

What Does the Eastern Federation Do For You?

The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies (the EFMLS or Federation) is an umbrella group comprised of over 120 affiliate member Mineral Related Organizations or MRO's (i.e. clubs, societies, associations, etc.) in the eastern portion of the U.S. Each member organization operates independently and the Federation provides many services to them. Here are some of the benefits that your organizations' membership in the Federation brings to you.

1. Communication, Coordination and Cohesion. One of the most important functions of the Federation is that of providing information to, and receiving information from their member organizations. This is primarily done through committees, the Regional Vice Presidents (RVP's), Area Representatives, Organization Liaison Officers, and Organization Officers. The Federation must also insure coordination and cooperation between organizations as well as with the other 6 Regional Federations and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). This is accomplished through committee representation on AFMS committees. With good communication, coordination and cooperation, cohesion is automatic and without additional effort.

2. Publicity. In the very near future, the primary means of accessing all things Eastern Federation can be found on the EFMLS website, (EFMLS.org). Until the process of developing our new website is underway, a substantial amount of information can be obtained at (afmed.org/efmls).

3. EFMLS News. The Federation has multiple news outlets. A monthly newsletter is distributed to the officers of the Member Organization with the exception of July and August during a typical calendar year. This publication keeps the pertinent programs of the Federation "on the front burner" and apprises the membership of current happenings as well as other areas of interest. Contact your Organization's Officers to request the newsletter or sign up directly to receive the newsletter at the email address below. Social Media and other outlets are another means the Federation is providing news and information. Especially for those who need to be plugged in. Find us and **like us** on facebook. If you are not getting information about the EFMLS and Federation news, please reach out to us by emailing (EFMLSinc@gmail.com) or contact your Regional Vice President.

4. Annual Show & Convention. The Federation conducts their Convention each year in concert with a Mineral Show sponsored by a Member Organization. Federation business conducted at the Convention is open to all members of Federation Organizations in good standing. Each Organization may be represented with two voting members by attending the Annual Meeting. As many members of Member Organizations should attend as possible as there are individuals and programs available to help Organizations. The weekend events include one or more field trips and a variety of awards are presented at the Banquet and Editor's Breakfast. There is also great comrauderie during the event and the shows are always excellent.

5. Wildacres. The Federation sponsors two sessions each year in a cool mountain-top setting near Little Switzerland in North Carolina. Offered at the sessions are seminars in various facets of the earth sciences,

classes in hobby related activities such as faceting, capping, silversmithing, micromounting, forging, photography, judging and many others. The cost is minimal at less than \$350 per week for a one-week session. This is a per-person cost and covers lodging in clean comfortable rooms and all meals.

6. Programs for Organization Meetings. For the cost of the return postage and insurance you can select any of 400 plus slide, video and DVD programs for your monthly meetings. These programs are listed in the EFMLS Directory and encompass most facets of the organization related hobbies. New programs are added annually.

7. Junior Activities. The Eastern Federation has a committee that is set up to guide organizations in the establishment and operation of junior activities. The EFMLS program is tied in with the excellent American Federation Junior Activities Merit Badge program.

8. Organization Insurance. Through a program established by the Eastern Federation, Organizations can purchase low cost liability and/or accident insurance to cover their activities including field trips. Such insurance often is the difference in whether or not a organization is accorded access to collecting sites.

9. Bulletin Editors Contest. To encourage improvement and development of organization bulletins/newsletters, the Federation sponsors a Bulletin Editors Contest each year where editors can enter their bulletins as well as original articles written by their members. The top three in each of several categories are automatically forwarded and entered in the AFMS Contest.

10. AFMS Organization Rockhound of the Year. A program to provide recognition to one adult member (or couple) of each organization and one junior member who takes the time to teach others their expertise in the earth science and hobby/craft areas or who does an exemplary job for their organization. Each organization selects its own recipient with the honorees being listed in the AFMS and EFMLS Newsletters.

11. Informational and Instructional Pamphlets. The EFMLS Supplies Chairman carries a series of low cost pamphlets concerning the operation of many organization activities. These, along with Federation badges and pins are available to any accredited organization member for a very nominal fee.

12. AFMS Scholarship Award Program. A total of eight thousand dollars each year is awarded to one or more Academic Institutions to provide a scholarship to a minimum of 2 students. In furtherance of the ideals and charters of the EFMLS and their many organizations, the Federation conducts fund raising projects for monies for the AFMS Scholarship Fund. Recipients of grants are graduate students working toward Master and Doctorate Degrees in some phase of the earth sciences. As many students are helped as the interest of the fund will permit, with the principle continuing as an endowment. Each participating regional federation names an honorary scholarship recipient who in turn helps select the students for the awards. Currently, the Scholarship is for a two-year period each.

13. Show Coordinator. The Federation has a Show Coordinator who, when consulted, will help schedule shows so that nearby organizations will not schedule shows at the same time and be competing for the same audience. This of course, only works when the people who are putting on the shows check with the coordinator.

The Show Coordinator also sees that organization show information appears in the EFMLS News.

14. *Uniform Rules Committee.* In order to have fair competition throughout all organizations, the EFMLS has established a committee to set up rules for competition. This Committee works with and holds membership in their counterpart, The AFMS Rules Committee. Thus, all the competitors throughout all the Federations within the AFMS are following the same guidelines for show competition.

available for a nominal fee and can be obtained by writing to the EFMLS Editor. The EFMLS Newsletter can also be downloaded from the Federation website <<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/newsletters.htm>>.

15. *All American Organization Award Program.* In keeping with the AFMS All American Organization Award Program, the Eastern Federation conducts a screening/selection of organization entrants and forwards the winners to the American Federation for their review and selection of the AFMS All American Organization. Entering this competition provides organizations with an excellent review of their activities.

As you see the Federation isn't a "pie in the sky" entity, but an organization which actually is doing things for the benefit of it's Member Organizations and their respective members.

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