

Join Future Rockhounds of America

HISTORY OF FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA

Rockhound clubs throughout the regional Federations have supported youth groups for many years. Most clubs have always had young members but often didn't know what sorts of activities to provide for them. Consequently many youth fell through the cracks. We're sure no one would argue the fact that we need to ensure the future of our hobby by encouraging our youth. Knowing this, under the direction of AFMS President Bill Cox in 1984, a committee was added to the AFMS called "Junior Clubs." Bill coined the name "Future Rockhounds of America" and designed a certificate to be given to junior clubs becoming members of FRA. It gives pebble pups and juniors the distinction of belonging to something worthwhile. The only requirement for obtaining FRA membership is to be organized and sponsored by a regional Federation club (although exceptions can be made). There are no dues to pay to the AFMS for being a member. Starting in Fall 2004, Juniors Activities Chair Jim Brace-Thompson developed a free "merit badge" program of guided activities to provide youth leaders with over 50 individual activities in 9 areas: rocks and minerals, earth resources, fossils, lapidary arts, collecting, showmanship, communication, field trips, and leadership. Kids can earn badges in each area. Those earning a minimum of 6 of the 9 badges earn a "Rockhound" badge as a mark of accomplishment and distinction. Details of the program may be found on the "Kids Corner" section of the AFMS web site: www.amfed.org.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AFMS YOUTH PROGRAM, FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA?

All you need is a group of kids, a sponsor, a name, and an application to FRA!

REQUIREMENTS:

Your group must be a member of your regional Federation, either through a sponsoring club or through an independent application into your local Federation.

1. The number of youth is not important: you can have as few as 2 and as many as you can handle.
2. Age: Any kids up to the age of 18.

Just fill out the application below, or contact your local Federation Juniors Chair or check out the "Kids Corner" of the AFMS web site (www.amfed.org).

FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA

NAME OF YOUTH GROUP: _____

SPONSORING ADULT CLUB: _____

FEDERATION: CFMS ___ Eastern ___ Midwest ___ South Central ___ SE ___ Rocky Mountain ___ NW ___

CONTACT PERSON: _____

ADDRESS: _____

YEAR ORGANIZED: _____ CURRENT NUMBER OF YOUTH MEMBERS: _____

On the back, please provide a brief description of the activities you do with your youth members, i.e., participation at general meetings, club shows, field trips, and other activities. After completing this questionnaire, please forward it to the AFMS Juniors Activities Chair: Jim Brace-Thompson, 7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, California 93003; (805) 659-3577; jbraceth@adelphia.net.