**Very Attractive Minerals Activity Prep for Volunteers**

Take home messages:

* Minerals and materials in the ground are important components of things we use every day.
* Not all metals are magnetic.
* AIME was started in 1871 and represents 4 other organizations, SME (of which MEC is a part), TMS, AIST, and SPE. SME’s MEC group and TMS also have exhibits at USASEF 2014.

Step-By-Step:

1. Have the kids rub anti-bacterial gel on both hands
2. Have them close their eyes while you hide the specimens in the safflower seed
3. Have them use their hands and/or the magnetic wand to dig for the specimens
4. Have them test the found specimen for magnetism (only iron ore and steel are magnetic)
5. Have them try to guess which specimen goes in which section of the container (show them the pictures and/or describe the properties)
6. Have them put the specimen in the appropriate section of the container.
7. Give them a sticker and handout to take home (note that the MEC website is at the bottom back of the handout with all of this information and more).

Helpful Hints:

Don’t bury the penny, as it’s too hard to find (instead show it and the copper display piece as samples). You can let the kids hold the copper sample in their hands to see how heavy it is.

If you have a line up, have kids work in teams of 2 (even if they didn’t know each other) or help them find the samples (especially younger children).

Mineral/Material property details/soundbytes to share with attendees (the below are from the attached handout):

* **Iron Ore: 98% is used to make steel (or its what Iron Man is made of) ANDITS MAGNETIC!!!**
* **Oil Shale: you can extract oil from it use in cars and to heat some homes; it’s slippery feeling**
* **Coal is used for electricity and to heat our homes (or its what Santa brings if you are naughty!)**
* **Steel: made from iron ore (SO IT’S MAGNETIC!!!), limestone, and coal alloyed (covered) with carbon to strengthen it for building, transport, electronics, medicine, paint, ink, cosmetics, fertilizer**
* **Basalt: Formed from lava from a volcano and underlies more of the earth’s surface than any other rock**
* **Pyrite: Although it’s shiny, it’s not magnetic. Used as jewelry.**