



A.F.M.S. Newsletter

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Having Fun: Junior Activities

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Juniors Program Chair

Fourth Edition of our AFMS/FRA Badge Manual Now Posted!

I was appointed CFMS Juniors Activities Chair in 1998 and then AFMS Juniors Program Chair in 2003. I immediately set to work developing a nation-wide Badge Program modeled after the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Month-by-month in the AFMS Newsletter, I outlined ideas for badges, and—with approval from AFMS officers and generous support of the AFMS Endowment Fund, which I cannot thank enough—we began offering our AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program entirely free to affiliated clubs and societies nationwide in 2004.



At the time I indicated if the program proved successful, my goal was to update and expand it every 4 years. With well over 11,000 badges now awarded to kids nationwide, I'm happy to report we have proven successful! 558 kids have been awarded the Rockhound badge by earning at least 6 of the activity badges, and 26 kids have earned coveted Rock Star status by having earned each and every badge in the program. Their names are recorded on our AFMS Kids Corner website in Honor Rolls recognizing their achievements. (My sincere thanks to Marty Hart for his always helpful, cheerful, unflinching and consistent assistance with the AFMS website these many years.)

The first edition of my Badge Manual offered 9 badges and 53 activities. Staying true to plan, I've updated and expanded it in 2008 and 2012 (with a minor update in 2010), and I'm now pleased to report I have sent the 2016 edition to Marty to post on the AFMS website. This 4th Edition offers 20 badges and 130 activities. As with past editions, many new activities were suggested by the junior leaders of local clubs. In fact, one of the badges introduced in our 3rd Edition was designed by a junior member, Rock Star Erica Nathan of Florida. Similarly, in our 4th Edition another junior member—Rock Star Jem Burch of California—suggested an "Elements" activity you'll now find as part of our Rocks & Minerals badge.

For the 4th Edition, I issued requests for new badge ideas via the AFMS and CFMS newsletters, and I thank the 22 people who responded with suggestions. There were no overwhelming calls to add whole new badges. Some suggested adding Elements, Prospecting, and Beading badges, but because of manufacturing expenses a whole new badge incurs, I've opted instead to include these ideas as new activities within the existing badges for Rocks & Minerals, Gold Panning & Prospecting, and Lapidary Arts. For those already familiar with the program, here are examples of changes you'll find:

- The Manual has grown from 223 pages to 255, with 86 pages revised or entirely new.
- Over a dozen new activities have been added within our existing badges.
- Many previously existing activities have been augmented and/or enhanced with new activities.
- All website links have been checked to ensure viability and any that have evaporated have been replaced, and many new links have been added.

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Happy Thanksgiving



Rock & Gem
THE EARTH'S TREASURES • MINERALS AND JEWELRY

Official Magazine of the AFMS

The AFMS

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A Word from the President

by Ron Carman President



For the second time I am taking this position and again I have some big shoes to fill (no offense intended, Matt!) I'm following some very capable presidents who have done much to help bring all the federations together and I will try to continue with this work.

Many of you may know me from various shows around the country. For those who don't, I am a member of three clubs in the South Central Federation and I enjoy collecting minerals (although I appreciate fossils and gemstones too) and visiting shows all over. In the coming year, I hope to attend each regional federation convention and become better acquainted with the folks in all seven federations, starting with the Southeast Federation show in Marietta, Georgia in November. The coming year will have conventions all around the U.S. so I will have the chance to travel and visit places I haven't been before.

One thing Matt encouraged during his presidency and I do also, is for all our members, no matter where you live, to get involved with your clubs and federations. Every club has numerous jobs it needs to fill, and the willing volunteers who fill them are the backbone of the clubs and federations. Also, if you see something that you think needs improving or could be done better, speak up and tell someone about it. And don't be afraid to do something to help improve things if needed.

Here's looking forward to a great year and I hope to meet many of you in person.

Ron

AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year

from Evelyn Cataldo, AFMS Chair



Eastern Federation

The Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse is pleased to recognize **Rick Moore** as our 2016 Rockhound of the Year. Rick is a credtialed geologist always willing to share his expertise. He is enthusiastically involved with our club's educational and public outreach programs. He frequently speaks at monthly club and Junior Rockhound meetings and offers presentations to local schools. Last year Rick provided leadership in evaluating several rock collections donated by families of former members. He continues to serve as our club's webmaster technical advisor and Facebook coordinator. Under his direction, the online advertising for the club's 50th anniversary reached significantly more people than in the past. Rick is an invaluable member of our organization.

submitted by Cheryl Brown, Secretary



California Federation

The Conejo Gem & Mineral Club is honoring **Chuck & Mary Ellen Borchart** as our 2016 AFMS Rockhounds of the Year. Chuck serves as 2nd VP- Field Trips and a Lapidary Shop Foremen. Mary Ellen serves as Committee Room Chair Coordinator - Youth Programs and has a program each month for the pebble pups at our meetings. Chuck & Mary Ellen help with our annual show with set up and take down, they fill exhibits cases, and also help with grab bags and games for the kids. At picnics and holiday parties, the Borcharts are there to help. The Borcharts have put in much time and effort into making our club a success and we appreciate them.

submitted by Robert Sankovich, President

Time is running out for you to submit information about your 2016 AFMS Rockhound of the Year. All 2016 submissions must be received by your regional chair no later then December 31. Your club may submit the information for 1 individual or a couple who are your most valued members for the year. In addition, you may also submit the information about 1 junior member.

AFMS Committees: 2016 - 17

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2016 - 17. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would

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Nominating
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Parliamentarian
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Ron Carman Vice President
Cheri George, Secretary
Gene Maggard, Treasurer

Show Off Your Club's Bulletin!

by Mark Nelson, BEAC Chair

This is our opportunity to show North America how nice our bulletin is, what interesting articles our members write, what kind of special publications our society or club produces! Society officers, work with your bulletin editor to submit your article, bulletin, poetry, drawn illustrations or publication to your federation's BEAC for judging. And don't forget to enter the All American Club contest while you are putting things together!

Here are the important dates for the 2017 Bulletin Contest:
 February 1, 2017 – AFMS Judges List to Federation BEACs
 March 10, 2017 – entries due to AFMS judges
 May 5, 2017 – judged entries due back to AFMS BEAC
 June 8-11, 2017 – AFMS Show & Convention in Ventura, CA

You still have time to make sure that your bulletin is the best that it can be. Here are my suggestions for bulletin improvement:

1. Go to the AFMS Web Site: <www.amfed.org>
2. Scroll down to and click on: Bulletin Editors' Contest
3. Click on and read each of the items listed under: AFMS contest Guidelines
4. Click on and read the Fillable Score Sheets section on: Bulletins

If you have any questions, contact your federation's Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee Chair (BEAC). They are there to help you! If I can answer any questions or offer any help, please let me know. Email me at <mnelsonair@aol.com>.



Having Fun: Junior Activities

continued from page 1

- I've added many new books as recommended resources.
- New tables have been added and existing tables have been expanded.

Looking toward our 5th Edition for 2020, I'm hoping to expand the visual nature of our manual along with links to such things as YouTube videos to better appeal to a more technologically sophisticated cohort of junior members who could probably teach me a thing or two about my smart phone, which increasingly proves smarter than its Baby Boomer owner. If you have suggestions for enhancing visual appeal and/or links to video or other multimedia elements, I welcome hearing from you! Meanwhile, my sincere thanks to all who responded to my calls for ideas to add to our 4th Edition. I've incorporated every suggestion I've received. Most of all, I wish to thank local youth leaders who have embraced the program, devoted time and effort, and who found creative ways to implement it so that their juniors members have been encouraged not only to learn about our hobby and passion, but also to have fun!



Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

from Emerson Tucker

Greetings! After many years, Bob Livingston has retired as our Show Coordinator and I've agreed to try and fill his shoes in this position. I want to thank Bob for his years of work for the AFMS and wish him well in his retirement.

I'm no stranger to AFMS having served as Regional VP for SCFMS several times, and as both President-elect and AFMS President. Please note my contact information on page 3 and keep me informed whenever you pick your regional federation conventions so that we can avoid conflicting dates.



	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2016	Sept 16-18 Placerville, CA	October 21-23 Rochester, NY	August 19 – 21 South Bend, IN	AFMS July 27-July 31 Albany, OR	April 22 –24 Wichita, KS	May 7-8 Lubbock, TX	Nov. 18-20 Marietta, GA
2017	AFMS June 9 - 11 Ventura, CA	October 21-22 Bristol, CT	May 6 –7 Brainerd, MN	May 19-21 Hamilton, MT	March 18-19 Albuquerque, NM	November 10-12 Humble, TX	October 20-22 Knoxville, TN
2018		AFMS	Oct. 6-7 Springfield, IL	April 27-29 Yakima, WA			