

Texas Earth Science Week 2004

A Message from the State Geologist of Texas

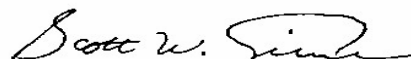
Earth Science Week (ESW), an annual nationwide program designed to promote interest in and knowledge of Earth science and its contributions to society, is celebrated the second full week of October each year and is sponsored by the [American Geological Institute](http://www.beg.utexas.edu). The 2004 ESW will be celebrated nationwide the week of October 10-16.

Earth sciences bridge the gap between art and science, requiring a unique blend of observational skill, quantified ability, and creative flair for learning about our Earth and universe. Earth scientists of the past bridged the gap using maps and other familiar tools. Today, the same tools are complemented by large hardware clusters, state-of-the-art visualization technology, and complex computer programs to weave together a variety of data from within, on, and above our planet. Earth science professionals are found on K-12 and college campuses, in the mineral and energy industries, and in environmental and hydrology firms. They are astronauts, lawyers, Federal and State employees, politicians, doctors, businessmen, weathermen, museum curators, and parents. A degree in Earth sciences prepares a kid to use both sides of the brain, and it is one of the best degrees around to get ready for that thing that happens after college: life.

ESW is celebrated across the state of Texas annually. Each year the Governor signs a document proclaiming Texas Earth Science Week. Organizers around the state have planned activities, and communities are busy organizing these events for the 2004 celebration.

- ✦ Austin is organizing the fifth career fair for middle school students and an Earth science book drive.
- ✦ El Paso is celebrating ESW in conjunction with its annual *Celebration of Our Mountains*.
- ✦ Houston organizers are hosting fieldtrips and museum tours.
- ✦ Midland has asked Earth science professionals to visit K-12 classrooms and is hosting the UT Bureau of Economic Geology's visualization lab that will be demonstrated to hundreds of students in the Midland area.
- ✦ San Antonio organizers will have T-shirts for students, radio and TV announcements, geophysical experiments, and mineral and rock discussions for 3rd grade classes. Earth science professionals have been asked to visit K-12 classrooms.

I encourage you to be a part of Earth Science Week by contacting your local ESW organizer or starting your own program. Visit the Texas ESW Website at www.beg.utexas.edu/esw/ for more information.



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Texas State Geologist