October 2005 to October 2006 provides strong evidence of the website's continuing importance in educating the public about the event.

## **Newsletters**

The monthly Earth Science Week Update Newsletter reached more than 1,900 teacher, student, and geoscientist subscribers. This electronic newsletter kept planners and participants up-to-date on Earth Science Week planning at the national level and encouraged participation in local areas. Earth Science Week staff distributed four newsletters leading up to Earth Science Week 2006 and one following the celebration.

## **National Contests**

AGI held national contests in connection with Earth Science Week for the fifth consecutive year. The contests were designed to encourage K-12 students, teachers, and the general public to get involved in the celebration by exploring artistic and academic applications of Earth science. AGI received a record 1,277 entries for the visual art, essay, and photography contests, up 167 percent from 2005. The winner in each category received an award of \$300, plus a complimentary one-year subscription to AGI's monthly *Geotimes* magazine.

## **Official Proclamations**

Governors issued proclamations recognizing Earth Science Week in 22 states: Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont and Washington.

In addition, President George W. Bush officially recognized the week with a Presidential Message from the White House. "Scientific advances have revolutionized our world, and Americans have long been leaders in exploration and discovery," wrote Bush. "The theme of this year's Earth Science Week, 'Be a Citizen Scientist,' encourages all Americans to participate in scientific research and learn more about science in our daily lives." He continued, saying, "I appreciate Earth scientists for increasing our understanding of the universe.... I also appreciate teachers, parents, and all those dedicated to engaging students' curiosity and preparing a new generation of innovators and pioneers for success."

## **Publicity**

In 2006, AGI made a strategic effort to enlist the support of a wider range of media in promoting awareness of Earth Science Week. Seeking collaborations with television, Internet, print news media, and others resulted in unprecedented reach for promotional activities in 2006 and helped lay a foundation for more in years to come.

### ***Television***

The Washington D.C. area's NBC News Channel 4 (WRC-TV) helped promote Earth Science Week, reaching more than 170,000 individuals. In the local 5 p.m. news broadcast on Oct. 11, meteorologist Bob Ryan discussed Earth Science Week as part of his local weather forecast. He held up an Earth Science Week T-shirt and kit, stating that the American Geological Institute sponsors Earth Science Week and that it is a worldwide event celebrating Earth science. NBC Channel 4 also featured a link to the Earth Science Week website on the station's local weather page.

In Salt Lake City, Utah, at 5 p.m. on Oct. 5, Eyewitness News (KSL-TV) announced that hundreds of students celebrated Earth Science Week. The Utah Department of Natural Resources sponsored an event in which these students visited the Utah Core Research Center. Students panned for gold, examined Utah's rocks, and studied erosion.

The Morning News (KFOX-TV) in El Paso, Texas, which reaches around 11,000 viewers, announced that the Department of Geology at the University of Texas at El Paso hosted an Earth Science Week event. Families got a chance to learn about what geologists do on the job and why geology is important.

### ***Internet***

Earth Science Week was highlighted on scores of webpages besides the official event site. USGS, AAPG, GSA, NASA, and the National Park Service each featured at least one Earth Science Week webpage to help promote that organization's events and to publicize the celebration itself.

### ***Print Media***

AGI distributed press releases to hundreds of print media outlets. Many local and national publications ran items on Earth Science Week; for examples, see Section 3.

In addition to press releases, AGI's Ann E. Benbow and Geoff Camphire co-wrote articles for the National Science Teachers Association's *The Science Teacher* and *Science Scope* magazines. The articles highlighted Earth Science Week, activities, and this year's theme, "Be a Citizen Scientist!" More than 44,000 copies were distributed to leading Earth science educators and others nationwide.

The Earth Science Week 2006 poster, including a geoscience learning activity, was inserted into six magazines, including *The Science Teacher* and *Science Scope*, the National Earth Science Teachers Association's *The Earth Scientist*, the Geological Society of America's *GSA Today*, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists' *AAPG Explorer*, and AGI's *Geotimes*.

### ***Events***

AGI, along with the EarthCache team from GSA, in association with Groundspeak Inc., and the National Park Service, kicked off Earth Science Week 2006 with a major national event in honor of the first International EarthCache Day. The event, held at the base of the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, Oct. 8., gathered Earth science and geocaching enthusiasts to take part in a brief Earth-science educational experience and festivities. Presentations began with a brief introduction about Earth Science Week by AGI's Geoff Camphire and an explanation of EarthCaching by GSA's Gary Lewis. Ranger Dan Dressler of the National Park Service spoke about monuments in Washington and types of stone used to build them. The Weather Channel's Severe Weather Expert Greg Forbes spoke about the effects of acid rain on monuments and other geoscience issues relevant to the general public. Hands-on activities, such as "Make Your Own Rain Gauge" and

“Acid Rain’s Effect on Building Stone,” offered an exciting look into the natural processes that affect monuments.

Visitors to Baltimore’s Maryland Science Center were greeted and treated to an entertaining introduction to the geosciences by AGI staff throughout Earth Science Week. Each day, two AGI staffers traveled to the science center to discuss Earth science, hand out educational and promotional materials, and conduct a brief “experiment” with children. Children were invited to make their own Secchi disk, use it to detect the penetration of light into various water samples, and take the disk home.

### **Professional Evaluation of Earth Science Week 2006: Key Outcomes**

As in past years, AGI secured an independent contractor, PS International, to complete a formal evaluation of Earth Science Week. Evaluation results, based on a survey of nearly 2,000 program participants conducted in the closing months of 2006, show a rise in overall participation rates in 2006 from previous levels. Overall participation in 2006 exceeded the prior high mark set in 2003. Regionally the largest increases in 2006 occurred in the Northeast and South, with the Midwest and the West not far behind.

Forty-three percent of respondents said they were *more active* in Earth Science Week 2006 than they had been the previous year. Fewer respondents reported that they were *less active* in 2006 (17 percent) than in 2005 (19 percent). Correspondingly, the types of activities in which respondents participated in 2006 were of a comparatively *active* nature (e.g., external speaker in school, special open house) as opposed to in 2005.

Respondents’ perceptions of the usefulness of Earth Science Week “dramatically improved” in 2006, according to the evaluation. Ninety-two percent of respondents (excluding those who said they did not participate) rated Earth Science Week as *excellent* or *good*, up from 83 percent in 2005. Earth Science Week Toolkit materials received favorable marks for their usefulness, as clear majorities of respondents judged all seven categories of materials as useful except for contest materials. The highest-rated kit component, termed either *very useful* or *useful* by 81 percent of respondents, was the Earth Science Week Poster. Similarly, online materials were deemed useful by majorities of respondents, with the sole exception of contest materials. The highest-rated online offerings were the electronic newsletter and kit-ordering information.

Gaining publicity at the national level remains a challenge for Earth Science Week. In 2006, about 56 percent of the respondents said that they did not “see” media coverage. When asked how the program could be improved, the most common response was to *get the word out sooner* (21 percent). Several respondents praised the Earth Science Week website as being very helpful, and the online offering rated useful by the greatest portion of respondents (74 percent) was the monthly electronic newsletter.



**ESW Sponsors**

United States Geological Survey  
American Association of Petroleum Geologists Foundation

**ESW Contributors**

United States Geological Survey  
American Association of Petroleum Geologists  
American Geological Institute  
EarthScope  
Environmental Systems Research Institute  
Geological Society of America  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Park Service  
National Weather Service  
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology  
Scholastic  
S'COOL  
Joint Oceanographic Institute  
The Smithsonian Institution  
Soil Science Society of America  
Society for Sedimentary Geology  
Association of American State Geologists  
American Association of Petroleum Geologists

## **Earth Science Week (ESW) 2006 Events and Activities by State**

### **Alabama**

- The Geological Survey of Alabama, in conjunction with the University of West Alabama and Discovery Alabama, held a one-day workshop in paleontology and stratigraphy of Alabama Cretaceous for K-12 teachers.

### **Alaska**

- The governor of Alaska proclaimed Oct. 8-14 as Earth Science Week.
- The Alaska Geological Society held hands-on activities about mining for grades K-4 at the Loussac Library in Anchorage during Earth Science Week.
- The Alaska Natural History Museum held sessions to learn about archeology and paleontology.
- The USGS provided an exhibit booth at the National Indian Education Association conference in Anchorage. Representatives distributed Earth Science Week Toolkits to educators of American Indians and Alaskan Natives.
- The USGS promoted Earth Science Week materials at the Alaska Home-School Conference and distributed materials to middle and high school educators in Anchorage.
- Students from Homer entered the Earth Science Week Visual Arts Contest.

### **Arizona**

- Students from Phoenix, Glendale, and Scottsdale entered Earth Science Week Contests.
- The Arizona Geological Society organized a field trip to the Arizona Portland Cement Plant for families.
- Petrified Forest National Park held activities and hikes through the park.

### **Arkansas**

- Students from Winthrop entered the Earth Science Week Photography Contest.

### **California**

- The governor designated Oct. 8-14, 2006, as Earth Science Week.
- The Palomar College of Earth Sciences provided information on Earth science careers, offered programs, and held demonstrations and displays.
- Students from Vista, Wilmington, and Fremont entered Earth Science Week Contests.
- The USGS Menlo Park Science Center in Menlo Park hosted an Earth Science Day for more than 1,000 local school children. The event featured 20 hands-on exhibits and activities from many Earth science disciplines.
- EarthCachers celebrated the first day of Earth Science Week by participating in International EarthCache Day activities held at Crystal Cove State Beach.

#### Colorado

- The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) held a series of geological experiments with Denver-area elementary school students.

#### Connecticut

- The Connecticut State Survey participated in International EarthCache Day. Survey representatives held an EarthCache at Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill.
- The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection sponsored a workshop in which Earth Science Week Toolkits were distributed to middle and high school teachers.

#### Delaware

- The governor of Delaware proclaimed Earth Science Week Oct. 8-14, 2006.
- Students from Hockessin, Wilmington, and Newark entered the Earth Science Week Essay Contest.

#### District of Columbia

- A presidential message was issued in recognition of Earth Science Week 2006.
- AGI and the Geological Society of America, with assistance from The Weather Channel, hosted a major national International EarthCache Day event at the base of the Washington Monument to kick off Earth Science Week.

#### Florida

- The governor proclaimed Oct. 8-14 as Earth Science Week.
- The Department of Environmental Protection's Florida Geological Survey held an open house with interactive activities in honor of Earth Science Week.
- The Florida Geological Survey also planned special activities to help Webelos Scouts earn their Geology badges.
- State Geologist Walt Schmidt gave a talk entitled "Geologic Features of the Wakulla Landscape" at the Wakulla County Ecotourism Institute. The talk was coordinated by Tallahassee Community College.
- Students from Orlando and Homosassa entered Earth Science Week Contests.

#### Georgia

- The Online Guide to Environmental Education in Georgia helped promote Earth Science Week Contests with a post on the organization's webpage.
- Students from East Point, Dallas, and Hiram entered the Earth Science Week Essay Contest.

#### Idaho

- Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve held an All-Day In-Depth Earth Science Week program for the public which included a presentation on the geology of the park and hikes to four areas in the park to view and discuss volcanic features and geologic processes.

## Illinois

- The governor of Illinois proclaimed Oct. 8-14 to be Earth Science Week
- The Illinois State Geological Survey hosted a trip to the Cave-In-Rock State Park, near the Shawnee Hills.

## Indiana

- The Indiana Geological Survey distributed Earth Science Week Toolkits to K-12 science teachers.
- Students from Clarksville entered the Earth Science Week Essay Contest.

## Iowa

- The governor of Iowa proclaimed Earth Science Week to be Oct. 8-14, 2006.
- The Black Hawk County Conservation Board collaborated with Basic Materials Corporation to co-sponsor an open house at the Yocum Quarry, in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area.
- The Iowa State Geological Survey deeded a recently abandoned 85-acre quarry property by Basic Materials to the county conservation board.

## Kansas

- The Kansas Geological Survey distributed Earth Science Week Toolkits to special groups holding Earth Science Week events.
- The Fort Hayes State University in Hayes held an Earth Science Week Photography contest. The contest topics were geology, pollution, weather, water, and ecology.

## Kentucky

- The governor proclaimed Oct. 8-14, 2006, to be Earth Science Week.
- Students from Louisville, Corbin, and London entered Earth Science Week Contests.
- The Kentucky Geological Survey hosted an open house in which middle and high school students explored exhibits on water resources, paleontology, rocks and minerals, meteorites, and other geologic issues.
- Earth Science Week Toolkits were distributed to schools in the Lexington vicinity.

## Louisiana

- The governor of Louisiana proclaimed Oct. 8-14, 2006, to be Earth Science Week.
- Public school students from DeRidder and New Iberia entered Earth Science Week Contests.

## Maine

- Acadia National Park received and distributed Earth Science Week materials.

## Maryland

- During Earth Science Week, geoscientists from AGI and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center provided special exhibits at the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore. The exhibits included a hands-on activity on Secchi disks.
- The National Wildlife Visitor Center in Laurel hosted the annual Patuxent Wildlife Festival. The event featured live animal demonstrations, habitat exploration on wildlife conservation tram tours, hiking trails, crafts for children, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

## Massachusetts

- The Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Laboratory in Turners Falls held an open house for the public to learn about research on anadromous fish such as salmon that live in both salt and fresh water and have distinct needs because of those life circumstances.

## Michigan

- Hawk Woods Nature Center in Auburn Hills hosted a rock and mineral activity for elementary school students during Earth Science Week.
- Okemos High School issued a press release detailing mid-Michigan area events relating to Earth Science Week. Events included a geologic educational walk at Grand Ledges, presentations combined with activities on Hurricanes at Okemos High School, and an educational presentation on water as an essential resource at St. Johns Middle School.
- The Woldumar Nature Center held a seminar on water quality in which participants collected and tested nine water samples.
- The Abrams Planetarium held public planetarium shows with sky talks following each show.
- The Northern Michigan University Rock and Mineral Club sponsored an Earth Science Week Contest. Prizes included a rock hammer, a fossil set, and a mineral identification kit.

## Minnesota

- Voyageurs National Park received Earth Science Week materials.

## Mississippi

- National Parks in Mississippi received Earth Science Week materials.

## Missouri

- The governor proclaimed Oct. 8-14, 2006, to be Earth Science Week.
- Students from Fulton entered the Earth Science Week Photography Contest.

## Montana

- Students from Helena, Cascade, and Great Falls entered Earth Science Week Contests.

#### Nebraska

- Students from Pender entered the Earth Science Week Photography Contest.
- The Nebraska Earth Science Education Network helped publicize the Earth Science Week Contests.

#### Nevada

- The governor of Nevada designated Oct. 8-14 as Earth Science Week.
- The Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology led two public Earth Science Week field trips called “Rockin’ Along the River” to numerous sites of geologic interest along the Truckee River.
- Students from Las Vegas entered the Earth Science Week Visual Arts Contest.

#### New Hampshire

- Students from Charlestown entered the Earth Science Week Photography Contest.
- The New Hampshire Geological Survey created a display for the lobby of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Sciences.
- The New Hampshire Geological Survey distributed Earth Science Week Toolkits to local school teachers.
- The Geological Society of New Hampshire held a dinner meeting featuring an educational speech by an amateur mineralogist and pegmatite mine owner. Numerous Earth Science Week Toolkits were donated and presented to teachers present at the dinner.
- The New Hampshire Science Teachers Association posted a link to the AGI Earth Science Week webpage.

#### New Jersey

- Students from Morganville and Lincoln Park entered the Earth Science Week Essay Contest.
- The New Jersey Geological Survey hosted EarthCache events at the Stokes State Park, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and the Palisades Interstate Park.
- The New Jersey Geological Survey sponsored 120 classrooms, distributing Earth Science Week materials to science teachers.

#### New Mexico

- The governor of New Mexico proclaimed Earth Science Week to be Oct. 8-14, 2006.
- Students from Rio Rancho entered the Earth Science Week Photography Contest.
- The New Mexico Bureau of Geology distributed Earth Science Week Toolkits to science teachers at a special teacher workshop. Bureau representatives also displayed geologic maps, held geologic scenic trips, and conducted activities at the Sevilletta Wildlife Refuge open house.

## New York

- The Hudson-Mohawk Professional Geologists' Association hosted their own essay and picture contest for grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12, in which students were asked to describe what it means to "Be a Citizen Scientist."
- A Schenectady Boy Scout troop set up rocks and minerals displays in the local library and earned Geology merit badges.
- Students from Deer Park, Valley Stream, Southold, and Miller Place entered Earth Science Week Contests.
- The Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University held its annual open house. Up to 4,000 visitors participated in seminars and activities on various Earth science topics.
- Numerous events were hosted by the Cornell University Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences in cooperation with the Museum of the Earth. Events included a teacher resource day, workshops on "Subduction, Orogeny and the Surface of the Earth," Museum of the Earth tours, an Earth Science and Atmospheric Sciences Campus EarthFair, and two open houses.

## North Carolina

- Students from Concord, Harrisburg, and Midland entered Earth Science Week Contests.
- The North Carolina Career Service Network helped publicize the Earth Science Week Contests on the network's webpage.

## North Dakota

- The governor of North Dakota proclaimed Oct. 8-12, 2006, to be Earth Science Week.
- Students from Bismarck entered the Earth Science Week Essay Contest.

## Ohio

- The governor of Ohio declared Oct. 8-14 as Earth Science Week.
- Capital Square hosted a "Fossil Tour: See Prehistoric Creatures" in the Statehouse Stone.
- The Cleveland Museum of Natural History hosted an Earth Science Evening, which featured a lecture on earthquakes and various other activities.
- The Summit County Metro Parks held free events all week. Events included a campfire get-together, a hike dealing with the history of the Metro Parks and coal mines of Silver Creek, an Earth science hike on Adam Run Trail, and a hike at Deep Lock Quarry with a talk about animals.
- Students from St. Paris, Urbana, and DeGraff entered Earth Science Week Contests.
- The Kent State University Department of Geology hosted a discussion and lecture by Pamela Hallock Muller. Kent State also held a Geology Museum Open House.
- The University of Dayton's Department of Geology sponsored guest speakers, a career fair, an art contest, and a campus clean-up.

## Oklahoma

- The governor proclaimed Earth Science Week to be Oct. 8-14, 2006.

## Oregon

- The governor of Oregon proclaimed Oct. 8-14 to be Earth Science Week.
- Students from Salem entered the Earth Science Week Visual Arts Contest.
- The USGS Cascades Volcano Observatory, the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists, and the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) provided geologic talks and demonstrations in classrooms throughout the state.
- DOGAMI offered an exhibit to promote Earth Science Week at the Oregon Science Teachers Association annual meeting.
- Bill Lillie of Oregon State University gave a presentation on geology in the national parks. Along with colleague Ellen Bishop, he also led an informative geology bike tour.
- James Roddey and Bill Burns of DOGAMI visited the Springwater Environmental Sciences School in Oregon City to teach students about the rock cycle.
- Baker Prairie Middle School in Canby welcomed Scott Braunsten who talk with students about the geology of Canby.
- Ron Metzger of Southwestern Oregon Community College's Geology Department gave presentations on Crater Lake in fifth-grade classrooms.
- Warren Krager gave talks on geology careers to a class at C.F. Tigard.
- Scholls Heights Elementary and Conestoga Middle School welcomed George Freitag's visit to discuss Earth science.
- Jackson Middle School's geologic hazards class welcomed Matt Brunengo to give a talk on Earth science.
- The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals held programs to educate visitors on Mt. St. Helens, Dinosaur and Zion National Monuments, recovery efforts targeting fossil fish, and the mining of beautiful Colorado rhodochrosite.

## Pennsylvania

- Students at Penn State's Delaware County Campus sponsored a Science Day for Junior Girl Scouts, which led to the earning of their Weather Watch badge.
- Students from North Huntingdon, Irwin, and Gettysburg entered Earth Science Week Contests.

## Rhode Island

- Roger Williams National Memorial Park received and distributed Earth Science Week materials.

## South Carolina

- Students of Elgin, Columbia, and Lugoff entered Earth Science Week Contests.



## South Dakota

- The University of South Dakota hosted three speakers in honor of Earth Science Week. Dr. Mark Sweeney presented on “The Geologic Record of Dust: Its Formation and Climatic Significance.” Todd Heitkamp of the National Weather Service gave a talk entitled “Tornados in South Dakota: Observation and Assessment.” Dr. Brennan Jordan presented on “Mongolia: Geology and Adventure on the Far Side of the World.”
- The governor of South Dakota proclaimed Oct. 8-14, 2006, to be Earth Science Week.
- Students of Cresbard and Roscoe entered the Earth Science Week Visual Arts Contest.

## Tennessee

- The governor proclaimed Oct. 8-14 to be Earth Science Week.
- The Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, in conjunction with the Frank H. McClung Museum, hosted its Seventh Annual Earth Science Fair for middle and high school students, teachers, and parents.
- The Tennessee Tech University’s Earth Sciences Department and Geo Club sponsored activities such as a rock climbing wall and a fossil display.

## Texas

- The Austin Earth Science Week Consortium sponsored a book drive to raise money to purchase new science books for the Austin Public Libraries. The consortium also sponsored a lecture series on hurricanes and groundwater resources, as well as a career fair for middle school students.
- The Cibolo Nature Center, which operates a citizen science research program, chose this year to conduct special research survey projects in honor of Earth Science Week. Surveys included aquatic invertebrates, bird counts, butterflies/dragonflies, fire ants, monarchs, photo point, prairies vegetation, reptiles and amphibians, riparian habitat assessment, riparian woody vegetation, small mammals, snakes, and weather monitoring.
- The Houston Geological Survey, in conjunction with the Houston Museum of Natural Sciences, held a Family Earth Science Festival, featuring an energy passport contest, hands-on demonstrations, special presentations, Boy Scout badge activities, and many other programs.
- The Houston Geological Survey hosted a visual art contest for grades K-5 and an essay contest for grades 6-8.
- The Houston Geological Survey hosted two public field trips in honor of Earth Science Week. At the Galveston Island State Park, one field trip highlighted geologic features of the coastal regions. The other a field trip focused on the geology of the building stones of downtown Houston.
- The Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center and Botanical Gardens hosted many events, including lectures, a desert mining exhibit tour, and field trips to impact sites.

- Students from Houston, Fort Worth, Rosenberg, and Richmond entered Earth Science Week Contests.
- Elementary school students in Midland visited a local geophysical lab site. Geoscientists volunteered to visit 27 classrooms in the Midland area to teach about Earth science.
- The American Association of Petroleum Geologists in Texas handed out Earth Science Week Toolkits to elementary schools and daycare centers.

#### Utah

- The Utah Geological Survey hosted four days of Earth science activities for grades 2-9. More than 600 students participated in activities such as panning for “gold,” learning about and testing rocks and minerals, touring a paleontology lab, and examining the development of Utah’s landforms.
- Students from Salt Lake City, Kearns, and Sandy entered Earth Science Week Contests.

#### Vermont

- The Vermont Geological Survey, in collaboration with the state Department of Environmental Conservation, OMYA Industries, Inc., Vermont Marble Exhibit, and the Vermont Geological Society, sponsored numerous geoscience education activities, including a poster contest, geologic hikes, a day to meet with environmental scientists and learn through hands-on activities, and an open house at the OMYA quarry.
- Omya Industries sponsored an Earth Science Week poster contest for K-12 students.
- The governor proclaimed Oct. 8-14 Earth Science Week.

#### Virginia

- Students from Herndon, Oak Hill, and Alexandria entered Earth Science Week Contests.

#### Washington

- The governor of Washington proclaimed Oct. 8-14, 2006, to be Earth Science Week.
- The Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture held an “Archaeology Day” at Discovery Park, where the general public learned about the geology and archaeology of the park.
- The Washington State Division of Geology and Earth Resources held a rock and mineral auction. AGI received a donation from the profits of the auction for Earth Science Week.

#### West Virginia

- West Virginia National Parks received and distributed Earth Science Week materials.

### Wisconsin

- Students from Waunakee entered the Earth Science Week Essay Contest.
- EarthCachers celebrated the first day of Earth Science Week by participating in an International EarthCache Day event at Pope Farm Park in Middleton.
- EarthCachers celebrated Earth Science Week at the Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey Research Collections and Education Center. EarthCachers toured the center, which is home to rock samples, cores, and water-well cuttings that are the physical records upon which many Wisconsin Geologists base their research.

### Wyoming

- National parks in Wyoming received and distributed Earth Science Week materials.

### Nationwide

- NASA launched its new Citizen Science website featuring project ideas that involve the use of NASA satellite Earth science data sets ([http://mydasdata.larc.nasa.gov/citsci\\_index.html](http://mydasdata.larc.nasa.gov/citsci_index.html)).

## International Events

### Australia

- The Geological Survey of Western Australia organized two arts-and-crafts contests for Earth Science Week. The first, open to department employees and their families, promoted the theme “Landscapes and Resources of Western Australia.” The second, open to primary and secondary school children, advanced the theme “Wonders of the Earth Past and Present.” The survey also held a talk by Dr. Franco Pirajno on “Meteorites in Western Australia.”
- Geoscience Australia sponsored two competitions. The first was an art contest for K-6 students titled “When I Grow Up I Want to Be a Geoscientist.” The other was a writing contest for grade 7-12 students titled “Discuss Sir Douglas Mawson’s Geoscientific Contributions to Australia.”
- The library at Geoscience Australia held a program called “Stories in the Desert for Preschoolers,” which is the title of a book by Marina Knight, Australian storyteller and writer.
- Dr. Liz Truswell gave a talk about her journey from Geoscience Australia as a chief research scientist to the world of art.
- The Australian National Botanical Gardens held education programs on water and bush plants for classrooms.
- The Geological Survey of New South Wales had an Earth Science Week display at their Mineral Resources Division in Maitland.
- Camberwell Grammar School in Balwyn, Victoria, had a special library display in its senior library.
- National Geographic arranged for Amy Prendergast, a tsunami geologist from Geoscience Australia, to talk about the significance of Earth science.
- The Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organization’s Double Helix Club celebrated Earth Science Week through its “Science by Email” program.
- The Australian Museum hosted events including behind-the-scenes tours, lectures, information booths, displays, and self-guided tours of Sydney’s building stones.

### Canada

- The Seabird Ecological Assessment Network organized interdisciplinary researchers and volunteers to help identify threats to marine birds in the northeastern United States and Atlantic Canada.

### Puerto Rico

- The University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez held an open house with several exhibitions from government and private agencies. Participants included more than 2,000 students.

### Portugal

- An EarthCache event was held in honor of International EarthCache Day, Oct. 8, which marked the first day of Earth Science Week.

## United Kingdom

- An EarthCache was held in the United Kingdom to examine the geodiversity of Bryn Alyn. EarthCachers examined the processes that formed the area's limestone and identified fossils in the limestone.