



Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Show Merit Badge and Free Field Trip Opportunities for Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts



The Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club invites all Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Exploring and Venturing groups to attend the "2018 Catawba Valley Gem, Mineral, Bead, Fossil, and Jewelry Show on MARCH 23, 24, and 25, 2018, at the Hickory Metro Convention Center @ in Hickory, NC. General operating hours are 9:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. on Friday, 9:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Chaperoned scout groups will be admitted free anytime during the show.

Theme: "Treasures in Our Back Yard, Gems and Minerals of the Catawba Valley" Display will include emeralds, rutile, hiddenite, quartz, amethyst, etc. other displays will include fossils, Indian artifacts, wire-wrapping, cabochoning, faceting, and other lapidary arts.

Scout Merit Badges: A special area will be in place where Boy Scouts may requirements for the Geology Merit Badge on Saturday or Sunday, **March 24 from 9:30-4:00 p.m. and on March 25 from 11:00 to 3:00 p.m.** For those who have completed the Geology Merit Badge, show educational leaders will help with a portion of the Mining Merit Badge. Cub scouts may complete the Geology Belt loop.

Registration for Free Visit: Register by emailing Dr. Warren Hollar, education chairperson, at whollar1@gmail.com or call (828)446-5400 to provide troop or pack number, number in attendance, and time of arrival or for questions about the show. Plans call for pre-registered groups to receive a free sample bag of minerals while supplies last.

Hands-on, Geologist, Mini-Mine, Vendors: Club members will be on hand to assist in comparing texture, luster, and other properties of minerals and to answer questions. Other educational demonstrations include the lapidary arts and a display using black lights will allow visitors to see fluorescent minerals. A special limited-touch area will provide an educational experience with fossils such as shark's teeth. Younger children will enjoy searching for free specimens a mini mine. Participants are invited to bring gem and mineral samples for identification at a booth in the education area staffed by a geologist. Over twenty vendors will be on hand to sell during the show. Some vendors provide jewelry benchwork such as stone mounting and wire-wrapping.

Pack or Scout Meeting Programs: The Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club provides programs related to gems, minerals, and fossils in local schools and for various youth groups. Contact Dr. George Max, education chairperson. (828) 328-9107.

Web Page: The web page for the club is www.cvgmc.com/.

