

Meeting Challenges

ASSURING SUCCESS

The importance of issues and efforts related to youth science education and influencing young students' appreciation of earth sciences and energy issues continues to grow.

The Foundation has been a strong proponent of K-12 activities working to help fund many educational programs including AGI's very successful K-12 earth science curriculum and Earth Science Week program. Geoscience leaders nationwide have lobbied school districts and state government to introduce or maintain earth science as a core subject. As a result, the need for K – 12 earth science education, especially in middle and high school, is increasing.



Photo courtesy of Haakon Fossen

And the survey said ... the top area of interest to AAPG members was ... outreach to students from kindergarten through high school (K-12 Earth Science Education).

In response to these demands and requests from many AAPG members, the Foundation believes it is time to expand its support of K-12 earth science programs. To meet this critical need, the AAPG Foundation will create a new endowed fund to support earth science education to benefit future generations beginning at the K-12 levels.

The new K-12 Earth Science Education Endowment Fund is designed to meet four basic areas of need:

- Provide teachers, schools, parents and youth group leaders with training, information and supporting materials related to earth science and energy.
- Assist AAPG members by providing development of youth educational activity resources to encourage participation at local schools, providing methods and materials that work.
- Maintain a Web site which addresses the objectives and provides resources and related Web site links.
- Monitor current and emerging issues related to national and state science educational standards, curricula and testing policies.

The Fund will be used to continue support proven programs such as AGI's earth science curriculum projects, the "Rocks in Your Head" short course, and the "Bookout Initiative", a newly established, AAPG Foundation funded program for high school

geosciences teachers. Also, the fund will be used to support new emerging opportunities in K-12 geoscience education such as consortia among AAPG, AGI and other geosciences-related societies designed to provide still broader earth science education to high school teachers.

An additional result will be outreach to students, teachers, parents and the general public to educate them about the invaluable role of geosciences in understanding major issues such as global climate change and world energy needs.

The need is critical and objectives can only be met with a substantial gift or gifts to the K-12 Earth Science Endowment Fund. Earnings from an

endowment totaling at least \$8 million is needed to support annually the above-mentioned existing and new programs.

How can you help?

You may direct your tax-deductible contribution toward the AAPG Foundation "K-12 Earth Science Education Endowment Fund".

Every gift received is of vital importance to this program and all donors to the K-12 Earth Science Education Endowment Fund will receive recognition in the AAPG Explorer.

Those who desire to become major donors to the K-12 Earth Science Education Endowment Fund, can join the Foundation's Scholar Circle at the following giving levels: Friend \$50,000 - \$150,000; Fellow \$150,000 - \$500,000; Champion over \$500,000. Major donors will receive recognition in an exclusive article in the AAPG EXPLORER, listing in the Foundation's Annual Report and receive communication from K-12 recipients of the endowment.

Contributions are accepted by check, credit card by phone, or online at foundation.aapg.org. To receive a 5-year pledge commitment form or further details regarding the K-12 Education Endowment Fund, please contact Rebecca Griffin 918-560-2644.

