

## AFMS JUNIORS MASCOT & OATH CONTESTS

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Future Rockhounds of America (AFMS/FRA) announces two new contests. One is for an official mascot to represent kids enrolled in the AFMS/FRA program. The other is for an oath that newly enrolling kids would take. Winners of each contest will earn \$100 and a Certificate-of-Achievement from AFMS and will have their accomplishments posted to the AFMS website. Kids participating in these contests must be members of local clubs or societies holding an affiliation with AFMS via one of the seven regional federations. *Please note that both the winning Mascot and Oath will become full and complete property of AFMS in perpetuity.*

### **AFMS Juniors Mascot Contest.**

The Bald Eagle has long represented the United States of America. Smokey Bear is an icon of the U.S. Forest Service. “Mr. Peanut” has represented the Planters Peanut brand for over 100 years. The Walt Disney Company is instantly known by Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

Can you suggest a mascot to represent the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America kids programs? How would you, yourself, like to be represented? By a “Rockhound puppy”? By a “Mr. or Ms. Crystal”? By “Dinny the Dinosaur” or some other fossil? By something else altogether?? Send *your* suggestion along with an original design. Who knows? Perhaps that design will be represented on the AFMS/FRA website and on a badge issued to all kids participating in the program in years to come!

***If you would like to enter this contest, here are the rules:***

- Come up with a suggested mascot and explain the reason behind your suggestion in a cover letter. That letter also should include your name, age, the rock club you belong to, and the name of the leader of your juniors group and/or club. Also include full contact information of your parents or legal guardians: name/s, address, phone, email address.
- Prepare and send a design in color on letter-size paper (8.5 X 11 inches) illustrating your mascot. You can use pencil, pen, crayons, markers, or computer-generated art. Be sure not to include any copyrighted images in your design.
- A parent of legal guardian must sign the drawing on the back and state whether they will allow you to have your full name disclosed in the AFMS newsletter and website or just a first name in the event that your design is chosen.
- Send a letter explaining your mascot, along with your design, to Jim Brace-Thompson, 7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003. Alternatively, you may email both your letter and a pdf of your design to Jim at [jbraceth@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbraceth@roadrunner.com), along with a scan of the parental approval statement and signature.

*Please note that once the winning design is accepted, it may be modified for badge manufacturing or other publishing or processing specifications.*

### **AFMS Juniors Oath Contest.**

Many countries, associations, organizations, and other groups ask folks to make a pledge when becoming a member. For instance, immigrants to the United States are asked to devote themselves to their new country and to take the Pledge of Allegiance. Kids joining Boy Scouts of America are asked to take the following oath and promise: “On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.” Even U.S. Presidents are required to take the Oath of Office: “I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

In 50 words or less, what do you suggest as an oath or pledge for kids joining the AFMS/FRA program?

*If you would like to enter this contest, here are the rules:*

- Prepare an oath consisting of 50 words or less.
- Include a cover letter telling why you think this oath is appropriate. That letter also should include your name, age, the rock club you belong to, and the name of the leader of your juniors group and/or club. Also include full contact information of your parents or legal guardians: name/s, address, phone, email address.
- A parent or legal guardian must sign on the back the paper containing your oath and state whether they will allow you to have your full name disclosed in the AFMS newsletter and website or just a first name in the event that your oath is chosen.
- Send your suggested oath and cover letter to Jim Brace-Thompson, 7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003 or email your oath and letter to [jbraceth@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbraceth@roadrunner.com) along with a scan of the parental approval statement and signature.

*Please note that the winning oath may be modified; for instance, for length, grammatical, or other considerations.*

**Deadline.**

The deadline for both the Mascot contest and the Oath contest were originally December 1, 2021, but we have extended this to May 1, 2022 to allow more time for more participants. Winners will be announced at the very next AFMS Show & Convention, currently scheduled for October 22, 2022 in New Orleans. Here's hoping to see *your* suggested mascot and oath! Best wishes to all entrants!