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MEETINGS**

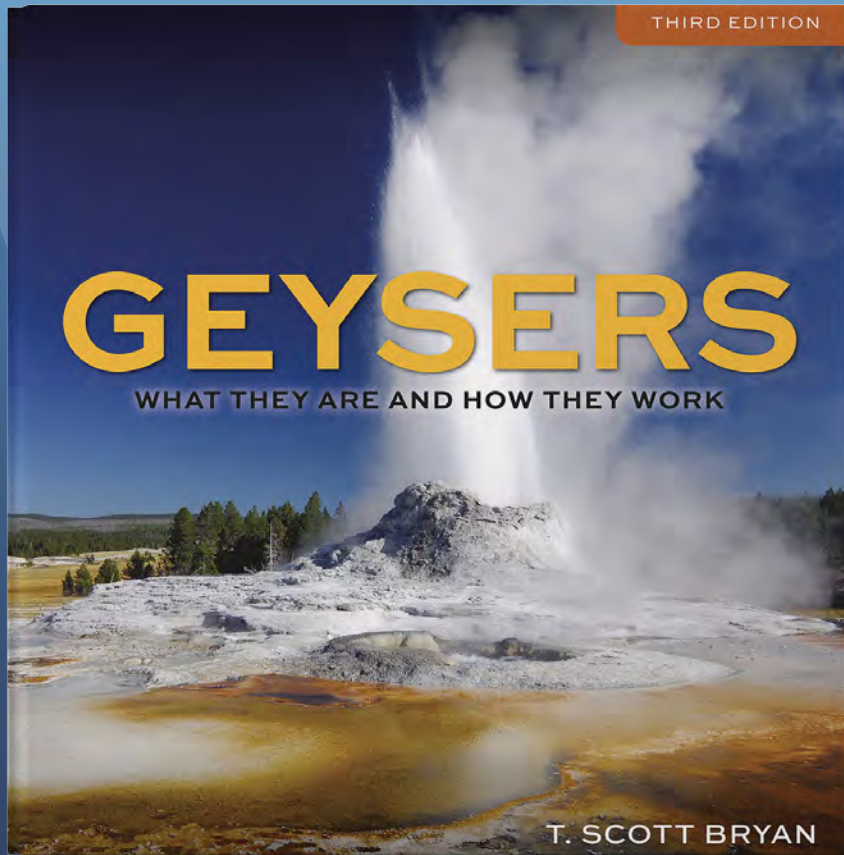
International Professional Geology Licensure

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From Black Shales to Drinking Water:
What Groundwater Chemistry Tells Us

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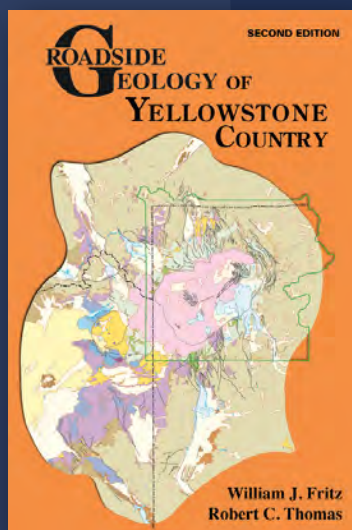
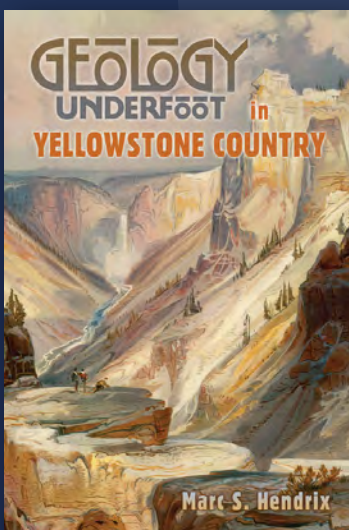
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Cover: Aerial view showing mine tailings, Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape, South Africa. Credit: Abstract Aerial Art / Getty Images. Read about the geology professional licensure requirements in South Africa and other countries in the related article on pages 4–11.

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Field sampling of domestic wells.



International Professional Geology Licensure

Ester Sztejn, Director of International Programs, Geological Society of America

In August 2025, The Geological Society of America (GSA) Council approved “The Benefits of Professional Geologist Licensure,” a Position Statement describing GSA’s consensus views in support of licensure for professional geologists (GSA, 2025). This Position Statement encourages federal and state governments to support existing licensure standards and to promote licensure requirements for professional geologists where they are not yet established.

In the U.S., the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG, www.aipg.org) and the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG, www.asbog.org) are the primary organizations through which geologists can obtain professional credentials. While both accreditations attest to a geologist’s ability to perform high-quality professional work, only the Professional Geologist (PG) license obtained through ASBOG satisfies licensure requirements established by statute in states that mandate licensure. Certifications provided by professional societies (such as AIPG’s Certified Professional Geologist [CPG]) and other specialty organizations, such as those focused on the fossil fuel or mineral industries, while stringent, do not confer legal authority to practice in a regulatory capacity (GSA, 2025).

As of July 2025, 31 U.S. states and Puerto Rico require ASBOG PG licensure for geologists working in fields that affect public health, safety, and welfare (ASBOG, 2025a). These requirements pertain primarily to practice in applied fields, and generally exclude individuals engaged in teaching, academic research, or federal government oversight, or work within energy and mineral companies operating in their own domains, which are typically exempt (GSA, 2025). For applied professionals, licensure through entities like ASBOG—and, in some contexts, professional certification through AIPG—provides mechanisms to avoid unnecessary and adverse outcomes and to uphold health, safety, and professional standards.

ASBOG offers two levels of certification: the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and the Practice of Geology (PG). Candidates typically sit for the FG exam soon after completing the requirements of their major or earning their bachelor’s degree, depending on state-specific rules. PG candidates must complete three to seven years of qualifying work under the supervision of a licensed professional geologist before they are eligible to take the exam (ASBOG, 2025b). While ASBOG itself does not mandate continuing education, many states that rely on ASBOG examinations have their own continuing education requirements, which vary from voluntary to mandatory on an annual or biennial basis (AGI, 2025).

AIPG offers Certified Professional Geologist (CPG) membership to geologists who voluntarily undergo a rigorous and thorough peer-review process that carefully evaluates their education, experience, technical competence, and ethical conduct. Applicants must have, at a minimum, a bachelor’s degree in the geological sciences, plus a given number of years of professional geological work experience correlated to their level of formal education (AIPG, 2025a). Unlike U.S. state licensure, AIPG’s CPG membership is recognized internationally and is open to geoscientists worldwide; AIPG members currently represent more than 50 countries.

AIPG’s CPG status is recognized in several international regulatory contexts, such as the preparation of mining reports under Canadian, U.S., and international standards. AIPG has established International Reciprocity Agreements with the European Federation of Geologists (EFG), the Institute of Geologists of Ireland (IGI), the Geological Society of London (GSL), and the Association of Mining Engineers, Metallurgists and Geologists of México (AIMMGM), among others, as well as cooperation agreements with additional organizations (AIPG, 2025b). CPGs may also qualify as “Qualified Persons” in Canada if

they have experience in specific types of mineral deposits as dictated by the Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards (CRIRSCO); the South African Code for the Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves (SAMREC) Code, 2016 Edition; or the Australian Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC; AIPG, 2025b).

AIPG does not currently require continuing education credits for renewal for maintenance of CPG certification, although professional development is strongly encouraged.

LICENSURE IN SELECT COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

Within this framework, the professional geology licensure landscape in several countries is examined and compared with U.S. licensure practices. A summary of requirements across the ten countries reviewed is provided in the accompanying comparative table.

Two general categories emerged from this limited survey: countries that require national licensure to practice geology and those that do not. In the countries with professional licensure requirements, several criteria are common, such as a geoscience degree, supervised experience, and completion of a professional exam. Countries without U.S.-style professional licensure exhibit greater variability in professional regulation.

Countries such as the U.S., Canada, Australia, and many European nations maintain stringent requirements in addition to an accredited degree in geoscience, typically including several years of supervised practice, a strict professional examination, and yearly or biennial continuing professional development. In Europe, the European Geologist (EurGeol) professional title is granted by the European Federation of Geologists (EFG) and serves as a widely recognized professional credential.

Reciprocity agreements exist between the EurGeol designation and professional institutions such as AIPG, the Canadian Council of Professional Geologists, Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG), and the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA). These agreements facilitate mutual recognition of professional standards and support recognition of the EurGeol-accredited geologist's qualifications and competence in these countries. In the United Kingdom, the Geological Society of London serves as the National Vetting Committee (NVC) and manages the process of vetting applications for EurGeol applications from their membership. The EFG International Licensed Body processes applications from France and other countries in Europe without their own NVCs (EFG, 2025).

In the Latin American countries included in this review, geology degrees (Licenciaturas) obtained in accredited academic institutions must be registered with their respective government agencies to obtain legal validity. Argentina issues a national license through the Consejo Superior Profesional de Geología; in addition, some provinces have their own Consejos, which issue licenses for work within their provincial boundaries.

In Australia, professional credentials are obtained through professional organizations—including the Geological Society of Australia, the Australian Institute of Geoscientists, and the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy—which share educational requirements but have different requirements for supervised work and peer recognition. Nigeria and South Africa both have strong registration mandates, with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) offering three registration categories (Candidate, Certificated, and Professional) based on experience and academic qualifications.

Some countries included in this survey, such as India and Australia, do not mandate universal professional licensure at the national level, although licensure may be required in specific sectors, such as mining (see Table for details). France and the United Kingdom rely on the EurGeol professional title rather than national license. While the U.S. and Canada also lack a national licensure requirement, their case is somewhat different from the other countries included in this survey because of the strong state/provincial role in licensing (ASBOG in the U.S. and professional regulators in the provinces and territories of Canada), coupled with the lack of statutory national licensure boards.

Requirements for supervised experience can range from none required (Argentina), to an expectation that the geologist has several nonmandatory months or years of experience (India), to mandatory minimums of six months to five years in most other countries in this survey.

Continuing professional development similarly varies from country to country. In some cases, it is encouraged but voluntary (e.g., India, Nigeria, México), while in others, it is mandatory and an integral part of preserving a geologist's licensure status (e.g., EurGeol, Australian professional licenses, and the P.Geo. licenses in Canadian provinces and territories). Noncompliance with continuing professional development risks license suspension or revocation.

The recognition of foreign professional qualifications generally requires the evaluation and revalidation of the educational credentials of the candidate. Nigeria's Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists (COMEG) requires foreign-trained geologists to apply for registration regardless of prior licensure or certification in other countries. South Africa requires validation of local and international qualifications through the South African Qualifications Authority, especially for non-South African degrees. Both México and Argentina require mandatory validation of degrees. Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR for its Spanish initials) members such as Argentina enjoy facilitated professional title recognition (MERCOSUR, 2025). In India, the National Core Committee for Reporting Mineral Resources and Reserves (NACRI), a voluntary and independent group of domain experts of geosciences and mining, has developed the Indian Mineral

Industry Code (IMIC), a CRIRSCO-compliant Reserves Reporting System that has yet to be legalized by the Indian government (Rao and Samal, 2021).

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AI TOOLS

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Argentina

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS in geology (without thesis) or Licenciatura (with thesis) from an Argentinian institution. Professional title awarded by the university on graduation.	No.	The professional title needs to be registered in the Ministry of Education's National Registry of Titles and Certificates with National Validity (ReNaV, abbr. in Spanish). ReNaV is managed by the Argentinian government, specifically under the national mining and geology authorities. The licensing body is the Consejo Superior Profesional de Geología (CSPG).	Yes. CSPG. No exam is required.	Some Argentinian provinces have their own professional councils (Colegios or Consejos Profesionales) or regulatory bodies. These may require additional registration or licensing for work conducted in that province.	Professional associations and societies might offer certifications or membership for geologists, but not legal right to practice.	No.	Validation of academic titles by the Dirección Nacional de Gestión Universitaria is mandatory. Additional coursework if needed. Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) membership facilitates professional title recognition among member countries.	Parellada (1972)

Australia

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS or MS in geoscience or equivalent.	Yes. Years of supervised or relevant work experience needed vary by professional organization.	Yes. Through professional organizations: Geological Society of Australia (GSA), Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG), and the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM). GSA: Ac.Geo.5 (5–10 yr experience) and Ac.Geo.10 (10+ yr experience) plus peer review, sponsorship, code of ethics. AIG: Registered Professional Geoscientist (RPGeo; minimum amt of experience and support from proposers and referees). AusIMM: Chartered Professional (CP; 5+ yr experience plus peer recognition).	No. Professional recognition through GSA (voluntary), AIG (voluntary, rigorous), AusIMM (recognition for CP) membership plus relevant work experience.	No.	Yes. GSA accredited: 30–50 h/yr; AIG RPGeo: >50 h/yr (most rigorous CPD program); AusIMM Chartered Professional: 30–50 h/yr. Academics exempted.	RPGeo or CP increasingly expected, esp. for Competent Person (legal signing) under the Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) Code.	VETASSESS assesses supervised work (work experience) and education for geologist visa applicants mapped to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) 234411 duties.	EFG (2025b) IAH (2025) VETASSESS (2025)

Canada

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS in an area of geoscience from a recognized institution. Note: the degree needs to include specific courses.	Minimum of 48 mo supervised geoscience work experience.	Yes. Geoscience is a regulated profession in Canada. By law, need to register as a Professional Geoscientist (P.Geo.) and obtain P.Geo. license from the professional regulator in a Canadian province or territory. In addition, good character, proficiency in the language of business where practicing, and passing the National Professional Practice Exam (NPPE). The NPPE assesses knowledge of professional law, ethics, and the responsibilities related to practicing geoscience in Canada.	No. Provincial exams are required to obtain P.Geo. licenses.	Yes, from the professional regulator in a Canadian province or territory. Many provinces offer Geoscientist-in-Training (GIT) programs to recent graduates or employees working towards licensure: not mandatory. NPPE required.	Most regulatory bodies have specified annual CPD activity requirements for P.Geos.	Mining requires “Qualified Person” status with additional requirements. Geoscience Knowledge and Experience (GKE) requirements for professional registration in Canada vary whether it is outside of Québec (based on common course syllabus) or within Québec (approved university programs or a different course syllabus).	Provincial and territorial regulatory bodies are the direct licensors and assessors of international geology credentials in Canada, supported by federal and national information and facilitation services.	EFG (2025b) IAH (2025) VETASSESS (2025)

France

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS, MS, or engineering diploma from an accredited French university or engineering school.	Yes. Several years.	Recommended: European Geologist (EurGeol) title granted by European Federation of Geologists (EFG). Application and requirements administered by the French Geological Society (SGF). Payment of SGF dues and adherence to EFG’s code of ethics. CNISF (Le Conseil National des Ingénieurs et des Scientifiques de France) maintains the French Directory of Engineers. Total number of years required is a minimum of 9 (4 yr of study plus 5 yr of practice or 3 yr of study plus 6 yr of practice).	No. EurGeol is a professional title. Geologists must be registered with relevant professional bodies. EurGeol vetting is done by the EFG International Licensed Body (ILB). There is a specific process to apply for the EurGeol title under the ILB.	No.	Yes. Reported in the EurGeol Portal, ensuring compliance with category and total point requirements. Completion of EurGeol Survey annually.	Specific highly regulated fields such as mining geology, environmental geology involving site decontamination, and geoengineering require extra certification or formal professional recognition. May require authorization under the Mining Code.	Reciprocity recognition agreements being set with American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) and the Canadian Council of Professional Geologists (CCPG). European geologists with additional knowledge recognized by the mineral reporting authorities in Australia, Canada, South Africa, and the UK.	EFG (2025b) Gallin and Demiris (2019)

India

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS or higher in geology or related earth sciences from a recognized institution.	No mandatory supervised training period before practicing independently. Many employers expect candidates to have practical experience.	There is no separate licensing board or mandatory certification body. To work in government, candidate must pass the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Combined Geoscientist/Geologist Exam or state public service commission exams. Professional recognition largely depends on university credentials and qualifying government exams for certain positions. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) does not issue professional licenses but is a major employer and certifier for geological expertise through training and employment.	No statutory national licensing board mandates specific educational curricula beyond holding a recognized degree.	No. The regulation and professional recognition of geologists in India are not governed by any statutory state-level boards.	Professional development and ongoing education for geologists in India is typically voluntary and encouraged by professional societies such as GSI, but these do not impose mandatory CPD requirements.	The only exception is in the mining sector. Professionals who want to submit mine plans need to register with the Indian Government’s Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM; Ministry of Mines) and are designated as Registered Qualified Persons (RQP).	For international geology degrees, the recognizing authority is the University Grants Commission (UGC) through the new Recognition and Grant of Equivalence Regulations (2025). The eligibility criteria include the recognition of foreign institution, curriculum, and credit alignment.	Tandon (2025) <i>India Today</i> (2025)

México

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS or higher in geology or related earth sciences from a recognized institution.	Yes. Servicio social. Typically 480 hours within a 6-mo to 2-yr period.	For international geology degrees, the recognizing authority is the University Grants Commission (UGC) through the new Recognition and Grant of Equivalence Regulations (2025). The eligibility criteria include the recognition of foreign institution, curriculum, and credit alignment.	Yes, Cédula Profesional. No specialized examination needed.	No.	Yes. Encouraged to take courses, seminars, workshops, or other professional development activities approved by relevant regulatory or professional bodies. The number of hours or the types of acceptable continuing education may vary depending on local or national regulations and professional organizations.	Mining, environmental, and construction industries require additional certifications or membership in certain professional associations, such as the Colegio de Ingenieros de Minas, Metalurgistas y Geólogos de México. To be a member of the Colegio, an individual must already hold a professional degree and a Cédula Profesional issued by the Mexican authorities.	Degree and credential validation process mandatory.	Gobierno de México, 2025

Nigeria

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS in geology or related field from recognized institution.	Three years of supervised work experience.	Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists (COMEG). Registration with COMEG is mandatory.	Yes. Mandatory statutory registration with SACNASP, but no professional examination.	No.	CPD not always required, but highly recommended for career advancement. Membership in the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGS) or its Specialist Groups and in the Association of Professional Geoscientists is encouraged. All must be registered NMGS members first.		COMEG requires foreign-trained geologists to apply for registration regardless of prior licensure or certification in other countries. Provide proof of academic qualifications, relevant work experience, and undergo additional assessments or examinations as determined by COMEG.	COMEG (2025)

South Africa

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
Honors degree in geology meeting South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) standards.	3 yr work experience in a responsible position for a 4-yr BS with honors; 2 yr for an MS; and 1 yr for a PhD. For Chartered Status with the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA), > 5 yr relevant experience (2 of which must be in a position of responsibility).	SACNASP registration categories: Candidate, Certificated, and Professional. Statutory registration with SACNASP and professional membership in GSSA is recognized by international organizations such as CRIRSCO as acceptable registration for purposes of competency regarding resource and reserve reporting. For GSSA, only Chartered Status geologists can sign off as a Competent Person or Competent Valuator. Engineers' statutory body is the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) and the professional body is the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM). Surveyors' statutory body is the South African Geomatics Council (SAGC) and the professional body is the Institute Mine Surveyors of South Africa (IMSSA). Professional norms and behavior are measured against a Code of Ethics by GSSA, SAIMM, IMMSA, and by a Code of Conduct by SACNASP, ECSA, SAGC, respectively.	Yes. Mandatory statutory registration with SACNASP, but no professional examination.	No.	To maintain SACNASP registration, CPD is required, activities to be completed in a 5-yr cycle, self-reported in three categories. GSSA organizes activities in four categories: Formal Learning, Knowledge Contribution, Self-Directed Study/ Informal Learning, and Professional Practice. CPD mandatory for Chartered Status. CPD obtained through GSSA and SACNASP is considered mutually compliant.	For Mineral Resource/Mineral Reserve reporting, the GSSA requires that the Competent Person reach Chartered Status.	The South African Qualifications Authority validates local and international qualifications, especially for non-South African degrees.	SAMCODES (2025)

South Korea

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS or higher in geological sciences or related fields.		Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources (KIGAM) is the leading governmental research and regulatory body, but does not issue licenses. KIGAM is primarily focused on research, development, and policy support rather than formal licensure. No mandatory national exam.	The Human Resources Development Service of Korea (HRD Korea) issues two national professional licenses: Applied Geology Engineer (certifies technical competence in applied geology, written and practical exams, and relevant professional experience) and Professional Engineer for Geology and Geotechnics (highest-level national engineering license, several years of relevant professional experience plus Applied Geology Engineer certification and professional engineer exam).	No. There is no decentralized provincial professional licensure systems for geologists.	Practical work experience, including supervised training or internships, is highly valued.	Licensure-like requirements including exams or certifications exist for specific technical roles within mining, environmental assessment, or construction sectors, often overseen by specialized ministries or professional associations. The Korea Mine Rehabilitation and Mineral Resources Corporation (KOMIR) issues two national licenses: Engineer for Mine Reclamation (certifies technical competence; must pass national written and practical exams plus professional experience) and Professional Engineer for Mine Reclamation (highest-level national engineering license, requires several years of experience plus prior engineer-level certification before the Professional Engineer exam).	The Ministry of Education and the National Research Foundation oversee the International Education Quality Assurance System (IEQAS), the central framework for evaluating foreign academic credentials. Interviews or supplementary documentation may be needed.	KIGAM (2019) HRDK (2024) KOMIR (2022)

United Kingdom

Education	Supervised Work	Professional License/ Main Regulatory Body	National Licensure	State/Provincial Licensure	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Special Cases	International Qualifications	Sources
BS or MS in geology or geoscience, ideally from UK or international university.	Five or more years.	National professional bodies and the EFG. Chartered Geologist (CGeol) or Chartered Scientist (CSci) primarily through the Geological Society of London (GSL). Applicants must become GSL Fellows and submit competence in seven distinct core areas, secure a chartered supporter, and pass a validation interview.	No. EurGeol is a professional title. The EFG National Vetting Committee (NVC) in the United Kingdom is the GSL. No written exam required.	No. Professional licensure for geologists is not mandated by law on a county-by-county basis.	Yes. CPD includes any activity that develops one's work-related knowledge, experience, and skills. Qualifying activities are grouped in six main categories. Complete 90 h annually. Also could include periodic review.	Further qualifications after CGeol: SiLC (Specialist in Land Condition), RoGEP (Register of Ground Engineering Professionals), and CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme). CGeol is a prerequisite to be a Competent Person under the Pan European Reporting Code (PERC) and other international reserves and resources reporting codes in the CRIRSCO family.	EurGeol title is nationally and internationally recognized, facilitating free movement of professionals across Europe. (Also see under "France.") Geologists with international degrees may qualify if their academic background meets UK standards. There is reciprocal recognition with the Institute of Geologists of Ireland, AIPG, and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.	The Geological Society (2025)

2026 Section Meetings

Early registration and travel grant submissions are open!



Registration

Category	2026 Early Registration	2026 Standard Registration
Professional Member	\$225	\$425
Professional Non-Member	\$265	\$465
Professional Senior Member	\$150	\$245
Lifetime Member	\$225	\$425
Early Career Professional Member	\$195	\$295
Early Career Professional Non-Member	\$235	\$335
Student Member	\$95	\$110
Student Non-Member	\$150	\$165
K-12 (Member and Non-Member)	\$115	\$145
Guest	\$75	\$95

**\$50 less each category for One Day Registrations

Lower and middle-income countries (according to the World Bank) will receive 50% off their registration fee, which is automatically applied during the registration process.



Exhibit or Sponsor at GSA Section Meetings!

Join us as an exhibitor or sponsor at GSA's upcoming Section Meetings! These events bring together geoscientists, students, educators, and industry professionals for networking, collaboration, and discovery. Exhibiting or sponsoring is a great way to showcase your organization, connect directly with attendees, and support geoscience in your region. Opportunities include exhibit booths, program ads, student support, and custom sponsorships. Visit each Section Meeting website for details and to reserve your space.



Student Volunteers

Are you a student looking to get involved with GSA and connect with geoscientists across your region? Sign up to volunteer at one of the 2026 GSA Section Meetings!

Student volunteers play a vital role in supporting sessions, registration, and meeting logistics—and in return, receive complimentary meeting registration. Volunteer spots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't wait to secure your place!

To be eligible, you must be a current GSA student member. Not a student member yet?

Visit www.geosociety.org/join to take advantage of this opportunity and more!

Student memberships are only \$25/year.

Questions? Email gsastudents@geosociety.org.

Volunteer as a Student Driver for Complimentary Field Trip and Meeting Registration

Students aged 25+ with a valid driver's license can volunteer as field trip drivers to receive complimentary registration for both the trip and the meeting. Email Rebecca Taormina, fieldtrip@geosociety.org, for more information.

Student Opportunities at GSA Section Meetings

GSA Section Meetings offer a variety of ways for students to connect, learn, and build their careers in the geosciences. Whether you're looking to network with professionals, explore career pathways, or strengthen your application materials, there's something for everyone!

Career Mentoring Luncheons: Connect with mentors from industry, government, and academia while learning about nonacademic and applied geoscience career paths. Lunch is \$5 for student members, \$10 for student non-members, and advance registration is required. Sign up when you register for the meeting.

Roy J. Shlemon Mentor Program in Applied Geoscience: Discuss career prospects and challenges with applied geoscientists from a variety of sectors.

John Mann Mentors in Applied Hydrogeology Program: Meet professionals in hydrogeology and hydrology to learn about career options and industry insights.

Geology Club Meetups: Connect with other geology club members from across your region, share ideas, and learn how to start or grow your campus club.

Career Workshop Series: Join interactive sessions covering career planning, geoscience job sectors, résumé/CV and cover letter tips, and networking strategies.

Don't miss these opportunities to take the next step in your geoscience journey! Email gsastudents@geosociety.org with any questions.

Student Travel Grants

The Sections are pleased to offer support for the cost of student travel to 2026 Section Meetings. These travel grants provide students with the opportunity to network, present their research, and gain invaluable experience.

www.geosociety.org/travel-grants





Triple Joint 75th Southeastern / 60th North-Central / 60th South-Central Annual Section Meeting

Memphis, Tennessee, USA
8–11 March 2026

<https://www.geosociety.org/se-mtg>

Location

Renasant Convention Center
255 N Main St.
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Early Registration and Travel Grant Deadline:
12 February 2026

Standard Registration Deadline:
26 February 2026

Schedule of Events

6–8 March: Pre-Meeting Field Trips

8 March: Short Courses and Opening Reception

9–11 March: Technical Sessions

12–13 March: Post-Meeting Field Trips

Lodging

The Sheraton Memphis Downtown Hotel (250 N. Main St., Memphis, TN 38103) is conveniently located next to the Renasant Convention Center, offering comfortable accommodations and easy access to meeting events and downtown Memphis attractions.

Hotel registration deadline: 7 February 2026. After this date, any requests will be subject to availability and may not receive the group rate.

Negotiated GSA Group Rate: \$149, plus applicable state and local taxes and fees.

Reservations:

<https://geosociety.co/ReservationsSE>



Field Trips

FT26SE01. Exploring the Geologic Setting, Production, and Regulations of Natural Resources in West Tennessee and the Northern Mississippi Embayment.

Saturday–Sunday, 7–8 March, 8 a.m. (first day)–noon (last day). US\$63 for students; US\$88 for ECPs; US\$125 for professional members; US\$150 for non-members. CEUs 1.2.

FT26SE02. From Source to Sink (Literally!): Hydrogeology of the Wilcox and Claiborne Aquifer Systems in Western Tennessee. Saturday–Sunday, 7–8 March, 8 a.m. (first day)–5 p.m. (last day). US\$145 for students; US\$203 for ECPs; US\$290 for professional members; US\$348 for non-members. CEUs 1.6.

FT26SE03. Discovering a Cretaceous Lagerstätte: Fossil Field Trip to Coon Creek Tennessee.

Saturday, 7 March, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. US\$48 for students; US\$67 for ECPs; US\$95 for professional members; US\$114 for non-members. CEUs 0.8.

FT26SE04. Toxic Tour: Legacy Contamination and Impacts to Memphis Communities.

Saturday, 7 March, 8:30 a.m.–noon. US\$23 for students; US\$32 for ECPs; US\$45 for professional members; US\$54 for non-members. CEUs 0.4.

FT26SE05. Virtual Reality Field Trip of the Alabama Appalachian Mountains.

FT26SE06. Recent Mapping of Upper Cretaceous Strata in Western Tennessee: Reevaluating Regional Correlations Based on Litho-Bio-Chemostratigraphic Relationships.

Thursday–Friday, 12–13 March, 7:30 a.m. (first day)–6 p.m. (last day). US\$145 for students; US\$203 for ECPs; US\$290 for professional members; US\$348 for non-members. CEUs 1.6.

FT26SE07. Reelfoot Scarp, Reelfoot Lake, and Landslides: Signatures of the Great 1811–1812 New Madrid Earthquakes.

Thu. 12 March, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. US\$48 for students; US\$67 for ECPs; US\$95 for professional members; US\$114 for non-members. CEUs 0.8

FT26SE08. From Plum Bayou Mounds to Crowley's Ridge: Exploring Archaeology and Fluvial Landscapes.

Thursday, 12 March, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. US\$48 for students; US\$67 for ECPs; US\$95 for professional members; US\$114 for non-members. CEUs 0.8.

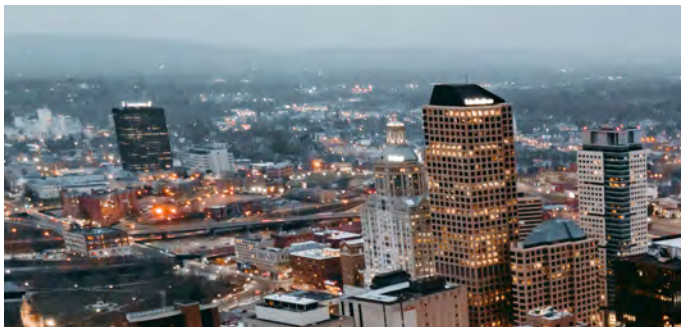
Short Courses

SC26SE01. Designing Transformative Geoscience Learning Experiences. Sunday, 8 March, 1–5 p.m. US\$48 for students;

US\$67 for ECPs; US\$95 for professional members; US\$114 for non-members. CEUs 0.4.

SC26SE02. Ground Penetrating Radar: Principles and Practice. Sunday, 8 March, 2–5 p.m. US\$38 for students;

US\$53 for ECPs; US\$75 for professional members; US\$90 for non-members. CEUs 0.3.



61st Annual Meeting of the GSA Northeastern Section

Hartford, Connecticut, USA
21–24 March 2026

<https://www.geosociety.org/ne-mtg>

Location

Connecticut Convention Center
100 Columbus Blvd.
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Early Registration and Travel Grant Deadline:
12 February 2026

Standard Registration Deadline:
26 February 2026

Schedule of Events

21 March: Pre-Meeting Field Trips, Short Courses, and Opening Reception

22–24 March: Technical Sessions

Lodging

The Hartford Marriott Downtown (200 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06103) is conveniently located adjacent to the Connecticut Convention Center, offering modern accommodations and easy access to meeting sessions, dining, and downtown Hartford attractions—perfect for a comfortable and connected conference stay.

Hotel registration deadline: 27 February 2026. After this date, any requests will be subject to availability and may not receive the group rate.

Negotiated GSA Group Rate: \$219 Single/Double Occupancy; \$229 Triple Occupancy; \$239 Quad Occupancy, plus applicable state and local taxes and fees.

Reservations:

<https://geosociety.co/ReservationsNE>



Field Trips

FT26NE01. Connecticut’s Jurassic Park: The Theropod Tracksite at Dinosaur State Park. Saturday, 21 March, 9 a.m.–noon. US\$10 for students; US\$25 for ECPs; US\$30 for professional members; US\$40 for non-members. CEUs 0.3.

FT26NE02. Shifting Sand: Barrier Spit Migration and Science Based Management: The Napatree Point Conservation Area. Saturday, 21 March, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. US\$13 for students; US\$18 for ECPs; US\$25 for professionals; US\$30 for non-members. CEUs 0.8.

FT26NE03. Tectonometamorphic Evolution of Northern Manhattan: Constraints on (Neo)Acadian Tectonism. Saturday, 21 March, 7:30 a.m.–5 p.m.; US\$43 for students; US\$60 for ECPs; US\$85 for professional members; US\$100 for non-members. CEUs 1.0.

FT26NE04. Triassic–Jurassic Great Lakes of the Connecticut Valley Rift Basin: Exemplars of the Deep-Water, Stratified Lake Paradigm and Why Walther’s “Law” Does Not Apply. Saturday, 21 March, noon–5:30 p.m. US\$20 for students; US\$28 for ECPs; US\$40 for professional members; US\$48 for non-members. CEUs 0.6.

Short Courses

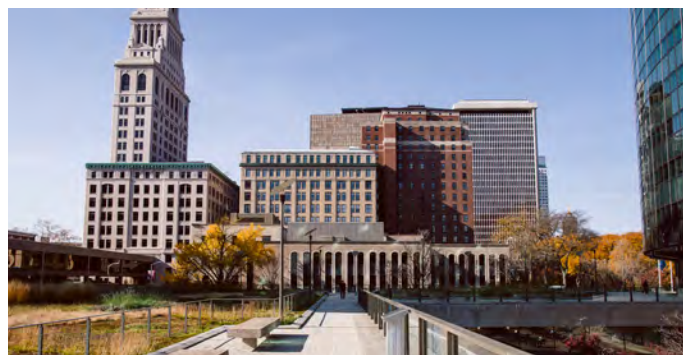
SC26NE01. Methods and Applications in (U-Th)/He Thermochronology. Saturday, 21 March, 1 p.m.–5 p.m. US\$48 for students; US\$67 for ECPs; US\$95 for professional members; US\$114 for non-members. CEUs 0.4.

SC26NE02. Teaching the Anthropocene. Saturday, 21 March, 1 p.m.–5 p.m. US\$48 for students; US\$67 for ECPs; US\$95 for professional members; US\$114 for non-members. CEUs 0.4.

SC26NE03. CoreNET: Best Practices in Coring and Analyzing Lake and Other Terrestrial Records. Saturday, 21 March, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. US\$60 for students; US\$84 for ECPs; US\$120 for professional members; US\$140 for non-members. CEUs 0.8.

SC26NE04. Machine Learning for Groundwater Science. Saturday, 21 March, 1–5 p.m. US\$48 for students; US\$67 for ECPs; US\$95 for professional members; US\$114 for non-members. CEUs 0.4.

SC26NE05. Ground Penetrating Radar: Principles and Practice. Saturday, 21 March, 2–5 p.m. US\$38 for students; US\$53 for ECPs; US\$75 for professional members; US\$90 for non-members. CEUs 0.3.





122nd Annual Meeting of the GSA Cordilleran Section

Loreto, Baja California Sur, México
21–24 April 2026

<https://www.geosociety.org/cd-mtg>

Location

La Misión Hotel
Rosendo Robles #1
Col. Centro
Loreto B.C.S. México

Early Registration and Travel Grant Deadline:

19 March 2026

Standard Registration Deadline:

2 April 2026

Schedule of Events

18–21 April: Pre-Meeting Field Trips

21 April: Short Courses and Opening Reception

22–24 April: Technical Sessions

25 April: Post-Meeting Field Trips and Post-Meeting Short Course

Lodging

La Misión Hotel serves as both the primary meeting venue and a beautiful beachfront accommodation option in the heart of Loreto. Just steps from the waterfront and historic downtown, it offers modern amenities, ocean views, and seamless access to sessions, dining, and the charm of this coastal destination. Hotel Santa Fe Loreto is available as the overflow hotel accommodation.

Hotel registration deadline: 21 March 2026. After this date, any requests will be subject to availability and may not receive the group rate.

Negotiated GSA Group Rate: \$165, plus applicable federal and local taxes and fees.

Reservations:

La Misión Hotel:

<https://t.reservhotel.com/NhhAtgRDs>

Hotel Santa Fe Loreto:

CALL in reservations only to access the GSA Group Rate.

+52 613 134 0400 or 011 52 613 134 0400



Field Trips

FT26CD01. Transition from Subduction to Rifting and Marine Incursion in the San Ignacio–Santa Rosalía–Isla San Marcos Region, Central Baja California Peninsula, México. Saturday–Tuesday, 18–21 April, 8 a.m. (first day)–5 p.m. (last day). US\$340 for students; US\$476 for ECPs; US\$680 for professional members; US\$816 for non-members. CEUs 3.2.

FT26CD02. Espíritu Santo and La Partida Islands, BCS, México: Links Between the Comondú and Sierra Madre Occidental Volcanic Fields? Sunday–Tuesday, 19–21 April, 5 p.m. (first day)–5 p.m. (last day). US\$195 for students; US\$273 for ECPs; US\$390 for professional members; US\$468 for non-members. CEUs 1.6.

FT26CD03. Ancient Rock Art and Loreto Basin. Monday–Tuesday, 20–21 April, 8 a.m. (first day)–5 p.m. (last day). US\$145 for students; US\$203 for ECPs; US\$290 for professional members; US\$348 for non-members. CEUs 1.6.

FT26CD04. Wildlife and Snorkeling Tour Around Coronados Island. Tuesday, 21 April, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., US\$43 for students; US\$60 for ECPs; US\$85 for professional members; US\$100 for non-members. CEUs 0.7.

FT26CD05. Revisiting the Mesozoic Subduction Complex of the Vizcaíno Peninsula. Saturday–Tuesday, 25–28 April, 8 a.m. (first day)–5 p.m. (last day). US\$340 for students; US\$476 for ECPs; US\$680 for professional members; US\$816 for non-members. CEUs 3.2.

FT26CD06. Alluvial Fan Stratigraphy of Southern Baja California. Saturday–Monday, 25–27 April, 8 a.m. (first day)–5 p.m. (last day). US\$243 for students; US\$340 for ECPs; US\$485 for professional members; US\$582 for non-members. CEUs 2.4.

FT26CD07. The Geology and Biology of Isla del Carmen, México. Saturday, 25 April, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., US\$48 for students; US\$67 for ECPs; US\$95 for professional members; US\$114 for non-members. CEUs 0.8.

FT26CD08. Birdwatching Around Loreto. Saturday, 25 April, 6:30–11:30 a.m., US\$10 for students; US\$25 for ECPs; US\$30 for professional members; US\$40 for non-members. CEUs 0.5.

FT26CD09. Oasis and Ranch Bio-experience in the Loreto Sierra Foothills. Saturday, 25 April, 8 a.m.–3 p.m. US\$43 for students; US\$60 for ECPs; US\$85 for professional members; US\$100 for non-members. CEUs 0.7.

Short Courses

SC26CD01. An Introduction to Magnetotellurics: Imaging the Earth's Subsurface at Different Depths. Tuesday, 21 April, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. US\$60 for students; US\$84 for ECPs; US\$120 for professional members; US\$144 for non-members. CEUs 0.8.

SC26CD02. Introduction to Thermochronology: Principles, Methods, and Thermal History Modelling. Tuesday, 21 April, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. US\$60 for students; US\$84 for ECPs; US\$120 for professional members; US\$144 for non-members. CEUs 0.8.

SC26CD03. Living and Multifunctional Soil: The Importance of Caring for It and Tools to Assess Its Health. Tuesday, 21 April, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. US\$60 for students; US\$84 for ECPs; US\$120 for professional members; US\$144 for non-members. CEUs 0.8.

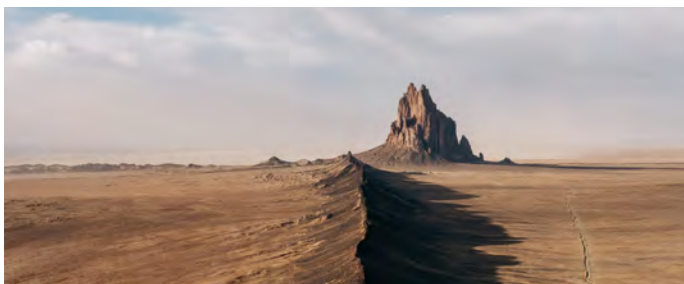
SC26CD04. North America Cordilleran Plate Tectonics Using GPlates Paleo-GIS Software. Tuesday, 21 April, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. US\$38 for students; US\$53 for ECPs; US\$75 for professional members; US\$90 for non-members. CEUs 0.8.

SC26CD05. Educational Resources on Plate Tectonics That Cross Borders. Tuesday, 21 April, 1–5 p.m. US\$10 for students; US\$20 for ECPs; US\$30 for professional members; US\$30 for non-members. CEUs 0.4.

SC26CD06. Radar de Penetración Terrestre: Principios y Práctica. Tuesday, 21 April, 2–5 p.m. US\$38 for students; US\$53 for ECPs; US\$75 for professional members; US\$90 for non-members. CEUs 0.3.

SC26CD07. Melanges in the Western North American Cordillera. Tuesday, 21 April, 3–5 p.m. US\$13 for students; US\$18 for ECPs; US\$25 for professional members; US\$30 for non-members. CEUs 0.2.

SC26CD08. Hands-On Experience Using the StraboField Application. Saturday, 25 April, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. US\$60 for students; US\$84 for ECPs; US\$120 for professional members; US\$144 for non-members. CEUs 0.8.



76th Annual Meeting of the GSA Rocky Mountain Section

Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA
17–20 May 2026

<https://www.geosociety.org/rm-mtg>

Location

Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town
800 Rio Grande Boulevard NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104

Early Registration and Travel Grant Deadline:
16 April 2026

Standard Registration Deadline:
30 April 2026

Schedule of Events

16 May: Pre-Meeting Field Trips

17 May: Short Courses and Opening Reception

18–20 May: Technical Sessions

20–22 May: Post-Meeting Field Trip and Post-Meeting Short Course

Lodging

A block of rooms has been reserved at Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town, 800 Rio Grande Blvd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104, for attendees of the GSA 2026 Rocky Mountain Section Meeting.

Hotel registration deadline: 17 April 2026. After this date, any requests will be subject to availability and may not receive the group rate.

Negotiated GSA Group Rate: \$209.00 per night, plus a \$25 amenity fee and applicable taxes (pre/post nights included).

Reservations:

<https://geosociety.co/ReservationsRM>



For reservations by phone, contact our reservations team at +1-866-505-7829 and provide the following details:

Call-in code: 0526GSARMS

Group name: GSA 2026 Rocky Mountain Section Meeting

Field Trips

FT26RM01. What You Can Do with Superb Rift Basin-Fill Exposures: Recent Lithostratigraphic, Paleoclimatic, Biostratigraphic, and Structural Studies of the Española Basin, New Mexico (USA). Saturday, 16 May, 6:30 a.m.–7 p.m. US\$48 for students; US\$67 for ECPs; US\$95 for professional members; US\$114 for non-members. CEUs 1.0.

FT26RM02. Indigenous Geology in New Mexico. Saturday, 16 May, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. US\$48 for students; US\$67 for ECPs; US\$95 for professional members; US\$114 for non-members. CEUs 0.9.

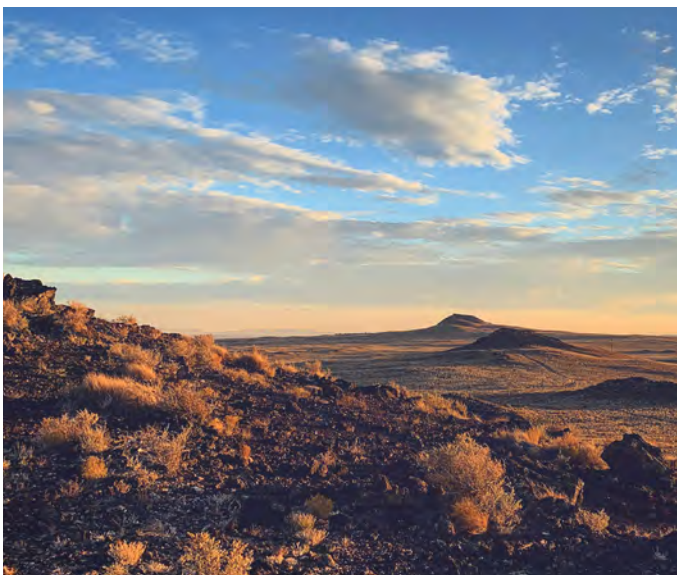
FT26RM03. Stratigraphy, Age Control, and Evolution of Lake Socorro, a Late Miocene Playa Lake in the Socorro Basin: Implications for Early Downstream-Directed Integration of the Ancestral Rio Grande. Thursday–Saturday, 21–23 May, 6 a.m.–7 p.m. US\$48 for students; US\$67 for ECPs; US\$95 for professional members; US\$114 for non-members. CEUs 1.0.

Short Courses

SC26RM01. An Introduction to the Developing Field of Climate Psychology for Geoscience Professionals. Sunday, 17 May, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. US\$38 for students; US\$53 for ECPs; US\$75 for professional members; US\$90 for non-members. CEUs 0.4.

SC26RM02. Ground Penetrating Radar: Principles and Practice. Sunday, 17 May, 2–5 p.m. US\$38 for students; US\$53 for ECPs; US\$75 for professional members; US\$90 for non-members. CEUs 0.3.

SC26RM03. Field-Based Geologic and Geomorphic Information for Long-Term Flood Frequency Analyses. Wednesday–Friday, 20–22 May, 1:30–5:30 p.m. (first day), 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (second day), 8 a.m.–noon (third day). US\$43 for students; US\$60 for ECPs; US\$85 for professional members; US\$100 for non-members. CEUs 2.0.





Attending a Section Meeting? Consider Mentoring

Share your experiences and career insights as a mentor at GSA Section Meetings! Whether you are an early career or established professional, your wisdom will help students and emerging geoscientists find their paths. Mentors from all geoscience sectors including industry, government, nonprofits, and academia are welcome. You can serve as a table mentor for a career mentoring luncheon, or mentor for career workshops. **Would you like to learn more, or sign up to mentor? Send an email to gsamentors@geosociety.org.**

Please include your full name, job title, employer, a brief description of what you do in your job (one sentence is fine), and what Section Meeting(s) you plan to attend.

Earn Continuing Education Units at Section Meetings

Section Meetings offer an excellent opportunity to earn CEUs toward your continuing education requirements for your employer, K-12 school, or professional registration.

The CEU certificate may be downloaded from the meeting website after the meeting.

www.geosociety.org/CEUs



Supporting Global Voices in Geoscience: International Travel Grants for GSA Connects 2026

www.geosociety.org/Intl_TravelGrant

Application Deadline: 15 March

If you live outside North America, are a student or early career geoscientist, and plan to submit an abstract to GSA Connects 2026 in Denver, Colorado, USA, and present in person, you may be eligible to receive funding support to travel and participate.

Available opportunities include:

- **GSA International 2026 Travel Grants**
- **Christopher I. and Irene N. Chalokwu Travel Grant for Students in Africa** supports African undergraduate and graduate students working on any aspect of African geology

International science grows when:

- voices from every region can be in the room;
- people meet each other; and
- ideas move across continents.

These grants and honors help make that possible. Apply, nominate, or encourage someone you know to put their name forward.

Contact gsa_international@geosociety.org with any questions.



The Geological Society of America

CONNECTS

11-14 October **2026** Denver, Colorado, USA

Shape the Meeting—Submit Your Proposal for GSA Connects 2026

Submit your proposals here:

<https://gsameetings.secure-platform.com/connects26/>

Deadline: 19 February 2026 at 11:59 PM (PDT)

Connects 2026 Themes:

- **The Technologies Transforming Earth Science:** “Pushing Boundaries with Innovation, from Deep Earth to Deep Space.”
- **A Centennial Celebration of Continental Drift: Understanding Earth in Motion:** “Honoring a Century of Discovery That Reshaped Earth Science.”
- **Riverscapes in Transition: Dynamics, Hazards, and Human Futures:** “Science at the Intersection of Water, Climate, Landscape, and Society.”

New for GSA Connects 2026: Submit a GeoCareers Session Proposal

GSA’s Center for Professional Excellence is pleased to introduce a new proposal opportunity for 2026: GeoCareers Sessions. These instructional sessions are designed to support career success across the geosciences, offering practical skill-building, insights into diverse professional pathways, and guidance from experienced professionals. Presenters lead interactive learning experiences that help students and early career attendees build confidence and take the next step in their careers.

GeoCareers Sessions differ from technical sessions and short courses by focusing directly on professional development and real-world application rather than research or discipline-specific training. If you have valuable expertise to share—whether in communication, leadership, job searching, or navigating careers in academia, government, or industry—we encourage you to submit a proposal and help shape the future of the geoscience workforce!

GSA Connects 2026
11–14 October 2026
Denver, Colorado, USA

Do you have a topical session, Pardee Keynote Symposium, field trip, short course, or GeoCareers session idea you’d like to see at GSA Connects 2026? Here’s your chance to help shape the meeting program! We invite all members of the geoscience community to contribute ideas that showcase cutting-edge research, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and impactful field experiences.

Whether you’re a seasoned organizer or a first-time contributor, your proposal plays a vital role in creating a dynamic and inclusive meeting.

Sponsor GSA Connects 2026 in Denver

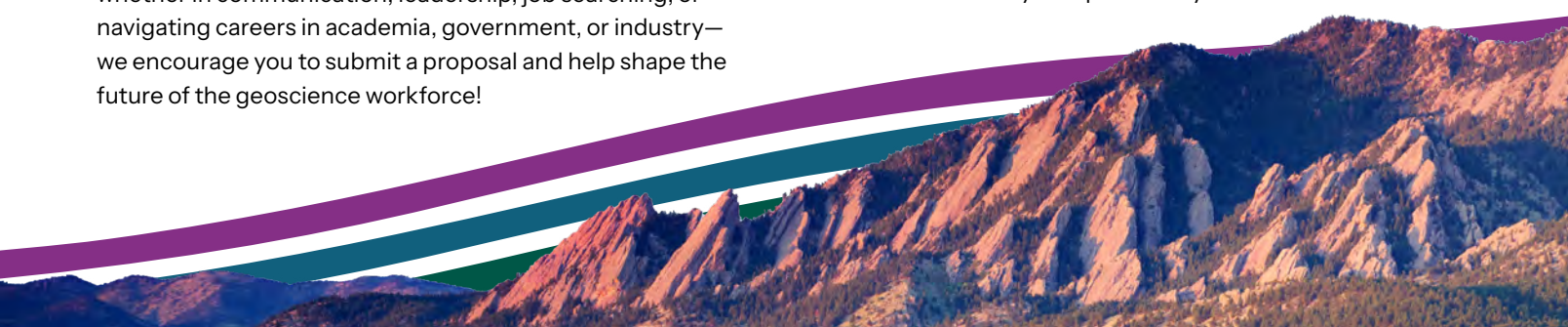
https://s2.goeshow.com/gsa/connects/2026/exhibit_sales.cfm

Help shape the GSA Connects experience by sponsoring programs that inspire and support our community. From student travel grants and field trips to networking events and professional development workshops, your sponsorship directly contributes to the success of thousands of geoscientists. As we return to our home base in the Front Range of the Rockies, we’re excited to offer expanded opportunities for visibility, engagement, and impact. Partner with us to make a difference!

Exhibit at GSA Connects 2026 in Denver

https://s2.goeshow.com/gsa/connects/2026/exhibit_sales.cfm

We’re back on our home turf in Denver—and we’re gearing up for our most exciting Exhibit Hall yet! GSA Connects 2026 will host 150+ vendors showcasing the latest in geoscience research, technology, and education. Exhibiting is a prime way to connect with thousands of attendees, highlight your organization’s impact, and support professional development and meeting programs across the Society. Don’t miss this opportunity to be part of GSA’s signature event in the heart of the Rockies—reserve your space today.



From Black Shales to Drinking Water: What Groundwater Chemistry Tells Us

Fidelis Onwuagba

Access to clean and safe drinking water is something many of us take for granted, yet the quality of groundwater can be strongly influenced by the rocks it flows through. During my master's research at Kansas State University, I set out to understand how geology, specifically the presence of organic-rich shales, can influence groundwater chemistry and raise potential health risks in southeastern Kansas.

This piece shares the story behind that research: why it matters, what we found, and what it means for communities that rely on domestic wells.

WHY STUDY URANIUM AND TRACE METALS IN GROUNDWATER?

Uranium is a naturally occurring element found in many rocks, particularly organic-rich sedimentary rocks such as black shales. Under certain geochemical conditions, uranium can dissolve into groundwater and become a drinking water concern. While uranium contamination is often associated with mining or other human activities, less attention has been given to natural water-rock interactions as a source.

Southeastern Kansas provides an ideal natural laboratory for this question. The region is underlain by the Ozark aquifer (Fig. 1), a carbonate aquifer system that is in close contact with black shales and coal-bearing units. Many rural residents in this area rely on private domestic wells, which are typically unregulated and infrequently tested. Understanding the natural controls on groundwater chemistry here is therefore both scientifically important and socially relevant.

FIELDWORK: SAMPLING WATER ACROSS SOUTHEASTERN KANSAS

This study included a month-long field campaign during which I sampled groundwater from domestic wells across Bourbon, Crawford, and Cherokee Counties. At each site, I measured in situ parameters such as pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and electrical conductivity, and collected samples for laboratory analysis (Fig. 2).

In the lab, these samples were analyzed for major ions and trace metals using techniques such as ion chromatography, alkalinity titration, and inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICPMS). I also compiled geophysical data, specifically gamma-ray well logs, to map the distribution and thickness of black shales beneath the study area.

WHAT DID WE FIND?

One of the most important findings of the study was that uranium concentrations in groundwater were generally low (Fig. 3A) and mostly within U.S. EPA and WHO drinking-water standards. Despite the presence of uranium-rich black shales, widespread uranium contamination was not observed.

However, the story does not end there. Several other constituents, including manganese, iron, and mercury, were found at elevated concentrations in multiple wells. Some of these elements exceeded recommended drinking-water limits, posing a health threat if ingested.

Geochemical modeling (Fig. 4) and statistical analysis suggested that groundwater chemistry in the region is controlled by a combination of oxidation-reduction conditions, carbonate alkalinity, and interactions with organic-rich rocks and legacy mining materials.

Processes that limit uranium mobility, such as adsorption onto mineral surfaces, may simultaneously allow other metals to remain mobile in groundwater.

WHY THIS MATTERS BEYOND GEOLOGY

Groundwater geochemistry sits at the intersection of geology, environmental science, and public health. Although uranium itself was not a concern in this study, the presence of other redox-sensitive metals directly and indirectly linked to adverse health effects in humans highlights the importance of regular water testing, especially for private well owners.

From a broader perspective, this research contributes to the growing field of medical geology, which examines how geological materials and processes affect human health. By identifying natural controls on groundwater quality, studies like this can help guide better monitoring strategies and inform water-management decisions in similar geological settings.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Groundwater does not exist in isolation; it carries the chemical fingerprint of the rocks it encounters along its flow path. By studying these interactions, we can better understand both the opportunities and risks associated with our subsurface resources.

I hope this work encourages students, early career geoscientists, and the broader public to think more deeply about the hidden connections between geology and everyday life, especially the water we drink. This research was supervised by Dr. Karin Goldberg, associate professor at Kansas State University

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Fidelis Onwuagba is currently a PhD student at the University of Kansas, where his research has expanded into understanding how critical minerals, particularly rare earth elements, can be mobilized from black shales using supercritical CO₂. These elements are essential components of modern technologies that support the global energy transition, including wind turbines, electric vehicles, energy-efficient electronics, and advanced battery systems.

By investigating alternative and potentially lower-impact ways to extract rare earth elements from unconventional geological materials, his current work aims to contribute to a more secure and sustainable supply of these critical resources. In this sense, his research builds directly on the same theme that motivated his master's work: understanding fluid-rock interactions not only to protect water resources, but also to responsibly support the materials needed for a cleaner energy future.



Figure 1. Map of Kansas showing the studied counties (blue rectangle), and extent of the underlying Ozark aquifer (green area).



Figure 2. Field sampling of domestic wells.

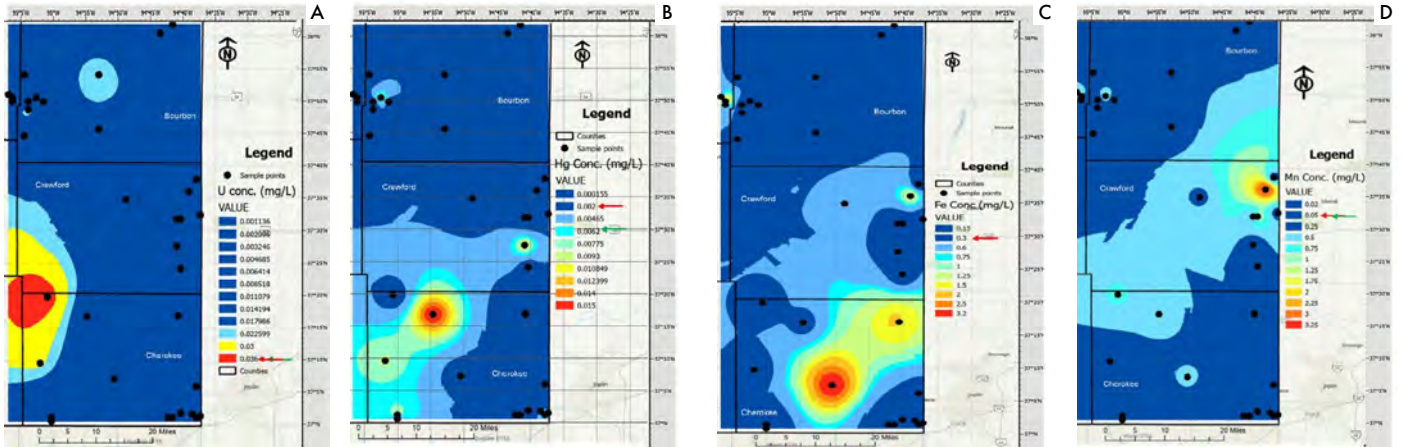


Figure 3. Spatial distribution of (A) uranium, (B) mercury, (C) iron, and (D) manganese. Red and green arrows on scale bar represent the EPA and WHO limits respectively.

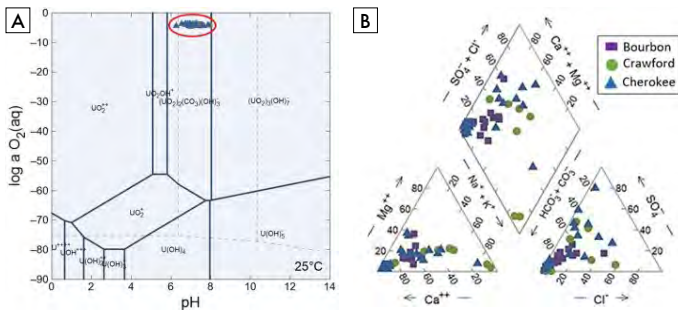


Figure 4. (A) Redox-pH diagram showing the dominant aqueous species of uranium at 25 °C (all the samples wells fell into the region circled in red); (B) Piper diagram showing the dominant ion species in the samples.

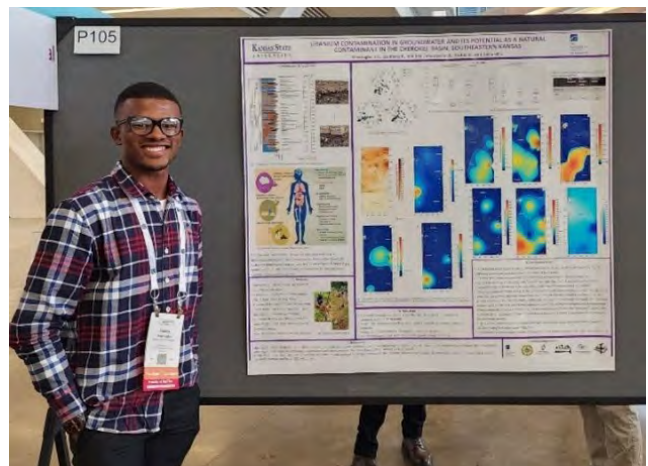
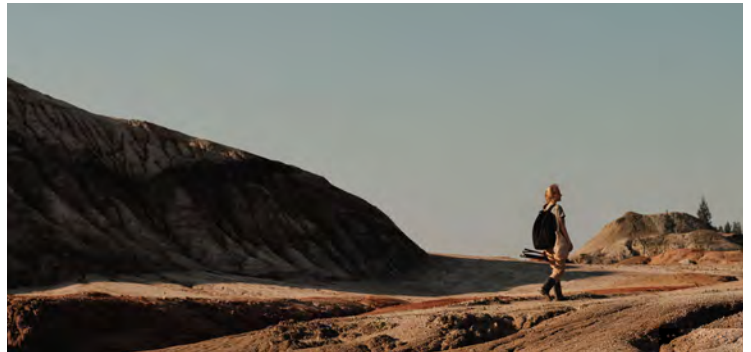


Figure 5. Presenting my research findings at GSA Connects 2023 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

Fuel Your Geoscience Journey: Apply Now for GSA Section Undergraduate Research Grants!

www.geosociety.org/GSA/GSA/grants/sectionResearch.aspx

Application Deadline: 10 April



GSA is excited to announce the opening of applications for our Section Undergraduate Research Grants! These grants support undergraduate geoscience students conducting original research, providing funding to fuel their curiosity and advance their studies. In 2025, we proudly awarded grants to 41 exceptional students—check out the full list of recipients below and envision yourself joining their ranks next year. This is your chance to bring your research to life and join a growing community of future geoscience leaders!

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- Payton Hoyt, Gonzaga University
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- April Sanders, Miami University
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- Chandler Deese, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Joseph Dixon, Clemson University
- Andrew Moore, Clemson University
- Ruby Schwartz, Eckerd College
- Kylie Sheridan, Washington and Lee University



Jump-Start Your Geoscience Career with a GSA Graduate Student Research Grant

www.geosociety.org/gradgrants

Application Deadline: 18 February

A **GSA Graduate Student Research Grant** provides career development opportunities, helps you gain experience with grant writing and project development, and supports your research in the geosciences. GSA strongly encourages applications from people who identify with communities underrepresented in the geosciences, such as low-income, people of color, first generation, nontraditional, women, veterans, LGBTQIA+, and/or persons with disabilities. Awards of \$1,000-\$3,000 are granted to 300-400 students annually!

“A GSA grant is a ticket, a ticket to research opportunity. I am honored that I was given that opportunity. This grant not only provided funding for my thesis, it also gave valuable skills in grant writing, networking, and presentation that will propel me into my future as a PhD student and an academic.”

—Ethan Oleson, 2023 Graduate Student Research Grant recipient

Questions? Contact researchgrants@geosociety.org.

Start 2026 Connected: Subscribe to the GSA International Newsletter

The January issue of the Geological Society of America International Newsletter is now live. This issue features updates on GSA International's latest work, global programs, opportunities for international members and audiences, awards, and highlights from across the international geoscience community.

If you are not yet subscribed, now is a great time to join our mailing list and stay connected with international initiatives, funding opportunities, and events.

Subscribe here:

https://gsoa.informz.net/GSOA/pages/GSA_International_Opt_In_2025



2025 Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Awards

The National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) has announced the 2025 Outstanding Earth Science Teacher (OEST) Award winners. This annual award recognizes excellence in earth science teaching at the pre-college level. GSA awards the Section recipients US\$700 in travel money to attend a GSA meeting and complimentary GSA membership for three years. State winners receive a one-year complimentary GSA membership.

Section Winners

Eastern Section: Carolina E. Castro-Skehan

Far Western Section: Jessica Stellmann

North-Central Section: Dana Smith

Northeastern Section: Greg Stott

Pacific Northwest Section: Emily L. Carson

Rocky Mountain Section: Heidi Bankoff

South-Central Section: Stacy M. Ferrell

Southeastern Section: Rebekah L. Stanton

State Winners

Alabama: Shawn Schlumpf

California: Jessica Stellmann

Colorado: Heidi Bankoff

Eastern Texas: Stacy M. Ferrell

Georgia: Eileen Fennelly

Illinois: Fred Fortman

Minnesota: Dana Smith

Mississippi: Alisha Halford

Nevada: Mary Beth Paladino

New Hampshire: Greg Stott

New York: Caroline E. Castro-Skehan

North Carolina: Carrie Jones

Oklahoma: Dr. Angie Thomas

Oregon: Amy Umbarger

Tennessee: Rebekah L. Stanton

Wisconsin: Carol Ochsner

Washington: Kyauna Turner

Read more about the Section and state winners at <https://nagt.org/nagt/awards/oest.html>.



The Geological Society of America

ON TO THE FUTURE®

On To the Future®: Building Community, Mentorship, and Access in the Geosciences

GSA's On To the Future® (OTF) program is our premier effort to engage geoscience scholars to:

- join GSA;
- support attendance at GSA Connects with travel funding, meeting registration, and GSA membership;
- provide professional mentorship;
- network, find community, and build social capital within the geosciences discipline;
- and participate in special sessions with GSA leadership during the meeting.

In addition, OTF provides opportunities for geoscience professionals across all employment sectors (private sector, public sector, academia) and career stages to contribute their expertise as mentors to OTF scholars.

The On To the Future® Program will begin accepting applications on 12 March 2026. To be informed of when applications go live, please submit an OTF general interest form via the QR code.

<https://geosociety.co/OTFform>



Last Call!

Nominate a Deserving Colleague Today!

www.geosociety.org/gsa/awards/nominate

Recognize geoscientists who have made a significant contribution in the field by honoring them with a GSA Award.

Deadline: 15 February

“There are so many people who are deserving of awards. They’ve done wonderful things in their careers, but no one thinks to nominate them. So when you have the opportunity to do something for someone who has had an impact on geoscience, it’s a rewarding thing for the nominator.”

—Susan Eriksson, nominator of 2024 Bromery Awardee

Questions? Contact awards@geosociety.org.



Announcing a New GSA Award: Jack Kleinman Memorial Award for Volcano Research

<https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/GSA/grants/kleinman.aspx>

Nomination Deadline: 18 February

The Geological Society of America, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), is proud to introduce the **Jack Kleinman Memorial Award for Volcano Research**, honoring the legacy of Jack Kleinman—a USGS Cascades Volcano Observatory scientist known for his unwavering commitment to high-quality fieldwork, his integrity, and his enthusiasm for understanding the natural world.

This new award supports undergraduate, graduate and aspiring graduate students whose research reflects these qualities. **Up to \$5000** may be granted to undergraduate students, graduate students, and aspiring graduate students pursuing field-focused investigations of U.S. volcanoes, with preference for studies in the **Cascade Range, Aleutian Arc, Hawai’i, Yellowstone, Long Valley**, or distributed volcanism across the western USA. Projects in geologic, geochemical, geophysical, and volcanic hazards research are all welcome, and collaboration with a scientist from the **USGS Volcano Science Center** is strongly encouraged.

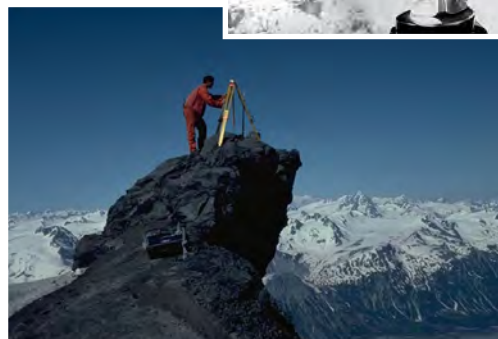


Photo credit:
Ron Cooper

Call for Nominations: GSA International Awards and Lectureship

GSA International invites nominations for three distinguished honors that recognize outstanding contributions to the advancement of geological sciences worldwide.

GSA Honorary Fellow Award

<https://geoapps.geosociety.org/awards>

Nomination Deadline: 15 February

Honoring exceptional non-North American geoscientists whose distinguished research has made a global impact. Open to non-North Americans residing and working outside North America.

GSA International Distinguished Career Award

<https://geoapps.geosociety.org/awards>

Nomination Deadline: 15 February

The International Distinguished Career Award recognizes a GSA member whose career achievements have significantly advanced international geosciences through research, collaboration, and service.



James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lecturer 2026–2027

https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/About/GSA_International/GSA/International/Lecture_Tour/Home.aspx

Nomination Deadline: 15 February

Do you know a geoscientist whose work deserves a global stage? Or are you ready to take your own research beyond borders? Nominations are now open for the James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lectureship for the 2026–2027 term.

Nominees for the Thompson Distinguished International Lectureship may be:

- Geoscientists **living outside North America** who are ready to lecture at North American institutions
- Geoscientists **living in North America** who are prepared to present internationally on impactful, cutting-edge topics

Self-nominations are strongly encouraged.



Science Editor Openings for 2027

GSA seeks Science Editor applicants for:

- *GSA Bulletin* (1 opening)
- *GSA Today* (1 opening)
- *Geosphere* (1 opening)
- *GSA Books* (1 opening)

Terms start 1 January 2027.

Details

GSA Bulletin editors should expect to handle 200–225 manuscripts each year, with ~35–45 active manuscripts on any given day. Preferred research interests include (but are not limited to) Archaeological Geology; Deformation: Crustal; Economic Geology; Geochronology; Geodynamics; Paleomagnetism; Petrology: Metamorphic, Sedimentary; Precambrian Geology; Sedimentary Geology: Siliciclastics; Structural Geology: Microstructure/strain/vorticity; Tectonics: Global, Neotectonics, Plate Motions; Tectonophysics: Magmatism, Orogeny, Rifts and Rifted Margins, Sedimentary Basins, Stresses.

Geosphere editors should expect to handle 40–65 manuscripts each year, with ~10 active manuscripts on any given day. Preferred research interests include (but are not limited to) Tectonics; Tectonic Geomorphology; Geodynamics; Numerical Modeling; Active Tectonics; Fault Mechanics; Earthquake Cycle; Interaction of Surface Processes and Tectonics; Tectonic and Geomorphologic Evolution of Subduction Zones.

GSA Today editors should expect to handle 10–15 manuscripts each year, with ~1–5 active manuscripts on any given day. We currently have strengths in Archaeological Geology; Crystallography; Deformation; Geochemistry; Geophysics; History of Geology; Mineralogy; Paleoceanography; Paleoclimatology; Petrology; Planetary Geology; Geomorphology; Quaternary Geology; Sedimentary Geology; Stratigraphy; Structural Geology.

GSA Books editors should expect to handle 10–25 manuscripts each year, with ~5–10 active manuscripts on any given day. We currently have strengths in Petrology – Igneous; Planetary Geology; Remote Sensing/GIS; Volcanology; Tectonics; Volcanology; Geochronology.

Editors work from their current locations at work or at home. The positions are considered voluntary, but GSA provides an annual stipend and funds for office expenses.

Duties

- Ensuring stringent peer review.
- Expedient processing of manuscripts.
- Making final acceptance or rejection decisions after considering reviewer recommendations.
- Working with co-editors to set the editorial tone of the publication.
- Maintaining excellent content by publishing a diverse range of papers.

Required Qualifications

- Experience as an editor or associate editor for a geoscience publication. (Provide details in your application letter.)
- Demonstrated expertise in two or more fields in the geosciences or in interdisciplinary fields broadly related to the geosciences.
- Experience handling a significant editorial workload.
- Ability to make timely decisions.
- Strong willingness to handle paper topics outside of your main research discipline(s).
- Proven ability to communicate clearly and respond quickly to author needs.

Learn More

Details on the Preferred Qualifications and Evaluation Process for applicants can be found at www.geosociety.org/gsa/pubs/editorsCall. Please contact Cary Cosper, editing@geosociety.org, with any questions.



Apply Today

In a single PDF, submit your curriculum vitae and a letter of application that demonstrates how your interests and experience fulfill the required and preferred qualifications to Cary Cosper, Associate Director of Publications, editing@geosociety.org.
Deadline: 1 March 2026.



Call for Nominations GSA Division Awards

CONTINENTAL SCIENTIFIC DRILLING (CSD) DIVISION

Distinguished Lecturer Awards

Nominations due: 25 March

Submit to: Mike McGlue, michael.mcglue@uky.edu

Three awardees will be outstanding scientists who, through a series of lectures at academic institutions, GSA events, and the public during the year of the award, highlight the outstanding discoveries and science undertaken through continental drilling.

<https://geosociety.co/4apUjX4>

Andrew S. Cohen Award

Nominations due: 31 March

Submit to: Mike McGlue, michael.mcglue@uky.edu

The Andrew S. Cohen Award is designed to recognize remarkable contributions made by our mid-career members and encourage their continued success. The qualifications for a competitive nominee will be: (1) a mid-career scientist within 11–20 years of receiving the terminal degree; (2) an outstanding contributor to earth and environmental science using continental scientific drilling/coring/subsurface sampling, emphasizing breadth and impact of research, student mentoring successes, and demonstrable efforts at inclusion or community building; (3) an active member of the CSD Division.

<https://geosociety.co/4qjQNC5>

Early Career Research Support Grants

Nominations due: 21 July

Submit to: Mike McGlue, michael.mcglue@uky.edu

The CSD Division will offer a new grant-making program designed specifically to support early career scientists conducting research in areas that touch the CSD mission (scientific drilling, coring, subsurface investigation, etc.). The Division aims to provide bridge support for postdoctoral scholars and pre-tenure faculty at institutions of higher education in the U.S. to bolster scholarship and expand opportunities in an otherwise challenging federal funding ecosystem. Each grant will be valued at \$12,500. Grants will be awarded competitively through an application process. Funds are reserved for research activities and may include costs associated with fieldwork-related travel, fieldwork permitting, laboratory-related travel, laboratory analyses, student/technician salary support, field or lab consumables/supplies, conference/workshop travel, or similar.

<https://geosociety.co/4jckcMp>

ENERGY GEOLOGY DIVISION

Gilbert H. Cady Award

Nominations due: 1 March

Submit to: (Max) QinHong Hu, huqinhong@upc.edu.cn

The Gilbert H. Cady Award, first presented in 1973, recognizes outstanding contributions in the field of coal geology that advance the science both within and outside of North America.

<https://geosociety.co/4jckK4V>

Curtis-Hedberg Award

Nominations due: 31 March

Submit to: (Max) QinHong Hu, huqinhong@upc.edu.cn

The Curtis-Hedberg Award will be considered annually in accordance with the bylaws of the Society. The award will be made for outstanding contributions in the field of petroleum geology.

<https://geosociety.co/3YaGkgo>

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING GEOLOGY (EEGD) DIVISION

Distinguished Practice Award

Nominations due: 31 March

Submit to: W. Paul Burgess, Paul.Burgess@conservation.ca.gov

The Distinguished Practice Award recognizes outstanding individuals for their continuing contributions to the technical and/or professional stature of environmental and (or) engineering geology. A nominee need not be a member of the EEGD, but must have made a major contribution to environmental and (or) engineering geology in North America. Each nomination must be accompanied by a written citation.

<https://geosociety.co/4jcmgE9>

GEOARCHAEOLOGY DIVISION

Richard Hay Student Paper/Poster Award

Nominations due: 30 August

Submit to: gsa.agd@gmail.com

The Richard Hay Award is a travel grant for a student (undergraduate or graduate) presenting a paper or poster at GSA Connects. The grant is competitive and will be awarded based on the evaluation of the scientific merit of the research topic and the clarity of an expanded abstract for the paper or poster prepared by a student for presentation in the Division's technical session at the meeting.

<https://geosociety.co/496CfyP>

Claude C. Albritton, Jr. Award

Nominations due: 30 April

Submit to: gsa.agd@gmail.com

The Albritton Award Fund provides scholarships and fellowships for graduate students in the earth sciences or archaeology for research. Recipients of the award are students who have (1) an interest in achieving a master's or Ph.D. degree in earth sciences or archaeology; (2) an interest in applying earth science methods to archaeological research; and (3) an interest in a career in teaching and academic research.

Awards in the amount of US\$650 are given in support of thesis or dissertation research, with emphasis on the field and/or laboratory aspects of the research.

<https://geosociety.co/3MOC4ko>



Rip Rapp Archaeological Geology Award

Nominations due: 28 February

Submit to: gsa.agd@gmail.com

In 1983, the Division established the Archaeological Geology Division Award for outstanding contributions to the interdisciplinary field of archaeological geology. In 1993, the award was officially renamed the "Rip Rapp Archaeological Geology Award" in honor of George "Rip" Rapp Jr. Rapp was one of the primary individuals responsible for establishment of the Division and generously established a Division award fund with the GSA Foundation. Donald L. Johnson was the first recipient of the renamed award. Nominations should include a biographical sketch, a statement of outstanding achievements, and a selected bibliography of the nominee.

<https://geosociety.co/3YEX1AO>

GEOBIOLOGY AND GEOMICROBIOLOGY DIVISION

Distinguished Career Award

Nomination due: 15 February

Submit to: <https://community.geosociety.org/gbgm/awards/nominations>

The GSA Geobiology and Geomicrobiology Division recognizes three exceptional researchers to receive pre-tenure, post-tenure, and distinguished career awards (or equivalent career stage in a non-tenure track position) each year. The Division representatives request nominations from our members in order to ensure a diverse and inclusive nominee pool, both in terms of academic fields and demographics. Final nominees will be selected by the Division representation committee from this pool and awarded based on the nominee's complete portfolio (research, mentoring, service, and leadership).

<https://geosociety.co/494uNnN>

Excellence Awards

Nomination due: 15 February

Submit to: <https://community.geosociety.org/gbgm/awards/nominations>

There are two Excellence Awards: the Pre-Tenure Excellence Award and the Post-Tenure Excellence Award. The nominations for the Pre- and Post-Tenure Awards will be solicited from current Division members and be based, specifically, on excellence in research, mentoring, service, and leadership for the geobiology and geomicrobiology community (appropriate to the candidate's position). From these nominations, the Division management board and appointed Division committee of awards will come to a consensus on the awardees. The awards will consist of both a plaque as well as an honorary membership to the Division should the awardee not be a current member.

<https://geosociety.co/3L0b5Sm>

GEOCHRONOLOGY DIVISION

Geochronology Early Career Award

Nominations due: 15 February

Submit to: Mark Schmitz, markschmitz@boisestate.edu

The Geochronology Early Career Award is given to an individual near the beginning of their professional career who has made novel contributions toward the development or application of geochronology. Nominees for the Geochronology Early Career Award must be within ten years of receiving their final degree.

<https://geosociety.co/4sb6aPb>

GEOINFORMATICS AND DATA SCIENCE DIVISION

M. Lee Allison Award for Geoinformatics

Nominations due: 28 February

Submit to: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/cmKSQ79DKb>

The M. Lee Allison Award for Geoinformatics will be made to an individual who has contributed in an outstanding manner to geology through the application of the principles of geoinformatics. The individual will be a member of GSA. Normally, a single award will be made annually, but in any particular year may be withheld if the management board decides that no suitable candidate has been nominated.

<https://geosociety.co/3LbSmmG>

GEOLOGY AND HEALTH DIVISION

Distinguished Career Award

Nominations due: 15 March

Send to: Rachel Coyte, rachel.coyte@nmt.edu

The award recognizes the recipient's lifetime contributions to the field of geology and health. The awardee does not need to be a member of the Division.

<https://geosociety.co/4j8WGzE>

GEOLOGY AND SOCIETY DIVISION

E-an Zen Fund for Geoscience Outreach Grant**Nominations due:** 30 June**Submit to:** Scott Harris (HarrisS@cofc.edu) or Alan Benimoff (alan.benimoff@csi.cuny.edu)

This is a grant opportunity for Geology and Society Division members interested in developing innovative methods to bring geoscience knowledge to public audiences. Two grants of \$1500 each will be awarded to fund projects designed by the applicants to communicate geoscience information to a lay audience with the goal of increasing the understanding of geoscience and its impact on society among non-geoscientists and decision-makers. Applicants may apply as individuals or as groups, depending on the best fit for their project design. While the grant application requirements are intentionally broad to encourage creative thinking and innovation, review of applications will emphasize the potential for impacting communities that traditionally have not had significant exposure to the geosciences.

<https://geosociety.co/3YGixVI>

GEOFYSICS AND GEODYNAMICS DIVISION

George P. Woollard Award**Nominations due:** 15 February**Submit to:** Shannon Dulin, sdulin@ou.edu

The George P. Woollard Award recognizes outstanding contributions to geology through the application of the principles and techniques of geophysics. A highlight of the presentation is the honorary George P. Woollard Technical Lecture by the recipient before the award ceremony. To submit a nomination, please provide the nominee's name, contact information, and a short paragraph stating the nominee's qualifications, including a short summary of their specific work or outcomes and how these have contributed to geology. A curriculum vitae, if available, helps, but is not required. Award funds are administered by the GSA Foundation.

<https://geosociety.co/3YEXcvY>

The Seth and Carol Stein Early Career Award in Geophysics and Geodynamics**Nominations due:** 15 February**Submit to:** Shannon Dulin, sdulin@ou.edu

The Seth and Carol Stein Early Career Award in Geophysics and Geodynamics is in recognition of significant contributions to geology through the application of geophysics and geodynamics by a young scientist of outstanding ability. Nominated candidates must be either no more than 35 years old or no more than six years beyond receiving a Ph.D. or equivalent, must be a current Division member in good standing and have been a Division member in the prior two years, and must have either a published or in-press paper in a GSA journal, or have presented a talk or poster at GSA Connects or a GSA Section Meeting. The primary nominator must also be a member of the Division. The nominator should submit: (1) the Geophysics and Geodynamics Division cover sheet; (2) the candidate's CV; and (3) 2–3 letters of support, preferably in a single PDF.

<https://geosociety.co/4jieBUW>

GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION DIVISION

Biggs Award for Excellence in Earth Science Teaching**Nominations due:** 1 March**Submit to:** <https://forms.gle/63q39SRLXQHs5v8Q8>

The Biggs Award recognizes innovative and effective teaching in college-level earth science. Earth science instructors and faculty members from any academic institution engaged in undergraduate education who have been teaching full-time for 10 years or fewer are eligible (part-time teaching is not counted in this requirement). Both peer- and self-nominations will be accepted. This award, administered by the GSA Foundation, is made possible by support from the Donald and Carolyn Biggs Fund, the GSA Geoscience Education Division, and GSA's Education and Outreach Program. An additional travel reimbursement is also available to the recipient to enable him or her to attend the award presentation at GSA Connects.

<https://geosociety.co/4jccXE9>

HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, AND GEOHERITAGE DIVISION

Mary C. Rabbitt History and Philosophy of Geology Award**Nominations due:** 15 February**Submit to:** Christopher Hill, chill2@boisestate.edu

The Mary C. Rabbitt History and Philosophy of Geology Award is presented annually to an individual for exceptional scholarly contributions of fundamental importance to our understanding of the history of the geological sciences. Achievements deserving of the award include, but are not limited to, publication of papers or books that contribute new and profound insights into the history of geology based on original research or a synthesis of existing knowledge. Neither the nominator nor the nominee need be a member of the Division or of GSA. The nomination packet should include (1) a letter detailing the contributions that warrant the award; and (2) the nominee's current curriculum vitae including name, title, affiliation, education, degrees, honors and awards, major career events, and contributions that warrant the award. Monies for the award are administered by the GSA Foundation.

<https://geosociety.co/4pdpdWp>

Gerald M. and Sue T. Friedman Distinguished Service Award**Nominations due:** 15 February**Submit to:** Christopher Hill, chill2@boisestate.edu

The Gerald M. and Sue T. Friedman Distinguished Service Award, established in 2005, is presented for exceptional service to the advancement of our knowledge of the history and philosophy of the geological sciences. Neither the nominator nor the nominee has to be a member of the Division or of GSA. The service to the history and philosophy of geology may include, but is not limited to, the discovery of and making available rare source materials; comprehensive bibliographic surveys; organizing meetings and symposia in the history and philosophy of geology; and exceptional service to the Division. The nomination packet should include (1) a letter detailing the contributions that warrant the award; and (2) the nominee's current curriculum vitae including: name, title, affiliation, education, degrees, honors and awards, major career events, and the contributions that warrant the award.

<https://geosociety.co/4quFnf7>

History and Philosophy of Geology Student Award

Nominations due: 31 August

Submit to: Christopher Hill, chill2@boisestate.edu

The History, Philosophy, and Geoheritage Division provides a student award in the amount of US\$1000 for a paper to be given at GSA Connects. Awards may also be given for second place. Oral presentations are preferred. Faculty advisors may be listed as second author, but not as the lead author of the paper. The proposed paper may be (1) a paper on the history or philosophy of geology; (2) a literature review of ideas for a technical work or thesis/dissertation; or (3) some imaginative aspect of the history or philosophy of geology we have not thought of before. Students should submit an abstract of their proposed talk and a 1500–2000-word prospectus for consideration. The Awards Committee will assist the winner(s) with review of abstracts facilitating presentation according to GSA standards. Currently enrolled undergraduates and graduate students are eligible, as are students who received their degrees at the end of the fall or spring terms immediately preceding GSA Connects. The award is open to all students regardless of discipline, provided the proposed paper is related to the history or philosophy of a geological idea/person. The award is made possible by a bequest from the estate of Mary C. Rabbitt.

<https://geosociety.co/3YFX0fV>

Michele Aldrich History and Philosophy of Geology Student Research Award

Nominations due: 18 February

If you are a graduate student, apply through the GSA Graduate Student Research Grants platform. If you are an early career scholar, email an application to David Spanagel, davidspanagel@comcast.net.

The History, Philosophy, and Geoheritage Division is soliciting proposals for a student research award. Up to \$4000 is available if justified with a supporting budget. The purpose of the fund is to support research grants for students who conduct historical research within the geosciences. Preference will be given to doctoral-level and then master's-level students. Graduates who received their Ph.D. in the previous five years may also be considered. Annual awards will be made through a process involving initial selection of applicants by GSA's Research Grants Committee and final selection and/or ratification of the awarded recipients by the GSA History, Philosophy, and Geoheritage Division. Recipients of the award will be included in the annual GSA and/or GSA Foundation research award ceremonies, along with other student research award recipients.

<https://geosociety.co/3YaAcF2>

KARST DIVISION

Karst Division Meritorious Contribution Award

Nominations due: 10 May

Submit to: awards.gsakarst@gmail.com; CC Josh Sebree, joshsebree@gmail.com

Awarded to the author of a published paper or body of work of distinction that has significantly influenced the intellectual direction of karst or broadly enhanced the knowledge of the discipline. If you are submitting a self-nomination, please include a letter of recommendation from a karst professional that can attest to your qualifications. Nominees do not need to be Division members to be eligible for these awards, but it does add merit to the nomination.

<https://geosociety.co/4paQWa7>



Karst Division Early Career Award

Nominations due: 10 May

Submit to: awards.gsakarst@gmail.com; CC Josh Sebree, joshsebree@gmail.com

Awarded to a distinguished scientist (35 or younger throughout the year in which the award is to be presented, or within five years of their highest degree or diploma) for outstanding achievement in contributing to the karst profession through original research and service, and for the demonstrated potential for continued excellence throughout their career. If you are submitting a self-nomination, please include a letter of recommendation from a karst professional that can attest to your qualifications. Nominees do not need to be Division members to be eligible for these awards, but it does add merit to the nomination.

<https://geosociety.co/4paQWa7>

Karst Division Distinguished Service Award

Nominations due: 10 May

Submit to: awards.gsakarst@gmail.com; CC Josh Sebree, joshsebree@gmail.com

Awarded as a highly esteemed award in recognition of distinguished personal service to the karst profession and to the Division. If you are submitting a self-nomination, please include a letter of recommendation from a karst professional that can attest to your qualifications. Nominees do not need to be Division members to be eligible for these awards, but it does add merit to the nomination.

<https://geosociety.co/4paQWa7>

LIMNOGEOLOGY DIVISION

Israel C. Russell Award**Nominations due:** 15 February**Submit to:** David Finkelstein, finkelstein@hws.edu

The Israel C. Russell Award is awarded for major achievements in limnogeology through contributions in research, teaching, and service. Nominations should consist of a letter describing the nominee's accomplishments in the field of limnogeology (broadly defined and including limnogeology, limnology, and paleolimnology), service to students and teaching, and contributions to GSA, as well as a curriculum vitae.

<https://geosociety.co/4pY1VoA>**Kerry Kelts Research Award****Nominations due:** 15 February**Submit nominations to:** Elana Leithold, leithold@ncsu.edu

The Kerry Kelts Research Award is for undergraduate or graduate student research related to limnogeology, limnology, or paleolimnology.

<https://geosociety.co/3YGOGMT>

MINERALOGY, GEOCHEMISTRY, PETROLOGY, AND VOLCANOLOGY (MGPV) DIVISION

MGPV Distinguished Geologic Career Award**Nominations due:** 31 March**Submit to:** J. Alex Speer, jaspeer@minsocam.org

The MGPV Distinguished Geologic Career Award will go to an individual who, throughout his/her career, has made distinguished contributions in one or more of the following fields of research: mineralogy, geochemistry, petrology, volcanology, with emphasis on multidisciplinary, field-based contributions. Nominees need not be citizens or residents of the United States, and GSA membership is not required. The award will not be given posthumously.

<https://geosociety.co/44KBLNv>**MGPV Early Career Award****Nominations due:** 31 March**Submit to:** J. Alex Speer, jaspeer@minsocam.org

The MGPV Early Career Award will go to an individual near the beginning of his/her professional career who has made distinguished contributions in one or more of the following fields of research: mineralogy, geochemistry, petrology, volcanology, with emphasis on multidisciplinary, field-based contributions. Nominations are restricted to those who are within eight years past the award of their final degree.

Extensions of up to two years will be made for nominees who have taken career breaks for family reasons or caused by serious illness. Nominees need not be citizens or residents of the United States, and GSA membership is not a requirement. The award will not be given posthumously.

<https://geosociety.co/4jmALFp>

PLANETARY GEOLOGY DIVISION

G.K. Gilbert Award**Nominations due:** 1 March**Submit to:** Sam Birch, sambirch@brown.edu

The G.K. Gilbert Award will be considered annually in accordance with the bylaws of the Society. The award will be made for outstanding contributions to the solution of a fundamental problem(s) of planetary geology in its broadest sense, including planetary geology, geochemistry, mineralogy, petrology, and tectonics, geophysics, and the field of meteoritics. Such contributions may consist of either a single outstanding publication or a series of publications that have had great influence on the field. The award is named for G.K. Gilbert, who over 100 years ago clearly recognized the importance of a planetary perspective in solving terrestrial geological problems.

<https://geosociety.co/4s6M8oR>**Eugene and Carolyn Shoemaker Impact Cratering Award****Nominations due:** 5 September**Submit to:** <https://www.lpi.usra.edu/Awards/shoemaker/>

The Eugene and Carolyn Shoemaker Impact Cratering Award is for undergraduate or graduate students, of any nationality, working in any country, in the disciplines of geology, geophysics, geochemistry, astronomy, or biology. The award, which will include US\$2500, is to be applied to the study of impact craters, either on Earth or on the other solid bodies in the solar system. Areas of study may include but shall not necessarily be limited to impact cratering processes; the bodies (asteroidal or cometary) that make the impacts; or the geological, chemical, or biological results of impact cratering.

<https://geosociety.co/3KXRSJ>**Ronald Greeley Award for Distinguished Service****Nominations due:** 15 August**Submit to:** Lauren Jozwiak, Lauren.Jozwiak@jhuapl.edu

The Greeley Award may be given to those members of the Division, and those outside of the Division and GSA, who have rendered exceptional service to the Division for a multi-year period. The award is not open to currently serving members of the management board but may be awarded to past members of the management board who have provided exceptional service to the Division after their term on the management board has ended. Nominations for the award, which should include a description of what the nominee has given to the planetary geology community, may be made by any Division member to the management board.

<https://geosociety.co/4srB466>**The Pete Mougini-Mark Prize in Planetary Volcanology****Nominations due:** 9 August**Submit to:** Lauren Jozwiak, lauren.jozwiak@jhuapl.edu

The Pete Mougini-Mark Prize in Planetary Volcanology recognizes outstanding undergraduate and graduate student presentations in planetary volcanology (talks or posters) at GSA Connects. Planetary volcanology, for the purpose of this prize, is defined as research into volcanoes and volcanic processes on the planets (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Moon), asteroids, or the moons of the outer planets. Volcano studies may include the geomorphology and tectonics of summit craters,

the lava flows on their flanks, and the deformation of the flanks. Volcanic processes may include numerical modeling of eruptions, as well as petrologic studies of samples from known volcanic areas of the Moon, Mars, or asteroids. Remote sensing (spectral, radar, gravity) of volcanoes and their products is also appropriate. Studies of terrestrial volcanoes and volcanic processes are only eligible if the primary focus is on extraterrestrial volcanism.

<https://geosociety.co/499E5iv>

QUATERNARY GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY DIVISION

Kirk Bryan Award for Research Excellence

Nominations due: 15 February

Submit to: Lisa Ely, lisa.ely@cwu.edu

The Kirk Bryan Award is bestowed upon the author or authors of a published paper of distinction advancing the science of geomorphology or some related field, such as Quaternary geology. The paper constituting the basis of the award must fulfill the following requirements: (1) the paper will deal with geomorphology or with a bordering field; and (2) the paper will have been published not more than five years prior to its selection for the award. Nominations should include: (1) a letter (1–3 pages long) by the chief nominator outlining the significance and importance of the nominated publication; (2) a copy of the publication; (3) reviews of the publications that have appeared in journals, newsletters, or books (if any); and (4) one or more letters from other supporters of the nomination.

<https://geosociety.co/49w4rLZ>

Farouk El-Baz Award for Desert Research

Nominations due: 1 April

Submit to: William Ouimet, william.ouimet@uconn.edu

Nominations should include: (1) a statement of the significance of the nominee's research; (2) a curriculum vitae; (3) letters of support; and (4) copies of no more than five of the nominee's most significant publications related to desert research. The award recognizes excellence in desert geomorphology research worldwide. It is intended to stimulate research in desert environments by recognizing an individual whose research has significantly advanced the understanding of the Quaternary geology and geomorphology of deserts. Although the award primarily recognizes achievement in desert research, the funds that accompany it may be used for further research. Monies for the award are derived from the annual interest income of the Farouk El-Baz Fund, administered by the GSA Foundation.

<https://geosociety.co/4pLLP1c>

Distinguished Career Award

Nominations due: 1 April

Submit nominations to: Lisa Ely, lisa.ely@cwu.edu

The Distinguished Career Award is presented annually to a Quaternary geologist or geomorphologist who has demonstrated excellence in their contributions to science.

Nominations should include: (1) a brief biographical sketch; (2) a statement of no more than 200 words describing the candidate's scientific contributions to Quaternary geology and geomorphology; (3) a selected bibliography of no more than 20 titles; and (4) a nomination letter; (5) optional additional letters from colleagues supporting the nomination.

<https://geosociety.co/3MSn44X>

SEDIMENTARY GEOLOGY DIVISION

Laurence L. Sloss Award for Sedimentary Geology

Nominations due: 15 February

Submit to: Joel Saylor, jsaylor@eoas.ubc.ca

The Sloss Award is given annually to a sedimentary geologist whose lifetime achievements best exemplify those of Larry Sloss—i.e., achievements that contribute widely to the field of sedimentary geology and service to GSA. Submit (1) a cover letter describing the nominee's accomplishments in sedimentary geology and contributions to GSA; (2) a curriculum vitae; and (3) any additional supporting letters electronically.

Nomination materials remain active for three years. Monies for the award are derived from the annual interest income of the Laurence L. Sloss Award for Sedimentary Geology Fund, administered by the GSA Foundation.

<https://geosociety.co/3KLvvhV>



SOILS AND SOIL PROCESSES DIVISION

Peter W. Birkeland Distinguished Career Award

Nominations due: 1 May

Submit to: Steven Driese, Steven_Driese@baylor.edu

The Birkeland Award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the general field of soil or paleosol (buried or fossilized soil) science. Dr. Birkeland's main area of research was soil geomorphology, and his steady stream of publications, often with his students, demonstrated the application of pedology to address landform and landscape evolution.

<https://geosociety.co/499EbGT>

Distinguished Service Award**Nominations due:** 1 May**Submit to:** Steven Driese, Steven_Driese@baylor.edu

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to the advancement of the Division either through service as an officer, service as a chair or member of a committee (or committees), or any other service-related activities (e.g., sponsorship of symposia or topical sessions, field trips, workshops, etc.) that draw positive attention to the research aims and activities of the Division. It includes lifetime membership in the Division.

<https://geosociety.co/3YJsSjM>

Gregory Retallack Young Scientist Annual Award**Nominations due:** 1 May**Submit nominations to:** Steven Driese, Steven_Driese@baylor.edu

The Retallack Award will cover any research within the scope of soil and soil processes, including but not limited to pedogenesis, paleosols, ichnology, paleontology, astropedology, archeology, and remote sensing. The award is for research and publications by a scientist younger than 40 in the year of the award and comes with an honorarium of US\$1000.

**STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY AND TECTONICS DIVISION****Career Contribution Award****Nominations due:** 1 March**Submit to:** Eric Kirby, exk26@psu.edu

This award is for an individual who throughout his/her career has made numerous distinguished contributions that have clearly advanced the science of structural geology or tectonics. Nominees need not be citizens or residents of the United States, and GSA membership is not required.

Nominations should include: (1) the name of nominee, present institutional affiliation, and address; (2) a summary statement of the nominee's major career contributions to the science of structural geology and tectonics; (3) selected key published works of the nominee; and (4) the name and address of nominator.

<https://geosociety.co/3Yutie1>

Outstanding Publication Award**Nominations due:** 1 March**Submit to:** Julie Fosdick, julie.fosdick@uconn.edu

This award is given annually for a published work (paper, book, or map) of exceptional distinction that clearly advances the science of structural geology or tectonics.

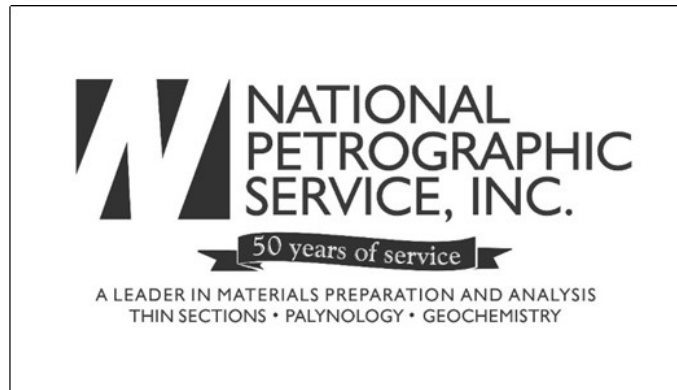
Nominations include: (1) a full citation; (2) nomination (as short as a paragraph; letters or reviews may also be included); and (3) the name and address of the nominator.

<https://geosociety.co/3YN4DRG>

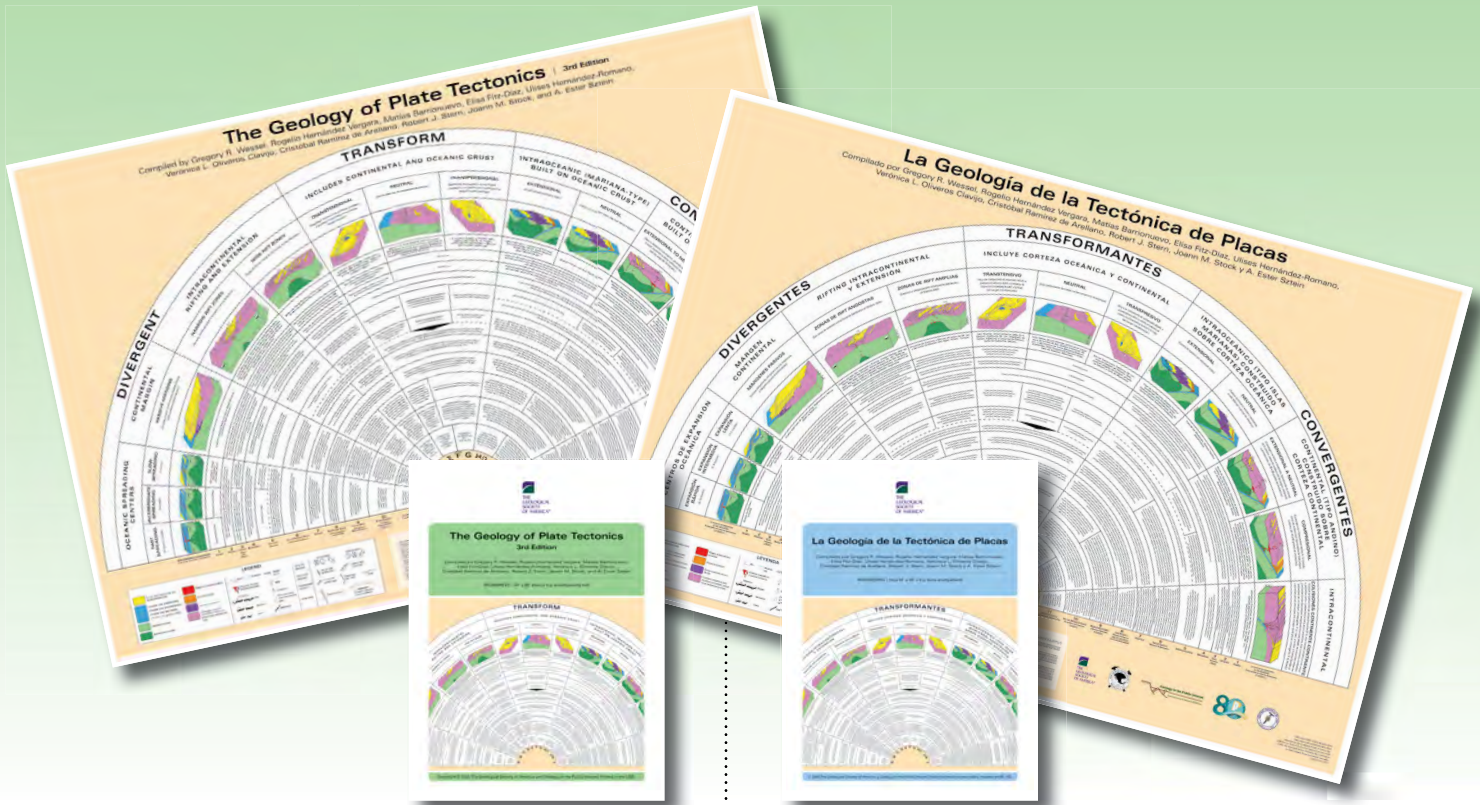
Sedimentary Geology Division and Structural Geology and Tectonic Division Joint Award: Stephen E. Laubach Structural Diagenesis Research Award**Nominations due:** 1 May**Submit to:** Devon Orme, devon.orme@montana.edu

The Stephen E. Laubach Structural Diagenesis Research Award Fund promotes research combining structural geology and diagenesis and curriculum development in structural diagenesis. This award addresses the rapidly growing recognition that fracturing, cement precipitation and dissolution, evolving rock mechanical properties, and other structural diagenetic processes can govern recovery of resources and sequestration of material in deeply buried, diagenetically altered and fractured sedimentary rocks. The award highlights the growing need to break down disciplinary boundaries between structural geology and sedimentary petrology, exemplified by the work of Dr. Stephen Laubach and colleagues. Graduate students, postgraduate, and faculty-level researchers are eligible.

<https://geosociety.co/4p5VBKp>



Check out the newly updated GSA Map and Chart 59!



The Geology of Plate Tectonics, Third Edition

Compiled by Gregory R. Wessel, Matías Barrionuevo, Elisa Fitz-Díaz, Rogelio Hernández Vergara, Ulises Hernández-Romano, Verónica L. Oliveros Clavijo, Cristóbal Ramírez de Arellano, Robert J. Stern, Joann M. Stock, and A. Ester Sztain

Now in its third edition, this trusted resource reflects advances in geological thought over the past 40 years as well as changes in society's use of applied geoscience. The chart presents a uniquely organized summary of plate margins and associated tectonic features, displaying them in a useful graphic form with descriptions of each and their important characteristics. This useful resource belongs in every geology classroom and lab!

MCH059REV3F | 54 × 36 | folded | \$25.00 | **member price \$20.00**

NEW IN SPANISH

La Geología de la Tectónica de Placas

Compilado por Gregory R. Wessel, Matías Barrionuevo, Elisa Fitz-Díaz, Rogelio Hernández Vergara, Ulises Hernández-Romano, Verónica L. Oliveros Clavijo, Cristóbal Ramírez de Arellano, Robert J. Stern, Joann M. Stock y A. Ester Sztain

Esta tabla es la versión en español de *The Geology of Plate Tectonics, Third Edition*. Ahora en su tercera edición, este recurso confiable refleja los avances en el pensamiento geológico de los últimos 40 años, así como los cambios en el uso de las geociencias aplicadas por parte de la sociedad. Esta tabla presenta un resumen único y organizado de los márgenes de las placas y las características tectónicas asociadas, mostrándolos en un formato gráfico útil con descripciones de cada uno y sus características importantes. ¡Este útil recurso es imprescindible en cualquier aula y laboratorio de geología!

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Figure 1. Group photo of conference attendees.

Eclogites in Space and Time— Bridging the Micro to Planetary Scales

19–23 June 2025 | Rohnert Park,
California, USA

Conveners:

- Chris G. Mattinson (Central Washington University)
- Kennet E. Flores (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
- David Hernández-Uribe (University of Illinois Chicago)
- Suzanne L. Baldwin (Syracuse University)

Field Trip Leaders:

- John Wakabayashi (California State University, Fresno)
- Tatsuki Tsujimori (Tohoku University)
- Zeb Page (Oberlin College & Conservatory)

Overview

Eclogites (high-pressure metamorphic rocks) are both the drivers and recorders of planetary-scale processes and evolution, including the geochemical exchange between Earth’s surface and deep interior, intermediate-depth seismicity, and continental growth, collision, and evolution. The 2025 Penrose Conference, **Eclogites in Space and Time—Bridging the Micro to Planetary Scales**, brought together the international eclogite community and interdisciplinary subduction-zone researchers under the auspices of the 15th International Eclogite Conference to discuss recent advances, and priorities for future collaborative research. Ninety-eight scientists from 16 countries (56% early career researchers) participated in three days of talks, posters, and breakout discussions, as well as three field days in the Jenner, California, and San Francisco Bay areas.

Key Themes and Discussions

The spatial and temporal record of subduction: Eclogite and blueschist facies rocks record subduction processes from shallow subduction environments to great depths in the mantle. Mantle xenoliths document pre-Mesoproterozoic subduction and high-pressure metamorphic processes, complementing the orogenic eclogite record.

New methods to reveal eclogite preservation in the rock record: “Ghost” inclusions and detrital UHP indicators expand our ability to recover evidence for high-pressure metamorphism from retrogressed and poorly exposed regions. Detailed mapping in classic mélangé terranes reveals more coherent thrust slices than once recognized, requiring revision of subduction-interface interpretations. Seismic tomography now images slabs at all mantle depths, representing >250 Myr of subduction, complementing the surface rock record.

Advances and limitations in P - T - t - D methods: Elastic barometry provides new capabilities, but resetting by post-peak heating and kbar-scale scatter from compositional zoning within garnet underscore the importance of multi-method approaches. Reaction overstepping and H_2O undersaturation are important controls on fluid-release depths and the pulsed nature of metamorphic reactions.

Fluids, deformation, and mechanical coupling: Field observations of vein systems, metasomatic zones, and block-matrix relationships represent primary constraints on fluid channelization, strain localization, and how strong blocks embedded in weak matrices influence seismic behavior and exhumation. Conference field trips viewed seldom-exposed block-matrix contacts and matrix foliation development, illustrating these concepts and informing conference discussions.

Workforce needs and capacity-building: Support for foundational but currently undervalued research—mapping, experiments, petrography, and case studies—is needed for scientific advancement. Better communicating the societal impact of metamorphic petrology, including its ties to seismic hazards, volatile cycling, and critical mineral resources is needed to support the faculty hires and curricula required to equip the next generation of scientists to tackle societally pressing needs.

Outcomes and Future Directions

A notable conference outcome was the strong level of community building. All post-conference survey respondents reported making new professional connections. Early career researchers especially valued opportunities for mentoring and networking.



Figure 2. San Francisco Bay, California, USA.

Participants identified several priorities for advancing the field:

Community best practices: Establish guidelines for P - T modeling, elastic thermobarometry, and data reporting to improve cross-study comparability, support integrated data approaches, and make the field more accessible to new scientists.

Integrated datasets: Expand the number of well-characterized natural laboratories to test new techniques and ideas through multi-method strategies across field, analytical, experimental, geophysical, and modeling domains.

Data infrastructure: Develop shared databases encompassing P - T - t - D paths, microstructures, geochemistry, and geologic mapping; address curation, accessibility, and sustainability.

Broader collaborations: Engage researchers from materials science, geophysics, hazards, and planetary science to broaden the impact and applications of high-pressure metamorphic research. Create a database of laboratory-access opportunities and make unused instrument time available to engage colleagues at resource-limited institutions. Offer virtual technical workshops and enhance mentorship networks to support early career scientists.

Community white paper: Produce a white paper articulating scientific priorities and workforce needs for the next decade. The strong engagement of students and early career researchers underscored the importance of sustained, community-wide support.

Attendees

Adam Holt, Adrian Castro, Alaina Helm, Ana Gomes, Ana Lorena Abila, Anna Strickland, Anthony Ramírez-Salazar, Aratz Beranoaguirre, Benjamin A. Pummell, Besim Dragovic, Botao Li, Breanna Hirosky, Cailey Condit, Caroline Lotout,

Charlotte Connop, Chin-Ho Tsai, Clothilde Minnaert, Damian Donoso-Tapia, Dan Wang, Daniele Castelli, David Shimabukuro, David Young, Dingding Zhang, Donna L. Whitney, Duncan Keller, Eirini Poulaki, Emily Stewart, Fabián Gutiérrez Aguilar, Federica Boero, Huixia Ding, Irene Novo-Fernández, Iwona Klonowska, Jan Schönig, Jane Gilotti, Jessie E. Shields, Jesús Muñoz Montecinos, Jianxin Zhang, Jie Dong, Jilei Li, Johannes Pohlner, John Mark Brigham, Jonny Wu, Josephine Fernholz, Kanwa Sengupta, Katherine F. Fornash, Kimberly D. Blisniuk, Laura Webb, Leif Tokle, Lijuan Zhang, Lorraine Tual, Lu Wang, Ludovico Scorsolini, Luis Javier Gutiérrez Trejo, Małgorzata Nowak, Manuel Contreras-López, Marco G. Malusa, María del Mar Almazán-López, Mario Alfredo Ramos-Arias, Mary L. Leech, Matthew J. Kohn, Mattia Gilio, Megan Ferrell, Megan Koch, Michael Brown, Minh Pham, Munjae Park, Noah Phillips, Paul Fitzgerald, Pavel Pitra, Pavla Štípská, Pinghua Liu, Priscilla C. Grew, Robert M. Holder, Ryo Fukushima, Sajjad Ahmad Shah, Santiago Ramos, Sara E. Hanel, Sarah Brandt, Simon Cuthbert, Songjie Wang, Sonja Aulbach, Taehwan Kim, Timm John, Tomas Magna, Tomohiro Takebayashi, Wang-Ping Chen, Wentao Cao, Whitney Behr, William McClelland, Xiwen Zhou, Yuting Cao.

Acknowledgments

This Penrose Conference was supported by GSA, the U.S. National Science Foundation Petrology & Geochemistry and Tectonics Programs (EAR-2435793), anonymous donors, the GSA Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology & Volcanology Division, GSA Structural Geology and Tectonics Division, Syracuse University Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Department of Earth, Marine and Environmental Sciences, Sonoma County, and the California Geological Survey. We thank our partner institutions, sponsors, the GSA Meetings staff, and all participants for contributing to a productive gathering.

Make Next Year Picture Perfect

2027 GSA Calendar Photo Search

www.geosociety.org/calendar-photos

Help carry on a GSA tradition and submit your most eye-catching geologic photos for a chance to be showcased in our 2027 calendar.

Send up to three of your best images in landscape orientation, using the following categories as a guide:

Iconic Landscapes

Striking or notable geologic landscapes and features.

Abstract Images

The patterns of geology at any scale, photomicrographs to satellite images.

Geologic Processes Past and Present

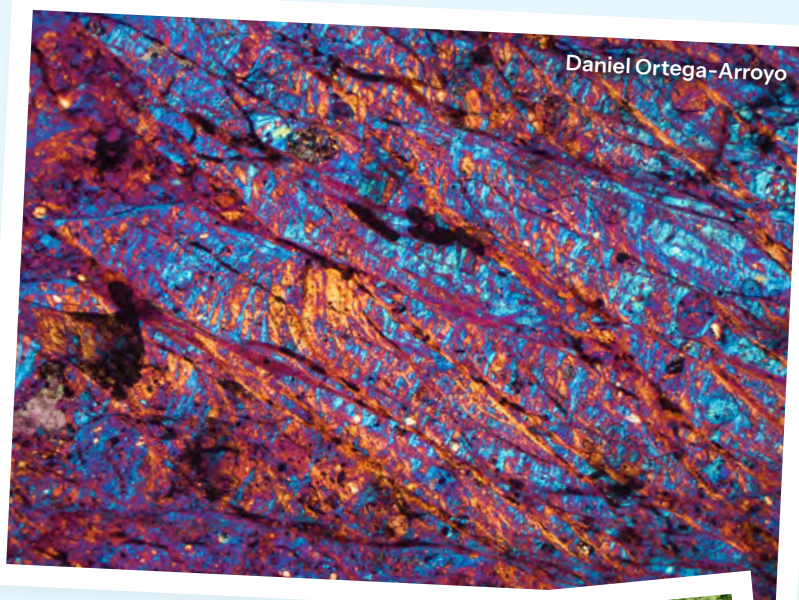
Process or feature resulting from a specific process. For example: an erupting volcano or volcanic rocks that represent ancient eruptions.

How to Enter

Email the following to editing@geosociety.org with the subject line "Calendar Submission":

- Your name, email, and mailing address.
- A caption describing the image(s), plus a photo credit, including a one-sentence bio. Feel free to include information on how you captured the image.
- Up to three images in landscape orientation, in jpeg format, and no larger than 1 MB each (if your image is chosen, we'll ask for a high-resolution file).
- Name your file using your first initial and last name (e.g., FBascom_image1.jpg).

Deadline: 30 March 2026



By submitting image(s) to the 2027 GSA Calendar Photo Search, you agree to gratis use of your images by GSA in a calendar and in promotional materials. GSA employees are not eligible to enter.



Journeys of Discovery, Meetings of Minds: GSA Foundation Rendezvous

The GSA Foundation’s mission is to develop and provide funds to support the goals and programs of GSA. The resources we secure for GSA impact students, scholars, practitioners, and research—but we do more than that. We also create community, connections, and belonging.

One way we accomplish this is through GSA Foundation Rendezvous field trips. In 2026, the GSA Foundation is hosting two opportunities for fun, adventure, and learning: Death Valley, California, from 29 March–3 April 2026, and Bryce Canyon, Utah, from 6–11 September 2026.

GSA Foundation Rendezvous are planned and led by GSA member volunteers who build appreciation of geoscience marvels by sharing their expertise and love of wild places. These volunteers work in tandem with GSA Foundation staff, who coordinate registration, logistics, meals, and transportation—all for a modest package rate. This leaves travelers free to immerse themselves in unhurried discovery.

Death Valley’s gorgeous extremes must be seen to be believed, from Badwater Basin’s below-sea-level salt flat expanses to Dante’s View, with its panoramic views of the flats and the Panamint Range beyond. Voyagers will tour the mining district, explore the Dumont Dunes, and encounter uniquely adapted flora and fauna at the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge—and much more.

The Death Valley Rendezvous will be led by Dr. Darrel Cowan, Professor Emeritus at the University of Washington, who has researched Death Valley for many decades; and Dr. Stephen Wells, past GSA President, current GSA Foundation Vice Chair, and an expert in the park’s geomorphology and paleohydrology. Thanks to their insights and enthusiasm, Rendezvous travelers will appreciate the geoscience that underpins Death Valley’s otherworldly beauty. Reservations for the Death Valley Rendezvous are open now, with \$1,000 deposits due 15 February.



Death Valley Rendezvous 2025

Our other 2026 Rendezvous will take guests to Bryce Canyon and the Western High Plateaus of Utah in September. Bryce Canyon’s scarlet hoodoo rock formations are world-renowned for their majesty. Those who join us will experience this and other wonders—dining at the rim of Bryce Canyon, collecting marine fossils from the Cretaceous seaway, and exploring the paleoenvironments of Bryce’s pink rocks.

The Bryce Canyon Rendezvous will be led by Dr. George Davis, former GSA President, current GSA Foundation Trustee, and Professor and Provost Emeritus at the University of Arizona, who has worked the Colorado Plateau for decades. Joining him will be Dr. Pete Rowley, whose mapping of the High Plateau Region is legendary, and Gayle Pollock, President & CEO of the Bryce Canyon Association and renowned Cretaceous stratigrapher and paleontologist. Their knowledge will illuminate the treasures of Bryce and make this a journey to remember.



Death Valley Rendezvous 2025



Some of Bryce Canyon’s astonishing hoodoos

GSA Foundation Rendezvous are designed for everyone, geoscientists and enthusiasts alike. Those who join us have their sense of discovery renewed, gaining new appreciation of gorgeous landscapes, understanding more about the development of our planet, and making memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. Many past Rendezvous guests have been inspired to deepen their connections to both GSA and the GSA Foundation.

To learn more or make your reservations, please contact Sean O’Brien, PhD (+1 434-242-9552; sean.obrien@gsa-foundation.org) or Becky Priest Santavicca (+1-203-909-8333; becky.santavicca@gsa-foundation.org). We can’t wait to see the world with you.

All donations make a difference. Please scan the QR code to make a gift now, or contact GSA Foundation Executive Director Sean O’Brien, PhD, at sean.obrien@gsa-foundation.org to learn about more ways to give. Gifts to the GSA Foundation are fully tax-deductible under U.S. law.





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