

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 14, 2011. 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 14, 2011
9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

The show features, as usual, the largest array of gem, mineral, and fossils from across the USA and the world -more than you may ever see under one roof! See **marvelous exhibits from 10 leading 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 this year include skeletons of two extinct Ice Age mammals: a *woolly rhinoceros* and a *giant ground sloth!* Take your picture standing beside a 6-ft. femur (leg bone) from the dinosaur *Apatosaurus* and a *mastodon skull with tusks!*

There are several **activities** too, including:

- 1) **Panning for Gold** -use simple equipment to obtain flakes of *gold* from a pool of water.
- 2) **Fossil Exposure** -cut a *fish* fossil from its host rock. You can opt to keep it for just \$2!
- 3) **Geode Cracking** -pick out a geode & crack it open to see inside. Keep both halves! \$4 and up.
- 4) **Ice Age Fossil Dig** -excavate a bone from a sandy pit and take it home! Activity + bone: \$5

In addition, you r class can listen to **fossil and dino expert "Paleo Joe" give a talk titled "Fabulous Fossils" at 9:30 and 11:30 AM**. Volunteers from the Mt. Clemens Gem and Lapidary Society will demonstrate how to cut, facet, and polish semi-precious stones. And you'll be able to buy **inexpensive rock and mineral specimens** from the 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 7.**

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

John

PLEASE READ ON for "HOW TO REGISTER" and IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

PLANNING & REGISTRATION:

- **\$2 FOR EACH STUDENT AND ADULT** who attends. Enclose a **check payable to MMS** with your **registration form** (if you need a form, see SUMMARY below for obtaining a form, or open and print the 2011 Registration Form you were e-mailed).
- **PLEASE PLAN ON 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 9:30 - 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 can schedule a bus to ARRIVE from 11:30 on and leave in the 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 **plan on attending either in the morning and leave before lunch, or arrive just after lunch! You may eat lunch in the bus and then return to the show, also!**
- **PURCHASING SPECIMENS**. Let your students know that many of our **DEALERS** will include some very affordable and cool minerals and fossils! Students buying stuff is a source of our show income. *Please support our dealers!* They're the ones that make our show possible financially! **The MMS Booth has tables of cheap goodies, so** every student should leave with *something!*
- **YOUR CLASS MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED for Schools Day participation**. Otherwise, normal ticket prices apply OR you can attend another time! **Registration forms must be in Friday, Oct. 7.**

IMPORTANT STUDENT INFORMATION!

- 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.

- **TELL STUDENTS NOT TO BRING IN CELL PHONES or MP3 PLAYERS! THEY COULD LOSE THEM!**
- **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 the web page < www.michmin.org/show > and click "Educators click here for info on 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 7 2011.** 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.