

Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club



New Member Guide

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membership@agmc.info

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The Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club is a member of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. As such our members are expected to abide by the code of ethics found at the end of this guide.



Welcome to the Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club

The Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club was organized on January 22, 1944. The club is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement and enjoyment of the Earth Sciences and associated subjects. Its primary purpose is the exchange of information and the furtherance of knowledge of Mineralogy, Fossils, Geology, Rock Cutting and Gem Faceting and to stimulate interest in the development of these studies.

What we are: We are a group of people with a variety of common interests revolving around earth sciences. Our ages range from young children to senior citizens. Our expertise ranges from scientists to citizens and students of many fields. Lapidary work, faceting, beading, wire wrapping, mineral collecting, mining, fossils, and carvings are just some of the earth sciences we are interested in.

What we do: We seek to further our knowledge of the various earth science related fields through a guest speaker program, the exchange of information between club members, and hands on experiences such as field trips and junior club activities.

What you should do to receive the most from your membership:

- Attend meetings regularly.
- Ask questions of club members to every extent possible.
- Attend field trips on a regular basis.
- Get to know our club members through socializing and participation in activities.
- **Most importantly... Participate in club programs and activities by volunteering to help. This is key to our success.**

We look forward to getting to know you and welcome you along on our learning adventure. We're here because we are interested and like to share our discoveries and excitement.

Meetings:

The Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club meets on the 4th Monday of the month. (unless that Monday is a holiday then we meet on the following Tuesday). All meetings are held at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Road NW in Old Town, Albuquerque, New Mexico. The entrance is on 18th Street. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and is usually in the Sandia Room on the 2nd floor. There is a short business meeting prior to the evening's presentation, which begins at approximately 8:00 p.m. The Junior Club meets at 6:30 p.m. Board of Director meetings are held at 6:30 pm on the first Monday of each month. All club members are welcome. If you have an idea for a program please contact vp-programs@agmc.info

The Club Newsletter:

News Nuggets exists to assist the membership in communications and to provide information on club activities. Contributions from all members are welcome for any information that will promote club activities or that would be of interest to club members. News Nuggets is scheduled to be sent approximately one week prior to the monthly meeting, earlier if possible. You are invited to send news, articles or comments to the editor at any time. Please begin the subject line with AGMC. The Newsletter is our lifeline to current events. If you are not receiving yours, please contact the membership chair, treasurer or editor. If you want to submit an article to the News Nuggets please contact editor@agmc.info

Website:

Our web site is: www.agmc.info. Not only is there a lot of information on the site available to the public, there is also a special area for current members only where you can find the latest newsletter, resources for club members, and listing of field trips you can take on your own. You will need to establish your own account to get into the Members' Page area. All web accounts expire on December 31 so you want to pay your dues by December to maintain access. If you have questions concerning the website please contact webmanager@agmc.info

Shows:

The club sponsors a gem & mineral show "Treasures of the Earth" on the state fairgrounds during the spring in March. A lot of assistance is needed at the show. These include set-up, tear-down, admissions, raffle and door prize, and back-door & overnight security. Folks who help at the show get free admission and a parking pass! For more information contact show-chair@agmc.info

Field Trips:

Field trips are generally on the third weekend of every month (except for March. That month the trip will be on the fourth weekend due to the TOTE Show falling on the third weekend). Most trips are day trips where we leave in the morning and are home for dinner. On weekend trips we travel to the area on Friday, spend all day Saturday in the field, and return home on Sunday, camping or staying in hotels. We do mostly surface collecting or light digging.

- Tools: Rock hammer, chisel, screwdriver, file, whistle, hand rake, small sifter, small shovel, back pack, squeeze bottle of water, and newspaper to wrap your specimens in.
- Other necessities: WATER, sunscreen, lunch, jacket, toilet paper; your med's, sunglasses and in your car; a first aid kit.
- Clothing: Hat, long pants, long sleeved shirt, hiking boots.

Always be alert for critters, from slithering to pouncing in size. We try not to hike more than a 1/2 mile on field trips, mostly up hill. Always leave gates in the position you found them. Please - DON'T LICK THE ROCKS!! Some minerals are deadly. Use the squeeze bottle of water.

Please see the calendar on the web for actual dates, and read the current month's News Nuggets for specifics on that month's field trip. For more information contact vp-field-trips@agmc.info.

Lapidary Studio:

In the fall of 2013 the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science (NMMNHS or Museum) extended an invitation to the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club (AGMC or Club) to establish its lapidary studio in the museum. The Club readily accepted. Both organizations realized that aspects of their missions were similar enough for a partnership to be mutually beneficial.

Current club members in good standing are eligible to use the equipment in the Studio. A current club member is defined by one that has paid their dues for the year. Users must have paid any fees prior to using the Studio.

For insurance purposes all users of the Studio must also be Volunteers of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science and have paid the Museum Volunteer Association dues.

Children under age 12 will not be allowed in the Studio except for specific Junior Club activities when the Studio is not in operation. Children from 12 to 17 will require direct parental/guardian supervision and must be actively involved in lapidary activities. Their parent or guardian must have already been certified to use equipment.

For more information and necessary applications, see the Members Only area of the AGMC website.

Community Involvement:

Our emphasis is on education. To this end we support the community as follows:

- **Science Fair.** As part of its focus on the youth of New Mexico, the AGMC annually awards two US Savings Bonds for outstanding projects related to earth sciences at the Northwest Regional Science Fair.
- **Scholarships.** The Club has a special relationship with the University of New Mexico and annually awards two scholarships to UNM students majoring in geology with special interest in mineralogy.
- **Socorro Mineral Symposium.** As part of the Club's special relationship with UNM, we have been a co-sponsor of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology's annual mineral symposium in Socorro since 1979.

Contact Information:

No matter who is currently serving in the position, you can always send an email to your board using the following email addresses:

Elected Officers

President
VP Programs
VP Field Trips
Secretary
Treasurer
Membership

E-mail

president@agmc.info
vp-programs@agmc.info
vp-field-trips@agmc.info
secretary@agmc.info
treasurer@agmc.info
membership@agmc.info

Voting Board

Editor
Junior Club
Show Chair
Special Events
Historian
Ad Hoc

E-mail

editor@agmc.info
junior-club@agmc.info
show-chair@agmc.info
special-events@agmc.info
historian@agmc.info
ad-hoc@agmc.info

Advisors

Past President
Webmanager
Refreshments

E-mail

past-president@agmc.info
webmanager@agmc.info
refreshments@agmc.info

How to Get Involved in the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club

The best way to integrate yourself into the club is to volunteer for an activity. That way you'll get to know people and begin to feel more comfortable. What follows is a list of some of the ways you can get involved.

- Work the State Fair, handing out materials and talking to people about the club. You'll have a more experienced partner with you. Talk to Special Events coordinator.
- Drawing from your background and interests, volunteer to present a program. It can be on gems and minerals, geology, mining, fossils, collecting, or a variety of other topics. Contact VP for Programs.
- Write an article for our newsletter, "News Nuggets." It can be on any of the topics mentioned above or others. Send an email to the Editor.
- Go on one of the club's field trips. Talk to VP for Field Trips.
- Introduce yourself to one of the club's officers. Ask if there's something that you can do. (Start with the president.)
- Helping out with the Junior Club for one session. Talk to Junior Club coordinators.
- Serve on the committee planning the club's annual TOTE (Treasures of the Earth) show held in March. Talk to the Spring Show Chair.
- Offer to help with the set up or tear down of the TOTE show. Talk to the Spring Show Chair.
- Write a review of a rock shop or show that you attended. Send an email to the Editor.
- Share articles, books, websites, or other resources that you've found. Bring to a meeting or share with the Editor.
- Sign up to provide refreshments. Contact the Refreshments coordinators.
- Contribute door prizes for our monthly raffle.
- Volunteer to serve on the board of directors. Talk to the nominating committee.
- Sit in on the Junior Club meetings to listen and learn the basics: 6:30-7:15 before the general meeting.



American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.