

Michigan Mineralogical Society's
Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

SCHOOLS DAY

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Dear Elementary and Secondary Teachers:

I'd like to invite you and your students on a field trip to the annual **MMS Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show** on Friday, October 8, 2010. The show takes place at the **Sports Expo Center at Macomb Community College**, located in **Warren, MI off of Hayes Rd., just south of 12 Mile Road**. It's a marvelous facility for the show -over 60000 sq. ft. - parking is easily accessible for both buses and cars, and what's more...**parking is FREE!**

Admission for students and chaperones (including you) is only \$2 per person (a substantial discount)! Most groups stay for 2-3 hours during the hours below, but you're welcome to stay as long as you like!

**Friday, October 8, 2010
9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

The show features, as usual, the largest array of gem, mineral, and fossils from all across the USA and the world, more than you may ever see under one roof! See **marvelous exhibits from 10 top science museums and universities**, such as the *Smithsonian Institution, Cranbrook*, and *Wayne State*. There will be over **50 amazing labeled displays by individual collectors**, plus a row of **8 educational displays on Rocks and Minerals designed especially for students!** Special exhibits include a giant skeleton of the hadrosaur, *Tsintaosaurus*, a primitive bird, *Archaeopteryx*, and a fleshed-out replica of the carnivore, *Deinocheirus*. Get your picture taken standing *inside the jaws* of a *Megalodon*, the largest fish to swim Earth's oceans, or pose with your head in a *T-Rex* skull! Photos are \$4. There will also be a 'Fossil Dig' where kids can uncover real ice-age fossil bones from a large sand pit. This activity is \$5.

There are **FREE hands-on activities** too, including:

- 1) **Panning for Gold** - use gold hunter's tools to retrieve pieces of *pure gold* from a pool of water.
- 2) **Green River Fish Fossils** -cut and expose a *fish* fossil from the host rock. Keep it for just \$2!
- 3) **Geode Cracking** -crack open a limestone nodule and see what's inside! It's yours to keep.. FREE!

In addition, you and your kids can hear a **lecture by fossil and dino expert "Paleo Joe"** called **"Digging Dinosaurs"** at **9:30 and 11:00 AM.**, Volunteers from the Mt. Clemens Gem club will demonstrate lapidary techniques (cutting & polishing stones) and kids can **buy inexpensive rock and mineral specimens from our MMS Sales Booth and take them to an expert for identification!** All in all, your students of Earth Science should be pretty seriously "wowed"! **Pre-registration is required for the group discount. Registration form and check is due by Friday, October 1.**

If you can't bring your students on Friday, please encourage them to come to the show on Saturday or Sunday with a parent (perhaps to earn extra credit?).

John

(PLEASE READ ON for "HOW TO REGISTER" and IMPORTANT REMINDERS)

PLANNING & REGISTRATION:

- **\$2 FOR EACH STUDENT AND ADULT** that attend the show with your group. Enclose a **check payable to MMS** with your **registration form** (if you need the form, see SUMMARY below for obtaining a form, or open and print the 2010 Registration Form you were e-mailed).
- **PLEASE PLAN ON BRINGING 1 ADULT CHAPERONE FOR EVERY 6-8 STUDENTS** in your group. The teacher counts as a chaperone. **I CAN'T STRESS THIS REQUIREMENT ENOUGH!**
- **A 2-3 HOUR STAY IS NORMAL** for most groups, but *it's your call*. The show is generally most crowded between 10 - 11:30 AM. If you must get the bus back to school by noon, we suggest you ask for a 9 AM arrival time. If you are not rushed and can arrive after lunch and leave by mid-afternoon, you will avoid the crowds!
- **LUNCHES CANNOT BE EATEN ANYWHERE INSIDE THE BUILDING** due to lack of proper facilities (*even during rainy weather*). So I strongly suggest that you **plan on attending either in the morning and leave before lunch, or arrive just after lunch and stay the afternoon!** There is no problem eating lunch *in the bus* and then returning to the show, either!
- **PURCHASING SPECIMENS.** Let your students know that many of our **DEALERS** will include some very affordable minerals and fossils they will like. Sales to students are a portion of the show income! *Please support our dealers;* they're the ones that make the show possible financially! **The MMS Booth** will have many inexpensive specimens --every student should leave with *something!*
- Though we will be glad to have you and your class attend the show, **YOUR CLASS MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED for Schools Day participation.** Otherwise, normal ticket prices apply & you may attend the show any day you wish! **Registration forms must be sent by Friday, October 1.**

IMPORTANT STUDENT BEHAVIOR:

- During the Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, the Sports Expo Center becomes a huge museum with fantastic and valuable exhibits of gems, minerals and fossils. All displays are on FOLDING TABLES.

Please tell your students that running, rough play and stealing will NOT be tolerated.

Any damage to minerals, gems, fossils, or displays will be paid for by the student responsible. **Theft** is cause for expulsion!

We ask, if possible, that **STUDENTS AND CHAPERONES WEAR NAME TAGS** showing the NAME and SCHOOL of the wearer, and the student's GRADE LEVEL. Please wear the name tags at all times during your visit to the show.

- **Students must stay with chaperones while visiting the exhibit areas and dealers' tables!**
- We would appreciate you discouraging your students from eating candy while at the show. Sticky fingers tend to mess up valuable specimens! [Candy sales at the show have been eliminated.]

SUMMARY:

- **FOR A REGISTRATION FORM** (if not sent by mail), go to our website: < www.michmin.org > and click on information about bringing your students to the show. If this doesn't work, e-mail joopett13@hotmail.com and a hard copy will be mailed to you. Include your school mailing address.
- **The completed registration form and check payable to MMS (Mich. Mineralogical Society) should be mailed together.** Cost: \$2/person, including teacher and chaperones!
- **The registration form and check must reach me by Friday, October 1 2010.** If this deadline isn't possible, contact me by e-mail (preferred) or phone and I'll try to accommodate your needs.
- ***You will receive confirmation of your registration*** when your registration and check is received.