NEW SRE LEASE – August 16, 2017

SME Booth Shines at 2017 Boy Scout Jamboree

Hundreds of Mining in Society merit badges earned at SME-hosted booth

The Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration Inc. (SME) hosted the Mining in Society merit badge booth at the 2017 National Boy Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, July 19-28. An estimated 2,270 visitors came through the booth during the event. SME is pleased to report that 618 Scouts completed the requirements and earned their Mining in Society merit badges, with 68 of those earning both the Mining and the Geology badges.

In a thank-you letter, 13-year-old Casey McQuesten wrote, “I am an Eagle Scout of Troop 1 East Greenwich, Rhode Island. I have completed 60 merit badges, all of which have included research and learning but I have never appreciated or have been so interested in a merit badge before the Mining in Society merit badge tent.”

Elements of the badge requirements include topics such as safety, reclamation, mineral usage and careers in the mining industry. SME was instrumental in the development of the BSA Mining in Society merit badge, which was launched during the SME Annual Conference & Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah, February 2014. By the end of 2016, more than 12,000 Mining in Society merit badges had been earned by Scouts, and the number has continued to grow rapidly since then.

Support for the booth came from generous SME members and companies through donations, sponsorships, in-kind donations of materials and volunteering time for the effort. The SME Pittsburgh Section donated mineral kits for the Scouts. The location of the booth was marked by a mine truck tire standing twelve feet tall. In coordination with Coronado Coal, King Tire Service of Bluefield, WV built the stand and loaned the tire for display. SME and the Minerals Education Coalition (MEC) continue to support BSA and the merit badge program year-round through the Mining in Society merit badge webpage and by encouraging members to become counselors with the Counselor Roll Call program. To learn more about the Mining in Society merit badge, including how to become a counselor, visit www.mineralseducationcoalition.org.

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SME is a professional society (nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation) whose members represent all professions serving the mining, minerals and underground construction industries in more than 100 countries. SME members include engineers, geologists, metallurgists, educators, students and researchers. SME advances the worldwide minerals community through information exchange and professional development.

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SME exists to be the premier resource and advocate for the mining community.
For further details, see www.smenet.org.