

Student & Young Professional Support Committee

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Top 10 Reasons Why I Belong To AEG

You've probably been encouraged to join professional societies like AEG for the obvious benefits of networking and continuing education. Yet there are so many other great reasons to not just renew your AEG membership but to be involved in meetings and operational committees. The members of the Student and Young Professional Support Committee want to tell you the reasons why we personally belong to AEG.

1. **Exploring Career Fields:** An education in geology is just the beginning, but how do you decide between, geologic engineering, consulting, mining, environmental geology, academia, etc? Attending regional and annual meetings is the best way to get exposure and pick the brains of professionals in all these fields finding out what the career path is like, what to expect, and how to prepare.
2. **Online Databases:** Many journals and research papers require professional memberships in order to gain access to information. Not to mention AEG's own publications.
3. **Open Doors:** If you ever have a question or need to reach out for a reference or to collaborate with a professional in a different field of geology, you can, and will, find someone in AEG to help you find what you need. We could write an entire book of examples of AEG members sharing information and contacts across the country, often times without having ever met face to face, all for the common desire to support our industry and help each other succeed.
4. **Meet Other Students:** Let's not forget the value of other students! Field trip tips, research ideas, study tools, helpful textbooks, or advice on the best hiking boots. An often underestimated resource!
5. **Make an Impression on Potential Future Employer:** If you plan on applying for work locally, what better way to wow local professionals than show them you will go the extra mile by being involved in a professional society like AEG. Attending a meeting, shaking the hands of professionals, participating in conversations and displaying your professional confidence are great ways to make a lasting impression.
6. **Pass it On:** When the time comes to give back, you may be able to recommend a great candidate to employer in need.
7. **Stay Up To Date:** Technology is changing at a pace that can be hard to keep track. Staying up to date on the tools and techniques used in our field can keep your skills and knowledge sharp.
8. **Collaboration:** Why reinvent the wheel when you can confer with one of your colleagues? If you've encountered challenges in your field, chances are good that another AEG professional has tackled something similar, or can give you an objective outside view for creative solutions.
9. **Advance Your Leadership Skills:** Getting involved in one of AEG's operational committees or local sections is a great way to gain experience by taking the initiative to launch proposals, learn

the structural organization of professional societies, and see your ideas and efforts take shape. Promoting your industry and company can also be a great way to show your commitment and have a competitive edge.

10. **Develop Lasting Friendships:** Whether at your local level or the Annual Meeting, you will find like-minded people that are easy to get along with, have similar hobbies, and frequently have a favorite microbrew to recommend.

The members of the Student and Young Professional Support Committee are truly an exciting and energetic group of individuals spread across the country in a variety of fields that have all personally benefited from our AEG memberships and involvement. We hope our enthusiasm will encourage and engage you. If you have a request for a list you would like to see from us, please let us know.

Have a tip of your own to share with us? Send your suggestions to agallisdorfer@yahoo.com and use "Things my advisor didn't tell me" in the subject line. Or send us a message on any of our social media sites: Facebook.com ([AEGweb](#)), Twitter ([@AEGweb](#)), or LinkedIn ([Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists – AEG](#)).