

# GEO JUNIOR INITIATIVE

Brandon Martin  
Affiliated with the Geology Department & Club  
California State University, Sacramento

## PROJECT SUMMARY

"Geo Junior" is an initiative I will be leading in collaboration with the geology department and club to inspire the next generation of geologists in our local community. By coordinating visits to local elementary schools and organizing immersive activities, I aim to foster a passion for geology and establish meaningful connections between our university and the community. Additionally, participating in group activities will help develop student's confidence and experience.

## INTRODUCTION

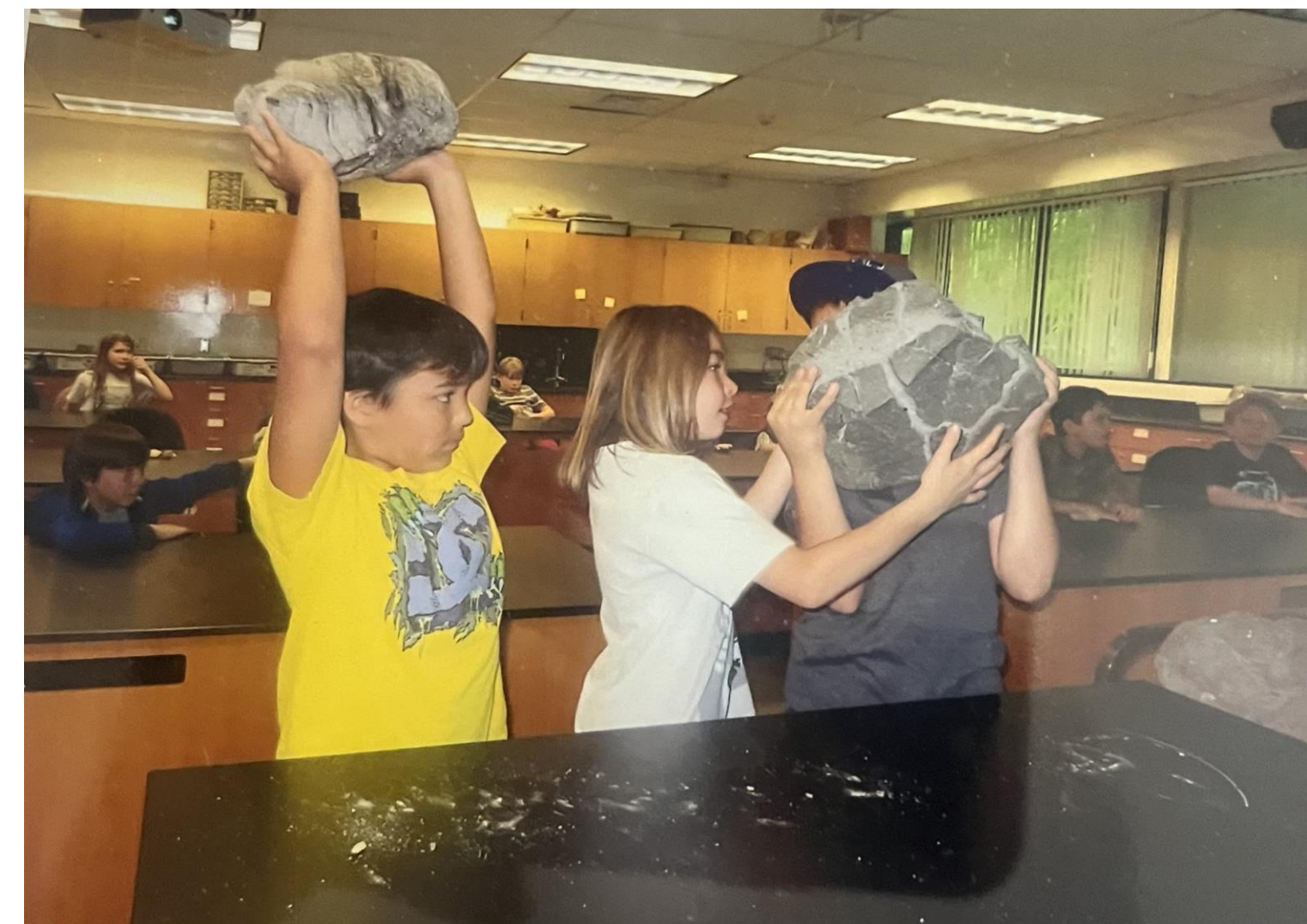
- The geology department at Sac State used to invite local elementary schools to participate in fun geologic activities
- Funding a trip to Sac State can be expensive for local schools.
- It has been over ten years since students have come to participate in activities with faculty and students because of a lack of connection between the department and our local community and schools.
- Through the Geo Junior initiative we will be able to go to local elementary schools at no cost to them and participate in activities with the future generation of scientists.
- Sac State students and faculty will have the opportunity to participate in a service to their community.
- Faculty will be able to gain community service hours and students will gain more experience to make them more appealing to future employers.

## OBJECTIVES

- Visit an elementary school before the end of the spring semester.
  - Create engaging activities for students related to geology.
    - Recruit faculty and students for initiative.
    - Speak with the Geology Club President.
  - Speak with the Geology Department Chair.
    - Inspire youth with creative presentations.
  - Grow leadership and teamwork skills of students.

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & PRELIMINARY PROGRESS

- I'm in the process planning geologic hands-on, engaging activities for students and faculty alike to participate in.
- I plan to schedule a day to visit a local elementary school for a couple hours with faculty and students.
- Progress so far includes conducting research to flesh out details of my project proposal, speaking to geology club members, and speaking with the geology department chair.
- I have gained the support of the geology club and department to make the initiative a reality through their funding and collaboration.
- I've learned how hard it is to coordinate a date that works for all parties involved in this initiative.
- After having attempted to coordinate a date to carry out this initiative and communicate with local elementary schools I have realized that it would be more realistic to carry the event out during the summer or beginning of a semester.



## EXPECTED BENEFITS

- Through engaging in hands-on activities, students will have a memorable experience.
- Faculty and students will be a service to the surrounding community which will improve prosocial development in participants and sense of identity (Yates and Youniss, 1996, Youniss and Yates, 1997).
- Students will also learn more about geology and the possible careers in the field of geology. By inspiring the local community, we can promote more engagement, collaboration, and diversity in the geosciences.
- Will improve and expand upon the understanding of geology through collaborative group activities and promote growth in students (Roschelle and Teasley, 1995).
- The Geo Junior initiative will help foster a passion for geology and establish meaningful connections between our university and the community.
- Students will build their confidence by leading and participating in activities related to geology.
- Through collaboration a more positive attitude toward group work will be made and crucial social skills will be improved (Tarim, 2015).

## POTENTIAL CHALLENGES

- Figuring out a day and time where everyone involved is free to participate.
- Students and faculty have busy schedules with short breaks in between.
- Students and faculty in the geology department have frequent required field trips during weekends and scheduled school breaks.
- Local elementary schools have different schedules and times where they're available that may not be ideal.
- Activities may take more time than originally planned and we may not be able to accomplish everything in our planned time.
- Connecting with local schools has proven to be a challenge as it's hard to get in contact with faculty.

## NEXT STEPS & FUTURE PLANS

- What would you do next if you were to move forward with this project? Moving forward I'd like to continue reaching out to local schools to see if they'd be interested in participating with us in the initiative.
- I plan to make this initiative a reoccurring event that can happen yearly or every semester in the geology department to retain community engagement.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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