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ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The American Geosciences Institute (AGI) is pleased to announce that the theme of Earth Science Week 2021 will be "Water Today and for the Future." The coming year's event, to be held October 10-16, 2021, will emphasize the importance of learning how to understand, conserve, and protect water, perhaps Earth's most vital resource.

"Water is essential for life on Earth," AGI Education and Outreach Director Edward C. Robeck said on announcing the theme. "While more than 70 percent of Earth's surface is covered by water, most of it is saltwater in oceans. Only about 3 percent of the water on our planet is freshwater, and most of that is in glaciers, the atmosphere, or otherwise inaccessible, leaving less than 1 percent of the total available for use by people and other living things."

Earth Science Week 2021 learning resources and activities will engage young people and others in exploring the importance of water — and water science — for living things, Earth systems, and the many activities that people undertake. Individuals of all backgrounds, ages, and abilities will be engaged in building understanding of water's role in timely topics including energy, climate change, the environment, natural hazards, technology, industry, agriculture, recreation, and the economy.

Raising awareness of the geosciences nationally and around the globe, AGI leads Earth Science Week in cooperation with its sponsors and the geoscience community as a service to the public. Each October, community groups, educators, and interested citizens organize celebratory events. Earth Science Week offers opportunities to discover the Earth sciences and engage in responsible stewardship of the Earth. Learn more at <https://www.earthsciweek.org>.

Earth Science Week is supported by many organizations, including the U.S. Geological Survey; the American Association of Petroleum Geologists Foundation; National Park Service; NASA; ExxonMobil; International Raw Materials Observatory; Newmont Corporation; American Geophysical Union; Geothermal Resources Council; IF/THEN(r) (Lyda Hill Philanthropies); Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (Minerals Education Coalition); AmericaView; Geological Society of America; Consumer Energy Alliance; Water Footprint Calculator (Grace Communications Foundation); American Meteorological Association; and CLEAN (Climate Literacy and Energy Awareness Network).

About AGI

The American Geosciences Institute (AGI), a federation of scientific and professional associations representing over a quarter-million geoscientists, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to serving the geoscience community and addressing the needs of society. AGI headquarters are in Alexandria, Virginia.

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