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MEC to Again Join AGI in Celebration of Earth Science Week

2026 Theme to Highlight Critical Minerals for a Thriving Society



EARTH SCIENCE WEEK

Each year, the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) promotes the monumental importance of Earth science with a week dedicated to education and engagement across a variety of mediums. The 2026 Earth Science Week (ESW) theme, “Critical Minerals for a Thriving Society,” highlights how critical minerals support essential needs and how the development of new technologies can affect which minerals are considered critical and how geoscience knowledge is essential for identifying, mining, refining, transporting, and using them responsibly. The 2026 installment of Earth Science Week occurs from October 11-17, 2026.

The Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) Foundation's Minerals Education Coalition (MEC) partners with the American Geosciences Institute's Earth Science Week every year to provide educational resources across the globe. Participation in this initiative affords MEC the opportunity to reach a vast number of educators with resources and to provide outreach materials to SME members and others interested in sharing the importance of mining and minerals to everyday life.

"As critical minerals continue to dominate the national conversation around the future of society, it is imperative that partnerships such as those between MEC and AGI continue to flourish," said Rebecca Smith, MEC Curriculum Coordinator. "MEC remains steadfast in our commitment to educate and inspire K-12 audiences regarding the importance of the mined minerals crucial to our everyday lives. This is especially important during a time in which our ability to acquire critical minerals must be assured, requiring STEM education to include mining careers as a viable and sustainable option for students."

For Earth Science Week 2026, MEC has promoted and provided new materials for the ESW Toolkit and the AGI and MEC websites. The toolkit will include the ESW 2026-2027 Calendar with the new MEC "Critical Minerals Search" activity in addition to the new MEC Monumental Minerals poster. To access our collection of resources for this year and prior years of ESW, visit MineralsEducationCoalition.org/esw.

For more information regarding Earth Science Week, visit earthsciweek.org.

About SME

The Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) brings together the mining and mineral industry's brightest and most dedicated professionals. Over 13,000 global members advance their careers with the world-class technical resources, educational programs, networking opportunities and professional development tools from SME. Our members are focused on sharing best practices for safety, environmental stewardship and moving mining forward. SME. *Inspiring mining professionals worldwide.*

About MEC

The Minerals Education Coalition (MEC) is the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration Foundation's designated program to develop and deliver accurate and timely K-12 education materials and activities and conduct public awareness outreach about mining and minerals.