

Join Mike and Sherri Baldwin as we plan the future of the MAGS Youth Group.



Close to home

In Memphis there are many places to go with your family or with MAGS. One well known place is the Pink Palace. The Pink Palace is a great place to go on a Sunday afternoon on a rainy day. It is like a book containing much of the historical Memphis and different science exhibits. Downstairs there is a rocks, minerals, and fossils exhibit.

Another place to go in Memphis is Nonconah Creek. At Nonconah Creek you can find a whole assortment of rocks, minerals and fossils. Some things that can be found there are mastodon teeth, fossilized wood, and geodes. It, as I would say, is a collector's heaven.

Chucalissa, as I mentioned in a former article, is a close to home Native American settlement. It is a great archaeological site to visit to learn about native Americans and their heritage.

In the Mid-South

There are many places that you can find rocks, minerals, and fossils in this area, but you need to make sure that you are not trespassing on private property.

A well known area for mineral hunting is Hot Springs. There you can find quartz, pyrite and magnetite. The beautiful specimens that you can find there are great additions to your collection.

Fossils are good specimens to add to your collection. A place where you can find fossils is the side of U.S. Highway 78 near mile marker 80 in Mississippi. There you can find fossils from the late Cretaceous period including exogyras, teeth, and Agerostreas. Be careful where you walk, because if you aren't, you'll step on hundreds of small fossils.

January 8 Meeting will include:

- [01] JOY Program information
- [02] FRA Merit Badge information
- [03] Field trip planning
- [04] Digging for Knowledge Game

JOY Program

By Karen Schaeffer

This year is the second year that I have participated in the Junior of the Year (JOY) program. The only effort that it takes is completing the form. Every MAGS trip that you attend earns you points. Every meeting that you go to earns you points. Even articles in the newsletter can earn you points. I am writing about this early in the year so more people can try for the 2008 grand prize.

I was named Junior of the Year 2007. During the summer my family took a trip to Israel. We went to archaeological sites there and participated in a dig. We also visited museums, including the Pink Palace, and all of this counted toward JOY. I wrote articles for the MAGS newsletter and the Explorer. Every monthly field trip that I took with MAGS was not only fun but added to my JOY points. If you go on separate trips with your family they count too.

I, as the editor of the Explorer, am always looking for new writers who can bring something new to the Explorer. It counts for JOY and you can see your name printed. I need articles that include summaries of field trips, subjects that are of interest to you, games, and experiments. Please volunteer to write and send your articles to Chachagirl919@aol.com.

I am including an application form for JOY. As a tip, keep track of all of the museums, field trips, and MAGS meetings that you attend throughout the year so completing the form will be easier.

JOY is not required, but it is a friendly competition; it is getting noticed for some of the things you enjoyed doing. The youth program will do some activities that can be considered for JOY but you should also do some on your own.

MAGS Explorer Editor is Karen Schaeffer. MAGS Explorer is published monthly by and for the youth members of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. You can send articles, artwork, poems, puzzles, experiments, pictures or stories to Karen Schaeffer at Chachagirl919@aol.com or Mike Baldwin at mbaldwin05@gmail.com.

Except for items that are specifically copyrighted by their authors, other societies may use material published in MAGS Explorer provided that proper credit is given and the sense or meaning of the material is not changed. ©2008 Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society.

Application for SFMS Junior fo the Year 2008

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

I, _____, certify that I am a member in good standing of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society, which is a member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies. I am a paid member throughout the calendar Year 2008. All of the points on this application are for activities between November 1, 2007 and October 31, 2008. All entries are true and correct.

PRESIDENT OF THE SPONSORING CLUB

I, Sandy Ward, as President of the sponsoring Club believe that all the points recorded in this application are true and correct.

PARENT/ GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____

ALL MATERIAL MUST BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 31, 2008

ALL MATERIAL MUST BE POSTMARKED BY NOVEMBER 5, 2008

THE JUNIOR OF THE YEAR (JOY) WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE DECEMBER 2008 LODESTAR AND AT THE 2008 SFMS ANNUAL MEETING! GOOD LUCK!

SFMS Junior fo the Year 2008 Criteria

NOTE: On a separate sheet(s) of paper, list and identify/describe activities and the points attained for each individual activity (i.e. #2 Adult meetings attended: May 2008 (5 points), July 2008 (2 points) etc.).

1. Must be a current, paid Junior member of a club in the Southeast Federation, 5 points....._____points
2. Must attend at least one adult meeting, 5 points....._____points
Attendance at additional adult meetings, 2 points each....._____points
(5 points if there is no Junior meeting available to attend)
3. Attendance at Junior meetings/workshops, 5 points each....._____points
Serving as an officer, committee member or presenter 5 points each meeting_____points
4. Attendance at a Gem and Mineral Club Show other than your own. Show must be recognized by an organized Club or one of the major federations. (Obtain and save show ticket or program), 10 points....._____points
NOTE: Attendance at a primarily rock, gem, mineral, fossil, or earth science museum, National Park, or other exhibit related to our hobby will be considered a “show”. Enter points above, 10 points each
5. Participation in a Gem and Mineral Club sponsored (or Dixie Mineral Council sponsored) field trip, including Junior Club field trips, 15 points each....._____points
6. Participation in a family field trip or field trip with a group other than those listed above, 10 points per trip....._____points
7. In keeping with the “Each one Teach one” program, a Junior club member can earn 10 points per occasion for sharing our hobby with others by teaching them a defined skill (example - Gem tree making at your club show or presenting a program)....._____points
8. In the spirit of sharing our hobby and encouraging growth of the clubs in our Federation, a Junior may

earn 5 points for sponsoring a new Junior or adult member and an additional 5 points for attending a meeting to introduce them_____points

NOTE: Articles accepted by the Editor but not yet published by October, 2008 can be counted for this or next year, but for one year only.

9. Publication of a well-researched educational article on some phase of our hobby or the earth sciences in your club bulletin. Accuracy of information and references required. 25 points_____points

10. Publication of a report in your club bulletin on a Junior Club meeting, workshop or field trip, 10 points each_____points

11. A Junior Club member winning a regional or national award for articles published in a club bulletin and submitted for competition will receive 25 points for each such recognition....._____points

NOTE: You may receive points for publication of an article one year and receive points for the same article for recognition the next year....._____points

12. Junior sharing our hobby at schools or in other groups by making a presentation may receive 5 points for each presentation if a written verification is obtained at the time from the adult in charge....._____points

13. Junior recognized in school, regional or state Science Fairs for exhibits related to our hobby or to Federation purposes will receive 20 points per recognition....._____points

14. Junior having an exhibit in your club show, 20 points per exhibit....._____points

15. Junior working at the annual club show will receive 5 points for each hour verified work period_____points

TOTAL POINTS_____

For a possible tie breaker describe any other hobby related information regarding publications, activities, or recognitions achieved this past year that might help us evaluate your enthusiasm for winning this JOY award.