



HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

10805 Brooklet
Houston, TX 77099

Dear Education Leaders:

The Houston Gem and Mineral Society would like to invite you to participate in the "School Daze" earth science program at the HGMS annual show. HGMS is a not-for-profit, educational organization. As a result, "School Daze" is completely FREE. It is a field trip for elementary through high school children that is held on the first day (Friday) of our annual show.

The program is an age-appropriate scavenger hunt that takes the students throughout the show to various stations where they ask specific questions as indicated on their scavenger hunts. Teachers and chaperones are given a map indicating where these stations are located. Students should travel from station to station within their group. By the end of the 'hunt' students will have had a diverse earth science experience that emphasizes visual observation to achieve a cognitive understanding of principles.

Classes and homeschool groups bringing over 20 students receive a mineral or fossil set for continued hands-on learning. All students receive a rock specimen upon leaving, although teachers can opt to keep the specimens and hand them out once back at school.

To make your field trip to our show more enjoyable, please note the following details concerning the School Daze program:

- **Pre-register so we can reserve a spot for your children:** All students, whether they are attending public/private schools or are home schooled, must register for our program so we can prepare an adequate amount of scavenger hunts and route maps.
- **Register age-appropriate students:** Our activities are geared towards elementary through high school students. Therefore, please only register children who are in the appropriate age group (5 yrs to 18 yrs). Community college students enjoy the 8+ high school programs so we encourage them to participate as well.
- **Understand our policy about free admission for adults:** Knowing that homeschool parents are very active in their child's education, we expect a high turnout of parents with their children. Please note that our offer of free admission is only applicable to one adult per homeschool family bringing children.
- **Schedule your group for the right time slot:** We have divided up the day so that public and private schools attend in the morning, with the last scheduled arrival at 12:30 PM. Home school students then arrive between 1:00-3:00 PM. The field trip will take at least two hours, but there is so much for kids to do that they may want to stay longer.
- **Check in with a minimum of fuss:** Please have only your group leader check in when arriving at the show. This will prevent congestion at the registration table. The group leader will receive the packet for the entire group.
- **Check out and collect your treasures:** When you are finished at the show, please have the group leader check out at the east exit to the convention center. At that time, the group

leader will be given rock specimens for your entire group and any rock kits you may have reserved.

The Houston Gem and Mineral Society is devoted to promoting the Earth Sciences in education. We hope that mingling with Earth Science enthusiasts, both professional and hobbyist alike, will encourage more students to continue studying rocks, minerals, fossils and related Earth Science topics.

We are looking forward to seeing you and your students at the show.

HGMS Education Committee