

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Geoff Camphire
gac@americangeosciences.org

New Contest Encourages 'Visualizing My Earth'

Alexandria, VA - The American Geosciences Institute (AGI) and the Center for Geoscience and Society are pleased to extend the celebration of Earth Science Week 2015 with the announcement of a new contest. The Visualizing My Earth Challenge invites full-time secondary and postsecondary students (ages 14 and older) to submit visual representations of natural phenomena from a geoscience perspective.

"What if you had a window that showed raindrops magnified 100 times?" the contest guidelines urge students to consider. "Or a river accompanied by numbers telling how deep the water is and how fast it flows? Or wind, heat, or rocks buried deep under plants and soil? If you could make a special window like this, what might you want to be able to see?"

The Visualizing My Earth Challenge invites students to apply their Earth science knowledge to a photo in a way that represents data visually. Using any of a variety of techniques, students can modify or add information to the image. Changes should turn the photo into an image that enhances the viewer's ability to visualize a part of one or more Earth systems in important ways.

Each entry must include one visualization, one brief written statement, and one completed entry form. International entries are welcome. All entries must be submitted in English. The deadline for electronic submission is 5 p.m. EST, January 29, 2016, using the designated online platform. Cash prizes up to \$300 will be awarded in each age group (14 to 17 years, 18 years and older).

For contest details and registration, please visit <https://visualizingmyearth.skild.com>. The contest serves as a continuation of Earth Science Week 2015 (<http://www.earthsciweek.org>), which celebrates the theme of "Visualizing Earth Systems." AGI thanks competition sponsors TGS and Skild for their generous support; Skild is the competition management software provider.

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Reaching over 50 million people annually, Earth Science Week has been led by AGI in cooperation with its sponsors and the geoscience community since 1998. Earth Science Week 2016 will be celebrated October 9-15, 2016. To learn more, please visit www.earthsciweek.org. To order Toolkits, please visit www.earthsciweek.org/materials. You may also call AGI Publications to place your order at 703-379-2480.

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The American Geosciences Institute is a nonprofit federation of geoscientific and professional associations that represents more than 250,000 geologists, geophysicists and other earth scientists. Founded in 1948, AGI provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice of shared interests in the profession, plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources, resiliency to natural hazards, and interaction with the environment.