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AGI Kicks off National Contests

To celebrate Earth Science Week, AGI will host three national contests. The contests encourage students and the public to become involved in Earth Science Week by submitting artwork, an essay or a photograph. Entries must be received by October 7, 2005. A grand prize winner in each category will win \$300 and a one-year subscription to *Geotimes*, AGI's monthly newsmagazine for the Earth sciences.

Visual Arts: Students in grades K-5 are eligible to compete in the Visual Arts Contest. They should make a drawing, collage or other two-dimensional piece of artwork that illustrates the theme "Earth Jobs." Students should depict themselves as geoscientists, engaged in a career they might like to have in the Earth sciences. The artwork should also show some of the scientific tools that would be used in the chosen career. Submissions should be flat and no larger than 24 x 36 inches.

Essay: Students in grades 5-8 are encouraged to compete in the Essay Contest. Submissions should answer the question: "What kind of geoscientist would you like to be, and why?" Essays should be fewer than 500 words in length and should be based on student research about a particular career in the Earth sciences. Students might imagine themselves as geoscientists, explaining the reasons they are interested in their chosen careers.

Photography: The Photography Contest is open to the general public. Submissions should illustrate the theme "Extreme Earth Science" by showing an exciting Earth science subject or geoscientists in an amazing location or situation. Examples might include (but are not limited to) geology field trips to exotic locations, unique geological samples, or photos that capture the breathtaking beauty of the Earth. The goal is to create pictorial evidence of why Earth science is an exciting field to study. Photographs of children under

age 18 must be accompanied by a parental consent form that can be found on www.earthsciweek.org/contests. Submissions can include print or digital photographs.

More information on the Earth Science Week contests, including rules and submission guidelines, can be found at <http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests>.

It's Time to Start Planning Earth Science Week Events!

Earth Science Week is less than four months away, so it's time to get organized if you would like to host an event. The Earth Science Week website has all the information you need to get started. Visit <http://www.earthsciweek.org/forplanners/index.html> for tips on planning, fundraising, and advertising your event!

If you need a good idea for an exciting event in your community, you can look through our Highlights and News Clippings from past years. These resources are available online at <http://www.earthsciweek.org/highlights/index.html>.

For example, Basic Materials Corporation in Iowa held an open house at a local quarry, and the Nevada Bureau of Mines led a field trip near Reno. Students in Houston participated in contests hosted by the Geological Society of Houston, and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History held a special Earth Science Day at their museum. Be creative and plan an event in your local area! Earth Science Week is a great way to extend your community outreach efforts!

Careers in the Geosciences and Beyond

Do you or your students want to find out more about what a geoscientist does? AGI is currently updating and redesigning a website that will summarize career information for the geosciences in time for Earth Science Week this fall! In the meantime, you can visit the Earth Science World website (www.earthscienceworld.org) careers section, or read Geotimes magazine for information on unusual geoscience careers, articles for students, and other helpful career links (<http://www.geotimes.org/careers.html>).

Not every student of geology becomes a geoscientist. People with geoscience degrees have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, businessmen, artists and even politicians! Did you know that Colin Powell has an undergraduate degree in geology? Studying Earth science gives everyone a better understanding of the features and resources of the planet we live on-which is important no matter what you want to be when you grow up!

Earth Science Week Calendar Early August: ESW kits available for mailing

October 7: ESW contest deadline
October 9-15: Earth Science Week 2005

Earth Science Week Partners and Kits

AGI has heard from several organizations about the exciting materials that they will contribute to the ESW kits for 2005. Expect materials from the U.S. Geological Survey, NASA, S'Cool, NOAA, Incorporated Research Institutions in Seismology (IRIS), DLESE, EarthScope, the National Weather Service, and the National Park Service.

The kits will contain posters, CD-ROMs and classroom activities for all grade levels, designed by AGI and our Earth Science Week partners. Please visit www.earthsciweek.org to learn more about how to obtain an ESW Kit.