

Highlights and News Clippings from Earth Science Week 2008

Introduction

Held Oct. 12-18, 2008, the 11th annual Earth Science Week celebrated the theme “No Child Left Inside.” Earth Science Week 2008, like past celebrations, promoted public and professional awareness of Earth science in education and society. Each year, AGI organizes Earth Science Week as a service to member societies, with generous help from major partners which provide funding, donate materials, organize events, and publicize the celebration. Major partners in 2008 included the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Park Service, and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

“The best Earth science classroom, any geoscientist will tell you, is the outdoors,” said Ann E. Benbow, Ph.D., AGI Director of Education and Outreach, announcing the theme. Activities, resources, and programs were designed to encourage young people to learn about geoscience by getting away from the television, off the computer, and out of doors.

Direct participation in Earth Science Week was stronger than ever. People in all 50 states and in more than 18 countries participated in events and activities in 2008. More than 700 people nationwide entered AGI’s Visual Arts, Essay and Photography Contests. In addition, 89 people submitted entries to the new joint Earth Science Week-International Year of Planet Earth Photo Contest. The Earth Science Week website received about 90,000 hits in October 2008 and over 445,000 hits throughout 2008.

Earth Science Week events ranged from educators teaching Earth science activities in their classrooms to open houses held at major USGS field stations. A detailed list of events can be found in Section 1. This list represents almost exclusively events reported to AGI, so please notify Earth Science Week staff if your activity is not listed.

Each year, more people are introduced to Earth Science Week by reading, watching, or hearing a news story in the media. For example, television news programs presented coverage of Earth Science Week on local stations in four states. As the geoscience community’s premier public-awareness campaign, Earth Science Week reached more people than ever — over 20 million — through promotions, events, news media, and the Internet. Section 2 provides a compilation of examples of print media that appeared in publications promoting Earth Science Week events and materials, including news releases and other items by members of the geoscience community.

This report is designed to give an overview of the activities organized by AGI and other groups for Earth Science Week. We hope this information on 2008 events and publicity inspires you to develop your own activities next year. Please visit www.earthsciweek.org for event planning, materials, resources, and support. Contact Earth Science Week staff at info@earthsciweek.org for assistance in planning for Earth Science Week.

Section 1

Earth Science Week 2008 Summary of Activities

Earth Science Week Toolkits

Earth Science Week 2008 Toolkits sold out during the month of October, as in 2007, with more than 15,000 complete kits being distributed to participants. The number of AGI member societies requesting complimentary Earth Science Week Toolkits for distribution rose again in 2008 to 21 from 15 the previous year. As in past years, thousands of Toolkits also were distributed through program partners including USGS, NASA, the National Park Service, the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC), and AAPG Student Chapters. Toolkits were sent to recipients in all 50 states and several countries. In addition, complimentary Toolkits were requested for distribution by the majority of state geological surveys (27).

The 2008 Toolkit featured AGI's traditional poster and school-year calendar showcasing geoscience classroom investigations and important dates of Earth science events, as well as AGI flyers announcing contests, competitions, materials, and services. A "Caves of the National Parks" poster, included in the Toolkit, was produced by AGI to continue the National Park Service poster series underscoring geoscience in the parks.

Also included were geoscience posters, flyers, electronic disks, fact sheets, bookmarks, and activities provided by AGI, USGS, NASA, NOAA, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Academies of Science, the Consortium for Ocean Leadership's Deep Earth Academy, The Weather Channel, Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS), the National Weather Service, International Year of Planet Earth, the Geological Society of America (GSA), Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), the Soil Science Society of America, the Association of American State Geologists, AAPG, ASTC, GLOBE, EarthScope, "Rite in the Rain," Walden Media, and Ward's Natural Science.

New Partnerships

Earth Science Week's success depends on the collaboration of key partners. In 2008, AGI forged partnerships with three organizations that helped the effort reach new audiences:

"Rite in the Rain"

One of the dozens of educational materials in the Earth Science Week 2008 Toolkit was the "No Child Left Inside" Field Notebook. The Field Notebook was made possible by contributions from USGS and the "Rite in the Rain" Corporation, which manufactures full-size notebooks for fieldwork by geoscientists. AGI and "Rite in the Rain" partnered to create a miniature Field Notebook, featuring all-weather writing paper and charts on types of clouds, soils, and geologic map symbols. Earth Science Week participants were encouraged to use the Field Notebooks as part of outdoor learning activities. By recording their observations and conclusions, students got a taste of the work performed by professional geoscientists.

Journey 3D

At the request of movie-production company Walden Media, AGI collaborated in the creation of educational materials and activities to accompany the July 2008 release of *Journey to the Center of the Earth 3D*, an update of the Jules Verne classic. *Journey 3D* plunged characters and viewers alike into the exciting world beneath the Earth's surface. AGI helped develop a booklet of related geoscience information and standards-based activities, using the movie as an opportunity to explore "science fiction and science fact." The *Journey 3D Educator Guide* was made available free online and as part of the Earth Science Week 2008 Toolkit.

Fish & Wildlife Service

Another new partnership forged by AGI was with FWS, which provided a collection of fact sheets for the Earth Science Week 2008 Toolkit. AGI also publicized FWS's National Wildlife Refuge Week, which overlapped Earth Science Week 2008. National Wildlife Refuge Week focuses on lands and waters where wildlife and habitats are under federal protection. Participants additionally were directed to related educational resources and information about nearby refuges.

Events

To celebrate Earth Science Week 2008's theme, USGS and AGI scientists hosted No Child Left Inside (NCLI) Day, Oct. 14, 2008. Working alongside local teachers and parent volunteers, the scientists promoted Earth science education by guiding hundreds of students from Langston Hughes Middle School through hands-on learning stations on water chemistry and biological diversity at Beaver Pond in Reston, Virginia. Students recorded observations in Field Notebooks donated in part by "Rite in the Rain." The event was covered by local media including NBC and National Public Radio affiliates.

"No Child Left Inside" became a rallying cry for a growing movement in 2008. Efforts by government agencies and nonprofit groups, from USGS and the National Park Service to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, helped young people experience the joys of outdoor activity. Inspired by Richard Louv's bestseller *Last Child in the Woods*, these activities aimed to curb what the author calls "nature-deficit disorder" among America's youth. Signaling the importance of the movement, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the "No Child Left Inside" Act (HR 3036) in September 2008 to support environmental education efforts. Because of the success of these efforts, AGI plans to make "No Child Left Inside" a permanent component of Earth Science Week, promoting NCLI Day events at locations nationwide.

For the third year running, Earth Science Week kicked off with International EarthCache Day, on Oct. 12, 2008. EarthCaching is an educational variation on the recreational activity known as geocaching. Geocaching — in which an organizer posts latitude and longitude coordinates on the Internet to advertise a "cache," or scavenger-hunt destination, which geocachers locate by using GPS devices — has attracted over a million participants worldwide. When a participant visits an EarthCache, he or she learns something about Earth science, the geology of the location, or how the Earth's resources and environment are managed there. EarthCaching has been developed by the Geological

Society of America, a major Earth Science Week partner. Participants have developed thousands of EarthCaches in at least 50 countries.

Also, as in past years, visitors to Baltimore's Maryland Science Center were greeted and treated to an entertaining introduction to the geosciences by AGI staff during Earth Science Week. Staff members were on hand to discuss Earth science, distribute educational materials, and conduct brief experiments and demonstrations with children. Visitors also viewed "Why Earth Science," a brief educational video newly created by AGI as an introduction to the geosciences.

In addition, events and outreach efforts reached many people nationwide. New York's Nassau BOCES Outdoor Education Center offered an EarthCache Teacher Workshop. At the Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland, California, visitors panned for gold, identified rocks and minerals, handled authentic meteorites, and hiked in redwood forests. The Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa celebrated with tours of wetlands, family programs exploring Florida's caverns and freshwater habitats, and indoor demonstrations in "Disasterville."

Web Resources

AGI staff continually updated the Earth Science Week website (www.earthsciweek.org) throughout the year to reflect the theme, contests, proclamations, events, classroom activities, and other announcements. As a result, the site received approximately 90,000 hits in October 2008 and more than 445,000 hits over the entire year. Within the site, the homepage alone received more than 60,000 hits from January through December 2008. The "Classroom Activities" page received over 360,000 hits in 2008.

Reinforcing Earth Science Week 2008's theme of "No Child Left Inside," the website featured a new resource highlighting locations for learning geoscience outside the classroom. AGI's new "My Events Map" provided clickable links to Earth Science Week events taking place at parks, museums, science and technology centers, university geology departments, local geological societies, and other locations across the country. Based on the effort's success, AGI plans to continue the events map and create another online map of geoscience organizations worldwide in 2009.

Educators who want to post images of their student activities on the Earth Science Week website were invited to send photos along with signed permission forms. The Earth Science Week Photo Gallery went live during the summer of 2008.

Building on the success of the Facebook Group Page for Earth Science Week launched in 2007, AGI created a Facebook Fan Page for the celebration in 2008. Facebook, one of the Internet's most popular social networking websites, enables geoscience educators, students, and others to connect with people of similar interests. When a person becomes an Earth Science Week fan, he or she instantly gains access to geoscience videos, begins receiving important updates and information, and helps spread the word about Earth Science Week. The Facebook Group Page included 245 members from 29 states and eight countries, while the new Fan Page reached over 200 fans in 2008.

Newsletter

The monthly Earth Science Week Update newsletter reached more than 4,300 teacher, student, and geoscientist subscribers in 2008, up roughly 75 percent from 2,500 the previous year. This electronic newsletter kept planners and participants up-to-date on Earth Science Week planning at the national level, encouraged participation in local areas, and provided news on geoscience topics of interest to participants.

Significantly, 2008 was the first full year of monthly distribution of 12 issues of the newsletter. In previous years, Earth Science Week staff generally sent out about four issues leading up to Earth Science Week and one following the celebration. In 2007, the first issue of the newsletter in its current format went out mid-year, inaugurating a year-round distribution schedule that continues to the present. It is anticipated that these regular reminders and news items will not only keep program participants better informed about geoscience issues, but also will help strengthen planning and participation during the key months leading up to and during Earth Science Week's October celebration.

National and International Contests

AGI held national contests in connection with Earth Science Week for the seventh consecutive year in 2008. The contests were designed to encourage K-12 students, teachers, and the general public to get involved in the celebration by exploring artistic and academic applications of Earth science. AGI received 713 entries for the visual arts, essay, and photography contests. The winner in each category received an award of \$300 and a copy of AGI's "Faces of Earth" DVD package.

In addition, AGI partnered with International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE), a joint initiative by UNESCO and the International Union of Geological Sciences, to offer a new ESW-IYPE 2008 Photo Contest, which was open to shutterbugs worldwide. The theme of the contest, "Exploring Earth Science Around the World," encouraged entrants to submit images of people engaged in Earth science exploration in the natural environment of their part of the world. Eighty-nine people from 15 countries submitted photos through the end of Earth Science Week.

Lutz Geissler of Germany won first place in the ESW-IYPE contest with a photo featuring a geology student investigating mica schists against the dramatic backdrop of the Eastern Alps of Austria. The second- and third-place winners hailed, respectively, from Costa Rica and the United Kingdom. Spanning from February 2007 to December 2009, IYPE aims to demonstrate ways Earth science can help future generations meet the challenge of ensuring a safer and more prosperous world. Given the success of the effort, AGI has made a commitment to conduct the second annual ESW-IYPE 2008 Photo Contest for Earth Science Week 2009.

International Connections

In addition to the ESW-IYPE 2008 Photo Contest, Earth Science Week participants were invited, along with their education colleagues worldwide, to contribute to and make use of a new online resource called Earth Learning Idea (ELI). ELI offers a wide variety of Earth science instruction ideas, all designed to provide practical tools for teachers and

teacher-trainers. For IYPE, ELI published one activity a week throughout 2008. Each activity was designed to maximize student participation, learning, and enjoyment while minimizing cost.

Earth science students were encouraged to compete for a place in the second annual International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO). The competition invited U.S. students to complete a free online assessment. Those who demonstrated outstanding geoscientific knowledge and skills became eligible for special studies and training opportunities during the summer, culminating with attendance at IESO in Manila, Philippines, in August 2008. IESO, supported by the National Science Foundation and Earth Science Week, offers a unique opportunity for students who want to learn about the Earth sciences, global challenges facing the world, and their peers in other countries.

In recognition of Earth Science Week 2008, Geoscience Australia also hosted the Geologi Short Film Competition 2008. Australian secondary-school students participated by submitting a brief film dealing with natural hazards, underground resources, or subterranean geology. This competition was just another one of the many international events and programs taking place for Earth Science Week 2008.

Teacher Award

In connection with Earth Science Week 2008, AGI and the AGI Foundation launched and publicized the new Edward C. Roy, Jr. Award for Excellence in Earth Science Teaching. Given annually, this award recognizes one classroom teacher from kindergarten to eighth grade for his or her leadership and innovation in Earth science education. The award is named in honor of the late Dr. Edward C. Roy, Jr., who was a strong and dedicated supporter of Earth science education. He served as Past President of AGI, chaired the AGI Education Advisory Committee, and received both the Ian Campbell Medal and the Heroy Distinguished Service Award.

AGI named Michelle Brand Buchanan the winner of the first annual Roy Award in 2008. A dedicated teacher for the past decade, Buchanan currently teaches seventh-grade Life and Environmental Science and eighth-grade Earth, Space, and Environmental Sciences in Louisiana. Buchanan received a \$2,500 prize and an additional grant of \$1,000 enabling her to attend the AAPG Annual Convention, where she received the award. The next award will be presented during Earth Science Week 2009.

Official Proclamations

Governors issued proclamations recognizing Earth Science Week 2008 in 19 states: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Washington.

Publicity and Media Coverage

In 2008, AGI enlisted the support of a wide range of media in promoting awareness of Earth Science Week. Seeking collaborations with television broadcasters, Internet sites,

print news media, and others resulted in unprecedented reach for promotional activities in 2008 and helped lay a foundation for more coverage in years to come.

Internet

Earth Science Week was highlighted on dozens of webpages besides the official event site. Program partners USGS, AAPG, GSA, NASA, the National Park Service, and the National Academy of Sciences each featured information promoting that organization's events and publicizing the celebration itself.

To celebrate Earth Science Week 2008, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center created a series of educational videos that aired online throughout the week. Viewers learned how the Earth system is changing, what the system's primary forces are, how it will change in the future, and more.

Television and Radio

Earth Science Week was covered by television stations across the country, including News Channel 15, News Center 33, and News Center 21 of Fort Wayne, Indiana; News 8 Austin in Austin, Texas; and WCTV in Tallahassee, Florida, which noted the governor's issuing of a proclamation of Earth Science Week. In addition, NBC 4 of Washington, D.C., covered the No Child Left Inside Day event at Langston Hughes Middle School in Reston, Virginia, during Earth Science Week.

Washington, D.C.'s National Public Radio affiliate, WAMU 88.5, broadcast an item on the No Child Left Inside Day event, titled "7th Graders Spend Day with Scientists." Also, WCCO 830 AM News Radio of Twin Cities, Minnesota, highlighted Earth Science Week 2008.

Print Media

AGI distributed press releases to hundreds of newspapers, magazines, and other print media outlets. Many local and national publications ran items on Earth Science Week; for examples, see Section 2.

In addition, AGI staff wrote articles for the National Science Teachers Association's *The Science Teacher*, *Science Scope*, and *Science and Children* magazines; the National Earth Science Teacher Association's *The Earth Scientist* magazine; and the Association of Science-Technology Centers' *ASTC Dimensions*. The articles highlighted Earth Science Week activities and theme. *The Ohio Earth Scientist* and *Seismological Research Letters* also covered Earth Science Week 2008.

More than 100,000 copies of the Earth Science Week 2008 poster, including a geoscience learning activity, were distributed through Earth Science Week Toolkits and various magazines, including the Geological Society of America's *GSA Today*, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists' *AAPG Explorer*, NESTA's *The Earth Scientist*, and AGI's *EARTH* (formerly *Geotimes*).

Professional Evaluation of Earth Science Week 2008: Key Outcomes

AGI secured an independent contractor, PS International, to complete a formal evaluation of Earth Science Week 2008, as it has in past years. Approximately 4,000 program participants were invited to participate in a survey in the closing months of 2008, with valid responses up 26 percent from the previous year.

Results were enormously positive. Comparing participation the previous year and plans for the next year, 94 percent of survey respondents said they anticipate either increasing participation or no change. Fifty-nine percent said they're increasing participation. "Earth Science Week is more important than ever," commented one respondent. "Students are listening," said another.

A large majority of participants (84 percent) said Earth Science Week offers opportunities for teaching and promoting Earth science that they wouldn't have otherwise. Without it, "we would not have devoted an entire day's worth of programming to Earth science," said one. Similarly, 89 percent said program resources and activities are very or somewhat important to educating students and others about geoscience. "In many schools, the Earth Science Week packet is all teachers get!" a respondent remarked.

Most respondents rated Earth Science Week and related resources as highly useful. The share rating the program's overall usefulness as "excellent" or "good" rose significantly, from 69 percent in 2007 to 77 percent in 2008. Only 2 percent rated overall usefulness as poor in 2008. When respondents were asked to rate nearly 20 key items from the Earth Science Week 2008 Toolkit and the Earth Science Week Website, all were rated "very useful" or "useful" by between 95 percent and 75 percent of participants.

Participants said they were more active than ever during Earth Science Week. Seventy-nine percent of respondents said they conducted a major Earth Science Week activity. Moreover, more participants reported specific activities that were highly "active" than in previous years. For example, 43 percent reported the "most active" types of activities (such as outside lessons, field trips, contests, and workshops) in 2008, as compared to 10 percent in 2007 and 17 percent in 2006.

Asked how Earth Science Week might be improved, about 50 percent of respondents advocated additional materials and activities. Another 23 percent recommended increased collaboration among stakeholders, such as state and local coordinators. Additional suggestions included beginning mailing and promotions earlier in the year and increasing media coverage.

Earth Science Week Sponsors

United States Geological Survey
American Association of Petroleum Geologists Foundation
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
National Park Service

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National Aeronautics and Space Administration
National Park Service
American Geological Institute
Association of American State Geologists
Association of Science-Technology Centers
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Environmental Systems Research Institute
Fish & Wildlife Service
Geological Society of America
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology
International Year of Planet Earth
National Academies of Science
National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service
Rite in the Rain
The Smithsonian Institution
Society of Exploration Geophysicists
Soil Science Society of America
Walden Media
Ward's Natural Science
The Weather Channel

Earth Science Week 2008 Events and Activities by State

Alabama

- The governor of Alabama proclaimed Oct. 12-18 Earth Science Week.
- McWane Science Center in Birmingham offered hands-on Earth science investigations and programs promoting awareness of the geosciences' impact on society and encouraging visitors to get outside and explore their surroundings.
- Dozens of Earth Science Week Toolkits were distributed by the state geologist.
- As they have done almost every year since 1997, the Geological Survey of Alabama, in cooperation with the University of West Alabama and Discovering Alabama, put on a one-day fossil field workshop for K-12 teachers. Participants collected their own fossils at exposures of the well-known Cretaceous chalk in west Alabama. Afterwards, with the help of workshop organizers, participants identified and labeled all specimens. These labeled specimens, plus the workshop guidebook, allowed the teachers to develop classroom activities in paleontology. In addition, participants received education publications and fossil specimens.

Alaska

- The governor of Alaska issued a perpetual proclamation of Earth Science Week.
- The Alaska Geological Survey distributed Earth Science Week 2008 Toolkits to teachers statewide.

Arizona

- The Flagstaff Field Center participated in the 19th annual Flagstaff Festival of Science, with USGS scientists available at exhibits and activities at Science in the Park. Ken Herkenhoff from the Astrogeology Group gave a talk titled "Zooming into Mars with the Microscopic Imagers on Spirit and Opportunity." Biologist Jut Wynne spoke on "Caves on Earth and Mars: The Search for Life," and volcanologist Laszlo Keszthelyi gave a talk titled "Zooming in on Mars from Orbit: Updates from the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter." Laszlo also gave four in-school presentations on "Volcanoes in our Solar System."
- Earth Science Week Toolkits were distributed to educators by the state geologist.

Arkansas

- The governor of Arkansas proclaimed Oct. 12-18 to be Earth Science Week.

California

- The Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland held activities such as panning for gold, identifying rocks and minerals, earthquake shake-table challenges, and handling authentic meteorites. There was also a Lego™ Solar Car Challenge and a hike in the Redwood forests led by an East Bay Regional Parks naturalist.
- The Centers for Ocean Science Education Excellence (COSEE) West held a teacher workshop. The topic was Marine Protected Areas, and teachers learned about hands-on activities and field trips they can conduct with their classes to explore the various habitats and ecosystems right off their coast and what is being done to protect them.

Colorado

- Way Cool Science! Channel 22, part of the Denver Public Schools' Distance Learning Network, showcased the Earth Science Week Toolkit on their program.

Connecticut

- The state geological survey distributed Earth Science Week Toolkits.
- The governor of Connecticut proclaimed Oct. 12-18 to be Earth Science Week.

Delaware

- The governor proclaimed Earth Science Week to be Oct. 12-18, 2008.
- Dozens of Earth Science Week Toolkits were distributed by the state geologist.

District of Columbia

- The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History held an event titled "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil."
- The Koshland Science Museum of the National Academy of Sciences held a free family day, in which people of all ages participated in events around the Penn Quarter neighborhood of Washington D.C.

Florida

- The governor of Florida named Oct. 12-18 Earth Science Week.
- The Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa celebrated Earth Science Week with hikes in the Back Woods, tours of artificial wetlands, adult and family programs that explored Florida's underground caverns and fresh water habitats, and demonstrations inside "Disasterville" featuring Bay News 9 WeatherQuest.
- The Florida Geological Survey celebrated Earth Science Week at its annual open house, where activities included building tours and geologist-guided walks of the Leon Sinks Geological Area.

Georgia

- The Georgia Water Science Center held an exhibit during Earth Science Week where organizers distributed 2008 kits to teachers and home-schooling parents.
- PRISM distributed 50 Earth Science Week kits to students in South Georgia.
- Dr. Fred Rich, geology professor at Georgia Southern University, visited three public schools and one private school promoting Earth Science Week with hands-on activities for more than 750 middle school students, including fossil identification and soil auguring.
- The Astronomy Club of Augusta held solar observing on the lawn activities for youth during their Science Education Enrichment Day on Oct. 18.

Hawaii

- The state geological survey distributed Earth Science Week Toolkits to teachers.
- National Wildlife Refuge Week and Earth Science Week coincided in a major public-awareness effort. Hawaii has nine wildlife refuges that participated.

Idaho

- The Idaho Geological Survey ordered 50 Earth Science Week Toolkits. Every year the Idaho Geological Survey takes a group of teachers on a weeklong fieldtrip, and participants report that they always make good use of the kits.

Illinois

- The Fermilab of the Lederman Science Center in Batavia sponsored an event encouraging participants to become amateur entomologists by joining an insect survey at Fermilab.
- The governor of Illinois proclaimed Earth Science Week to be Oct. 12-18.
- Dozens of Earth Science Week Toolkits were distributed by the state geologist.

Indiana

- Science Central in Fort Wayne celebrated Earth Science Week with educational activity stations, including a contrail activity station and a tsunami activity station.
- The state geological survey distributed Earth Science Week Toolkits to teachers.

Iowa

- Project Learning Tree's "A Few of My Favorite Things" helped students learn what natural resources make up their favorite items.
- TAKO (Take A Kid Outdoors) sponsored a "Fossil Fun" day at Fossil and Prairie Park in Rockford to celebrate Earth Science Week and "No Child Left Inside." Participants collected and identified fossils, then took them home.

Kansas

- In cooperation with the National Park Service, the Kansas Geological Survey distributed Earth Science Week 2008 Toolkits at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Strong City to supplement the park's natural history programs throughout the week.
- Activities in Wichita included a display at the Central Public Library, information for attendees at the North American Association for Environmental Education National Convention, and public school educational programs.

Kentucky

- The Kentucky Geological Survey ordered 50 Earth Science Week kits for distribution in schools in the Fayette County area.
- The Kentucky Geological Survey held an annual open house, attracting more than 20 people for the geoscience event.

Louisiana

- The winner of the first Edward C. Roy Jr. Award for Excellence in K-8 Earth Science Teaching was Michelle Brand Buchanan of Pineville. The award program was a new component of Earth Science Week 2008.
- Earth Science Week Toolkits were distributed by the state geologist.

Maine

- The Maine Geological Survey ordered 50 Earth Science Week Toolkits and distributed them at the annual Earth Science Day at the Maine State Museum.

Maryland

- AGI partnered with the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore to conduct “No Child Left Inside” activities for visitors.
- The state geological survey distributed Earth Science Week Toolkits to teachers.

Massachusetts

- As part of a “No Child Left Inside” effort, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation sponsored The Great Park Pursuit, a challenge to visit six state parks within six weeks.

Michigan

- The Michigan Mineralogical Society held a gem, mineral, fossil, and jewelry show to kick off Earth Science Week.

Minnesota

- Earth Science Week Toolkits were distributed to the National Association of Geology Teachers in Northfield.

Mississippi

- The Environmental Education in Mississippi website encouraged youths and teachers to celebrate Earth Science Week.

Missouri

- The governor of Missouri proclaimed Oct. 12-18 to be Earth Science Week.
- Hooked on Science held Science Day 2008 at West Park Mall in Cape Girardeau. Shoppers visited various booths featuring science experiments.
- Dozens of Earth Science Week 2009 Toolkits were distributed by the state geologist.

Montana

- Glacier National Park and the National Park Service offered activities and materials to teachers at ranger stations during Earth Science Week.

Nevada

- The state geologist requested Earth Science Week 2009 Toolkits for distribution to educators statewide.
- The Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology held two field trips for children and lifelong learners interested in collecting rocks and studying local geologic history. Activities focused on sites associated with ancient volcanoes and lakes, where attendees collected igneous and sedimentary rocks. These events had high attendance by students and teachers, who received Earth Science Week Toolkits.

New Hampshire

- The New Hampshire Geological Survey (NHGS) distributed dozens of Earth Science Week Toolkits to local science teachers.
- NHGS and Geological Society of New Hampshire (GSNH) staff accompanied eighth-graders from the Profile Middle School on a field trip through the state's famous Franconia Notch, including hiking within this glacial U-shaped valley and learning about its geology.
- A "No Child Left Inside" informational display highlighted the NHGS display case in the state Department of Environmental Services Building.
- GSNH held its Annual Dinner Meeting, with "No Child Left Inside" as its theme. The GSNH sponsored a mineral raffle, and teachers in attendance were given an Earth Science Week kit. A student introduced speakers from Seacoast Science Center and Squam Lakes Science Center. Discussions focused on incorporating Earth science in their programs. State Geologist David Wunsch introduced a short video prepared by the Utah Geological Survey highlighting seismic hazards associated with living along the Wasatch fault zone.

New Jersey

- The governor of New Jersey named Oct. 12-18 to be Earth Science Week
- The state geological survey distributed Earth Science Week Toolkits to teachers.

New Mexico

- Oct. 12-18 was proclaimed to be Earth Science Week by the governor.
- Dozens of Earth Science Week Toolkits were distributed by the state geologist.

New York

- The Nassau BOCES Outdoor Education Center offered an EarthCache Teacher Workshop at their Caumsett Environmental Education Center for middle school and high school Earth science teachers to help get students outdoors.
- The state geological survey distributed Earth Science Week 2008 Toolkits to teachers statewide.

North Carolina

- Discovery Place in Charlotte held "A Day in Pompeii," a traveling exhibit chronicling the destruction of the city of Pompeii by Mt. Vesuvius.
- The governor proclaimed Oct. 12-18 to be Earth Science Week.
- The Museum of Life and Science in Durham hosted a weeklong celebration of Earth Science Week in conjunction with AGI and the Association for Science-Technology Centers. Programs included story times, exploring North Carolina geology with local authors and experts, panning for gems, fossil excavation and casting, vermicomposting, and worm encounters.

North Dakota

- The governor of North Dakota issued a perpetual proclamation of Earth Science Week in the second full week of October.

Ohio

- The governor of Ohio proclaimed Oct. 12-18 to be Earth Science Week.
- The Boonshoft Museum of Discovery in Dayton celebrated Earth Science Week from Oct. 12 to 18, 2008. Events included becoming a Mineral Detective and “making your own volcano.”
- The Cleveland Museum of Natural History held an Earth Science Evening.
- The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology ordered 40 Earth Science Week Toolkits for distribution at its K-12 Educators’ Workshop.
- Dozens of Earth Science Week Toolkits were distributed by the state geologist.

Oklahoma

- The governor issued a perpetual proclamation of Earth Science Week.
- The state geological survey distributed Earth Science Week Toolkits to teachers.

Oregon

- Dozens of Earth Science Week Toolkits were distributed by the state geologist.

Pennsylvania

- The state geological survey distributed Earth Science Week Toolkits to teachers.
- The governor of Pennsylvania proclaimed Oct. 12-18 to be Earth Science Week.

Rhode Island

- National Wildlife Refuge Week and Earth Science Week overlapped in 2008. AGI teamed with the National Wildlife Refuge to promote activities and awareness at refuges nationwide, including six in Rhode Island.

South Carolina

- The Environmental Education in South Carolina website encouraged youths and teachers to get outside and visit museums in celebration of Earth Science Week.

South Dakota

- The governor issued a perpetual proclamation of Earth Science Week.

Tennessee

- The state Department of Environment and Conservation distributed Earth Science Week Toolkits to Tennessee Earth Science Teachers.
- Oct. 12-18 was proclaimed to be Earth Science Week by the governor.
- The state Department of Environment and Conservation held an Earth Science Fair that included hands-on activities on the geology behind sinkhole development, landslide activity, and oil and gas exploration.
- Dozens of Earth Science Week Toolkits were distributed by the state geologist.

Texas

- The Children's Museum of Houston held Earth Science Wonderweek, during which visitors could become master geologists, look at fascinating rocks, see different landforms on a map, and listen to the Non-Toxic Band's music and fun songs about the Earth.
- The Houston Geological Society hosted a High Island Geology Field Trip.
- The state geological survey distributed Earth Science Week Toolkits to teachers.
- The state Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin ordered Earth Science Week Toolkits for 350 middle school students plus teachers who attended the annual Austin Earth Science Week career fair.
- Since Earth Science Week's inception in 1998, Austin geoscientists have spread the word about Earth science. This year, the Austin Earth Science Week Consortium organized three events: a distinguished lecture series, a book drive to raise funds for the Austin Public Library, and a geoscience career fair for students. The theme of the lecture series was "Texas Dinosaurs!" Pamela Owen and Louis Jacobs, paleontologists from the University of Texas at Austin and Southern Methodist University respectively, spoke. More than 200 people attended. Texas State Geologist Scott Tinker gave the opening presentation at the ninth annual Austin Earth Science Week Career Fair, where 350 middle school students learned about careers in petroleum geology, paleontology, hydrology, hydrogeology, caves and aquifers, meteorology, archeology, planetary science, environmental science, and Earth science education. More than 70 volunteers served as presenters, exhibitors, and tour guides.

Utah

- The Utah Geological Survey conducted "Rocks of the Mountains" presentations at the Utah State Fair.

Vermont

- Omya's Middlebury Marble Quarry in Middlebury held a poster contest, an open house, and quarry tours. The open house attracted 1,620 visitors for tours and geoscience activities. Visitors were taken by shuttle buses to three stops in the quarry for exploration of the geology, drilling, and environmental aspects of the operation. Children and adults enjoyed collecting specimens at one stop. The awards ceremony for the Vermont State Earth Science Week Poster Contest was held at the quarry, and visitors viewed a display of the winning posters.
- Dozens of Earth Science Week Toolkits were distributed by the state geologist.

Virginia

- The U.S. Geological Survey and AGI held No Child Left Inside Day for more than 300 students at Langston Hughes Middle School in Reston. Learning stations focused on water quality, biodiversity, and map making at a nearby pond.
- Barbara Brock of Spotsylvania's Riverbend High School took her class outside to make topographic maps.

Washington

- The governor of Washington proclaimed Oct. 12-18 to be Earth Science Week.
- The Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Division of Geology and Earth Resources in Olympia hosted a rock auction. Buyers purchased 150 specimens, with funds going to support geoscience education. There was also a Geology Library Earth Science Week Yardsale.

West Virginia

- The 34th annual Gem and Mineral Show was held at the South Charleston Community Center. It was sponsored by the Kanawha Rock and Gem Club.

Wisconsin

- The USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center in La Crosse celebrated Earth Science Week by conducting science center tours and special outdoor activities, making classroom presentations, and providing school and homeschool teachers with Earth Science Week Toolkits for student exploration.
- Newport Wilderness Society, the official Friends Group of Newport State Park, held Earth Science Week events at Newport State Park. Naturalist Joan Wilke invited citizens to visit Newport State Park to explore the life cycle of a deciduous wood, hike through the autumn forest or along the rocky shoreline, and listen to the stories of the men who founded the town.

Wyoming

- Seven Wyoming wildlife refuges participated in geoscience festivities in 2008, as National Wildlife Refuge Week coincided with Earth Science Week.

International Events

Australia

- Geoscience Australia and the National Geographic Channel sponsored the Geologi Short Film Competition for secondary school students. Students were invited to produce a short film with an “Earth Science” theme, and the winning entry was showcased on the National Geographic Channel website.
- Small events were held in the Sydney area during Earth Science Week, and larger events are planned for next year in the Dismal Swamp area and Long Reef.
- Residents of Australia participated in the IYPE-ESW photo contest.
- Triassic Park in Victoria invited people to visit as a part of Earth Science Week. The park is a small former quarry with the only known Triassic Age sedimentary rocks in Victoria. Triassic fossils can be found in the sediments.

Bahrain

- Residents of Bahrain participated in the IYPE-ESW photo contest.

Botswana

- The IYPE-ESW photo contest received images submitted by Botswana citizens.

Bangladesh

- Citizens of Bangladesh participated in the IYPE-ESW photo contest.

Bulgaria

- Residents took part in the IYPE-ESW photo contest. A finalist was from Bulgaria.

Canada

- The Ontario Science Center hosted a series of lectures by Canadian professors and other geoscience professionals for students in grades 4-12.
- The Pacific Museum of the Earth in British Columbia held an open house that included tours, explorations, hands-on demonstrations, and 20-minute presentations regarding geologic hot topics.

Costa Rica

- Residents participated in the IYPE-ESW photo contest. The second place winner was from Costa Rica.

Czech Republic

- The IYPE-ESW photo contest received images from Czech Republic citizens.

Germany

- Residents entered photos in the IYPE-ESW photo contest. The first-place winner was from Germany.

India

- Citizens of India participated in the IYPE-ESW photo contest.

Ireland

- The IYPE-ESW photo contest received images from residents of Ireland.

Italy

- Citizens of Italy took part in the IYPE-ESW photo contest.

Netherlands Antilles

- The IYPE-ESW photo contest received images from residents of Netherlands Antilles.

Philippines

- Residents of the Philippines participated in the IYPE-ESW photo contest.

Puerto Rico

- The Puerto Rico Seismic Network ordered 75 Earth Science Week Toolkits to distribute throughout Puerto Rico during its Earth Science Week events.
- The Puerto Rico Seismic Network celebrated Earth Science Week, for the seventh consecutive year, with a full day of shows, interactive activities, exhibitions and presentations. Months in the planning, this event attracted approximately 3,000 people from all over Puerto Rico. There were 45 schools representing all education levels. There were about 40 exhibitors including Tsunami Ready and GPS stations, both from Puerto Rico Seismic Network, USGS, National Weather Service, DNR, governmental agencies, fossils and coral exhibitions.

Slovenia

- The IYPE-ESW photo contest received images from citizens of Slovenia.

South Africa

- Residents of South Africa submitted entries in the IYPE-ESW photo contest.
- The Sci-Bono Discovery Centre in South Africa hosted a seminar for Earth Science Week called “Our Wonderful Universe,” by Claire Janisch. The talk focused on a combination of extraordinary science, ancient wisdom, and the implications of our world. It brought together music, art, math, science, and nature in a synthesis designed to inspire and educate young minds.

United Kingdom

- Citizens of the United Kingdom took part in the IYPE-ESW photo contest.