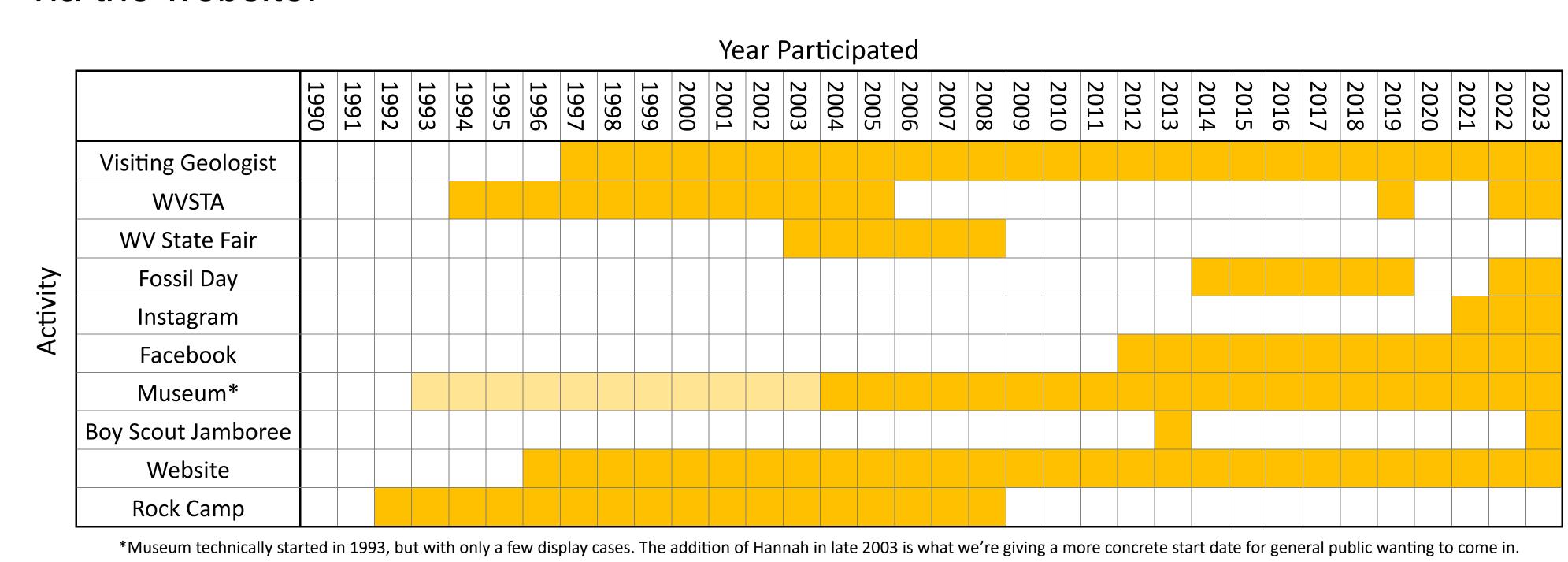
ABSTRACT

The West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey (WVGES) has a long history of supporting public outreach and educational activities. While still conducting traditional in-person outreach activities (talks, fieldtrips, etc.), our efforts over recent years have expanded to incorporate technology through social media and web-based educational information. Additionally, the onsite museum has grown to offer a greater variety of information to the public about earth history and West Virginia geology. This growth is part of a larger movement to make geological information, data, and knowledge more easily accessible to more people.

In recent years, the lobby of our headquarters at Mont Chateau has evolved from a place that held a few notable fossils, including an authentic Edmontosaurus, to a museum that can educate and enthrall with the story of West Virginia's geological history. Much of this improvement was made possible through the expansion of the museum to an upper floor. Here, most of the museum's rock and fossil specimens from our state are displayed. Other innovative efforts have pertained to expanding the museum's physical collections through loans and donations, such as a loaned replica of Smilodon and a gifted portion of an authentic Mastodon tusk. The buildup of the museum has led to an increase in group visitation. The museum provides a place for classes, scout groups, tourists, and the general public to come learn about the geological and paleontological history of the state. One advantage of having classrooms visit on-site is that we have the necessary resources on hand to provide a more enriching experience.

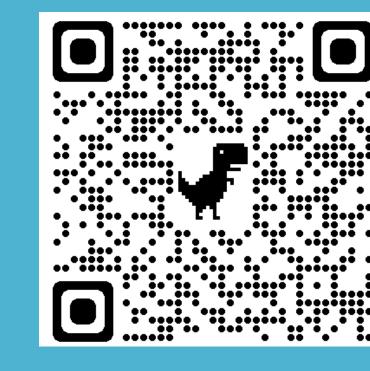
For over 25 years, the WVGES has provided our Visiting Geologist Program, in cooperation with the WV Division of Natural Resources, to bring informative and entertaining outreach at several WV State Parks. Visiting Geologists present on the geological history of the state and lead a hike through the park to discuss the local geology. The WVGES also works with the West Virginia Science Teachers Association (WVSTA) to provide information and materials to aid K-12 earth science educators. The task of innovation is never-ending at WVGES. In the future, the Survey intends to continue museum expansion in our building, provide more interactive displays in-house, and add to the educational resources available via the website.



Engaging the Public: How the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey has Continued to Improve

Upon Its Long History of Outreach and Education

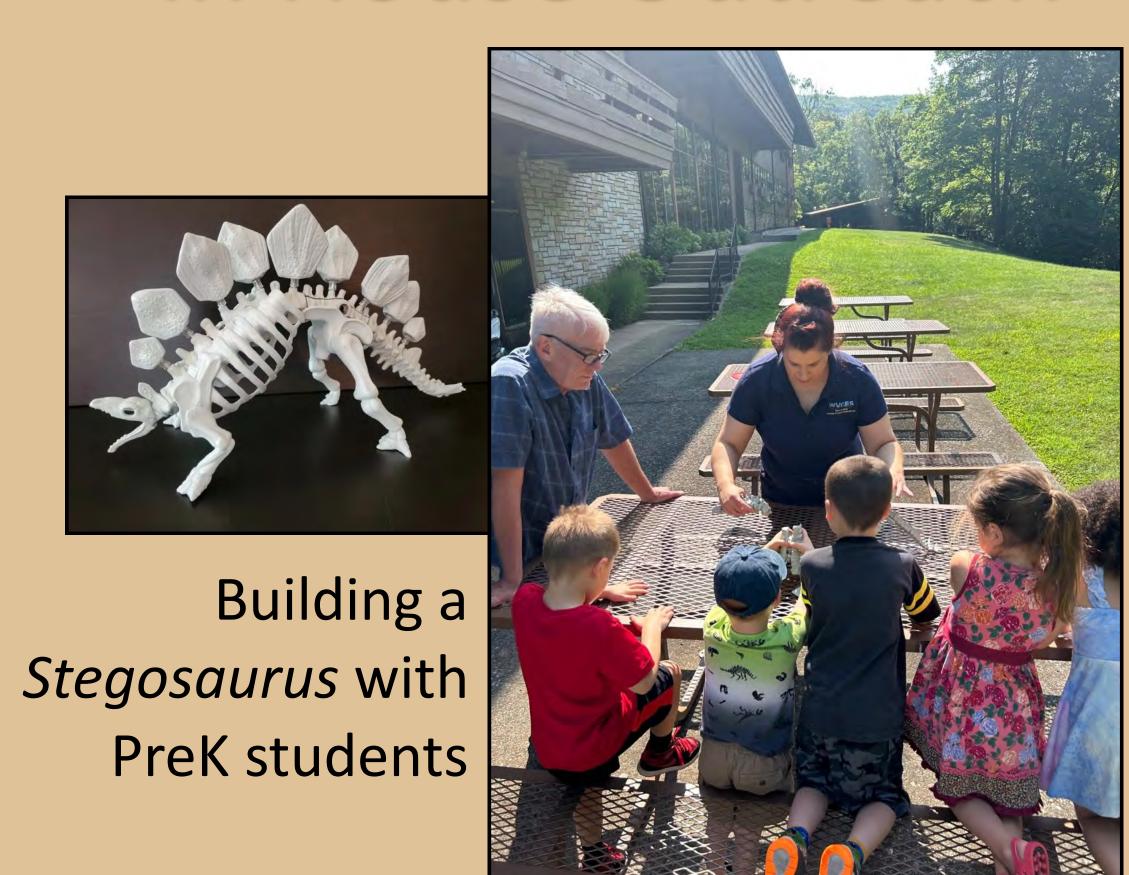




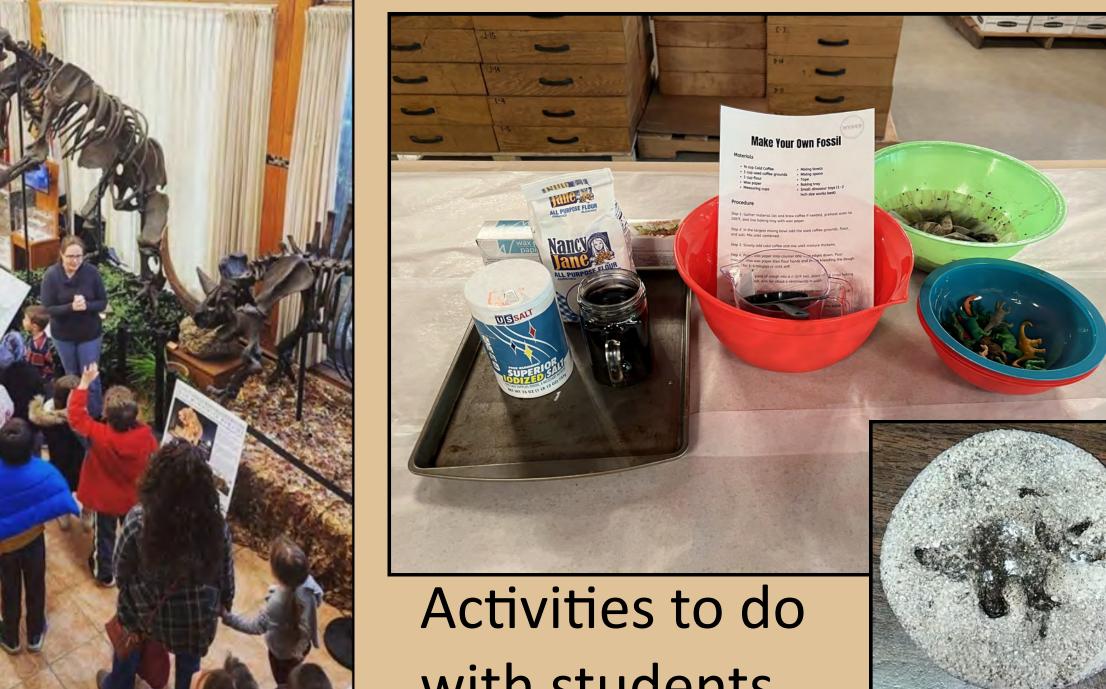
Elizabeth RHENBERG, Shadya EL-ASHKAR, John TUDEK, and Philip DINTERMAN West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey, Morgantown, WV 26508

CONNECTS

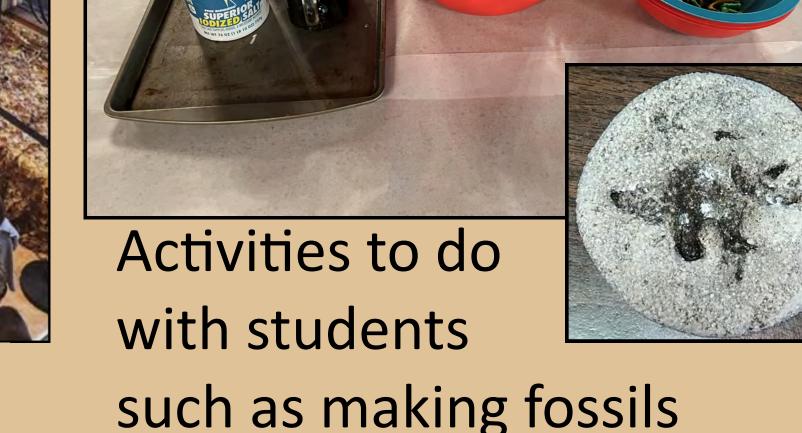
In House Outreach







Giving a tour of the museum





Deinosuchus skull

Authentic Mastodon

Outreach Across the State





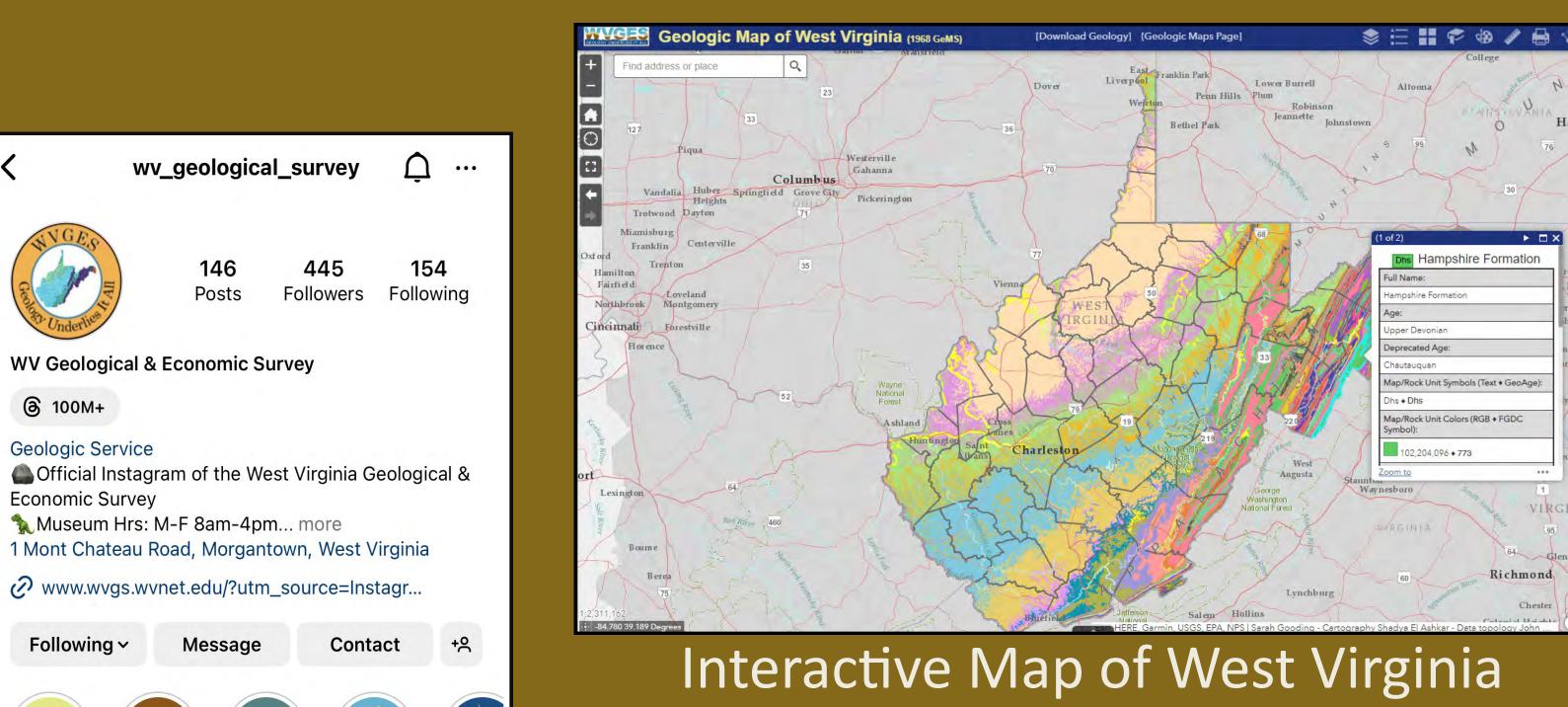
Fossil ID at Graves Creek Archaeological Complex's Fossil Day

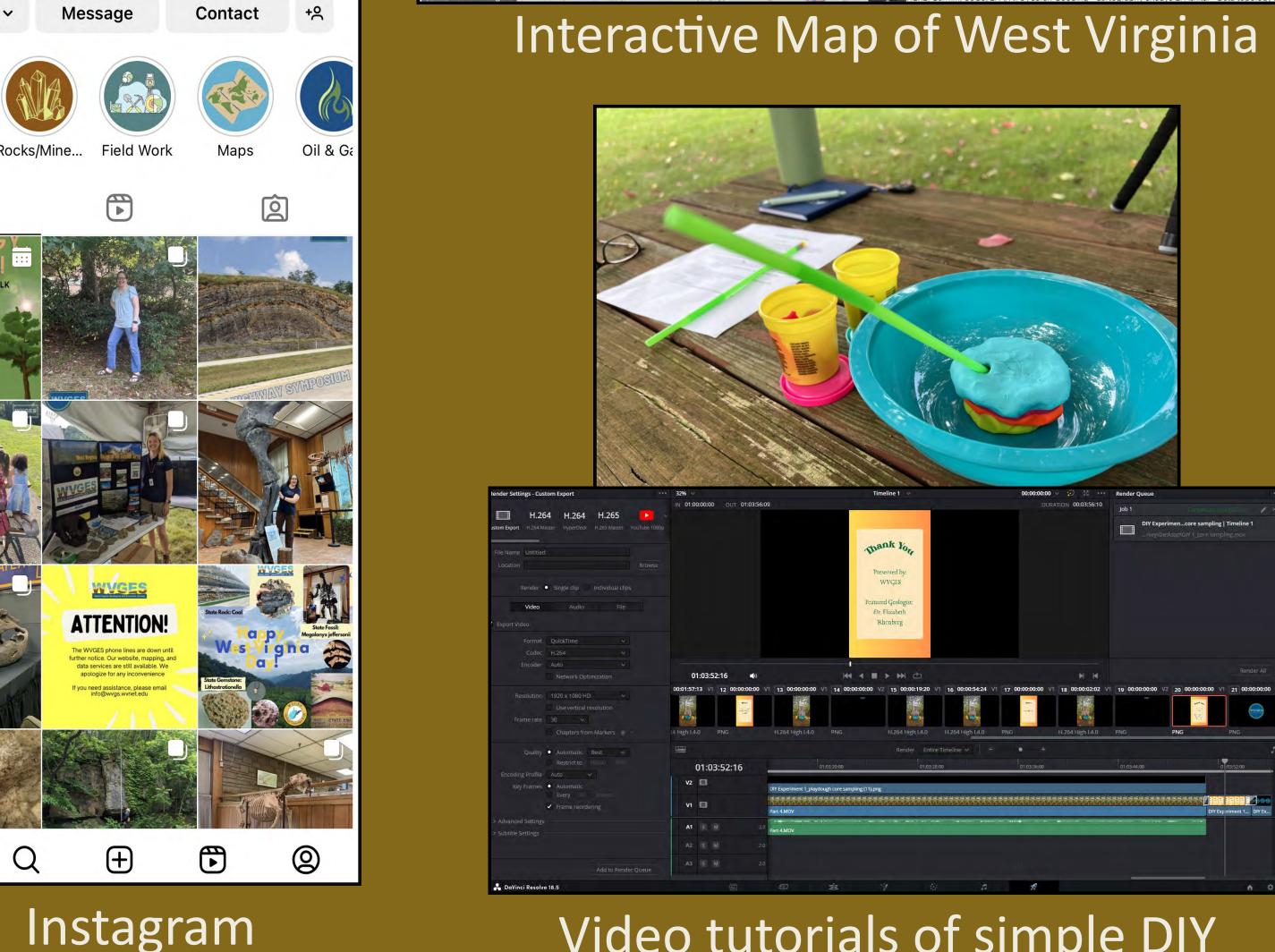
Geology Merit Badge station at Boy Scouts of America's National



Showing field geology techniques at NASA's Kids Day in Fairmont, WV

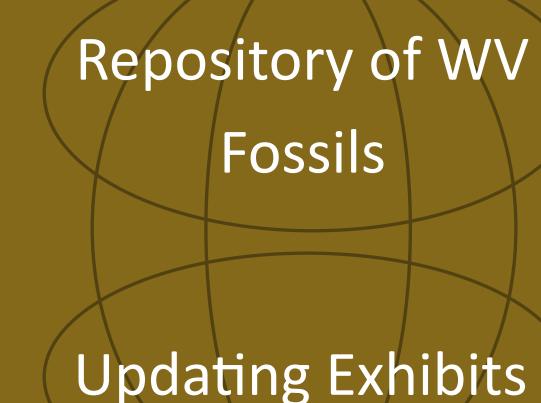
Digital Outreach





Video tutorials of simple DIY projects for classrooms





More Interactive Exhibits

Story Maps

Finding More Opportunities to Bring Geology to the People of West Virginia



Kiosks for Kanawha State Forest

and at the truck stop around

mile 97.5 on Corridor H (US-48)

Presenting about the WV state fossil at WVSTA

We have also done many publications throughout our history since 1897 that could be considered as engaging the public, including county reports, newsletters, and publications on different state parks.