



Annual Report of the Rocky Mountain Section for FY 2025

Submitted by Emily Geraghty Ward, Interim President

Section leaders: Emily Ward (interim president), Mary Kosloski (secretary/treasurer), Cheryl Manning (OEST Chair)

Executive summary

The NAGT RMS section completed its second full year as a section. Our membership is down approximately 9% from 2024. We were able to successfully recruit and award one OEST from our section. We presented at and participated in the Rocky Mountain Section meeting of the GSA in Utah this year and plan to participate again in 2026. We are still recruiting for state representatives and for a replacement for the president's position which is currently interim.

Detailed report

Section membership

Membership year	2024	2025	% Change
Current Members	93	84	-9.6%
Lapsed Members	341 (since 2023)	29 (since 2024?)	

Our leadership team will reach out to lapsed members and ask folks to re-up their membership. We also need to contact our current members to inquire about serving as a state representative and to ask for nominations for the OEST award. We will focus efforts on trying to re-engage past members at that time.

Progress towards goals

Goals from the previous year (**bolded goals were met in 2025**)

- Increase visibility at future RMS GSA sessions to promote RMS NAGT efforts
 - **Booth**
 - **NAGT RMS specific technical sessions**
 - Offer sponsorship of education sessions
 - No-host social
- Promote OEST nominations broadly across member and lapsed member lists and partner networks.



Our section hosted the NAGT Booth at the [Rocky Mountain Section](#) meeting of the Geological Society of America 2025 in Provo this past May.



At the booth, we promoted an [“interest survey”](#) to get a sense for what volunteer opportunities, member activities and resources they’d like to see from our section. We plan to use these data to help plan section activities that will engage our membership and recruit new members. We had five people respond to the interest survey at the meeting – 3 members and two non-members – their results are below.

Volunteer opportunities of interest

- Assist with OEST nomination review (n=2)
- Serve as state rep (n=1)
- Share lessons with others (n=3)
- Contribute to social media (n=2)
- Co-lead PD (n=1)
- Co-lead field trip (n=2)
- Organize informal socials (n=1)
- Co-chair conference session (n=1)
- Volunteer at booth (n=1)

Which of the following volunteer opportunities are of interest to you? Select all that apply

- Help recruit nominations for the Outstanding Earth Science Teacher award
- Assist in reviewing award nominations
- Serve as a state representative for the section
- Share lessons with other geoscience educators
- Contribute content to the section's social media presence (Facebook, Instagram, etc.)
- Identify/Share professional development opportunities for geoscience educators in the section
- (Co-)Lead professional development opportunities for geoscience educators in the section
- (Co-)Lead a field trip for NAGT RMS section members
- Organize informal social gatherings for NAGT RMS section members
- Serve in a leadership role (VP, President, Secretary, Treasurer, OEST coordinator)
- (Co-)Chair conference sessions to highlight RMS NAGT research/teaching
- Volunteer at the RMS NAGT booth at section conferences
- Other: _____



Member activities/resources of interest

- Member field trips (n=5)
- Regional geology lessons (n=5)
- Member newsletter (n=4)
- Member listserv (n=3)
- Social gatherings (n=1)
- PD (n=1)
- Regional geology talks (n=4)
- Sharing work at regional meetings (n=2)

What types of member activities/resources would you like to see from the Rocky Mountain Section of NAGT? Select all that apply

- Member field trips
- Regionally-focused geology lessons for use in the classroom
- Member newsletter
- Member listserv
- Social gatherings
- Professional development
- Talks on regional geology
- Opportunities to share your work with other geoscience educators at regional meetings
- Other: _____

We submitted a technical session proposal to the RMS-GSA meeting for a poster session dedicated to geoscience research conducted by students – which would have been convened by Cheryl Manning – but it was not accepted by the conference organizers. Cheryl did, however, present a talk in the “Innovation in Geoscience Education: Effective Teaching, Research and Curricula in the Earth Science Classroom” session entitled “[Introducing the New Rocky Mountain Section of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers](#)”. This was intentionally designed to bring awareness to the new section and encourage membership.

We were not as successful in promoting a broad OEST call for nominations to the RMS states this year. We had only one nomination for the state and RMS OEST award which came from Colorado.

- Rocky Mountain Section Winner: Heidi Bankoff (Colorado)
- State Award Winners:
 - Colorado: Heidi Bankoff

Goals for future Section work

NAGT

Vision: Our vision is that everyone experiences welcoming, inspiring, and effective Earth education.

Mission: NAGT supports a diverse, inclusive, and thriving community of educators and education researchers to improve teaching and learning about the Earth.

Goals: NAGT has four goals that guide our work:

- To promote high-quality Earth education;
- To foster and disseminate research in geoscience education;
- To drive change toward an equitable and inclusive system of geoscience education;
- To support current and future geoscience educators throughout their careers.



Goals for the upcoming year

We continue to focus our time and resources on efforts in hopes of bringing awareness to RMS NAGT, increasing our membership numbers, recruiting state representatives, and future section leaders.

1. Continue to increase visibility at future RMS GSA sessions to promote RMS NAGT efforts
 - a. Continue to have booth presence
 - b. Continue to have NAGT RMS specific technical sessions/talks
 - c. Focus on: Offer sponsorship of education sessions
2. Focus on promoting OEST nominations broadly across member and lapsed member lists and partner networks.
3. Review survey data and identify one or two high-interest activities to pursue as a section. Two of the highly ranked activities from the survey include:
 - a. Come up with mechanism for members to share lessons with one another, perhaps as part of the RMS newsletter. We could ask former OEST award winners to showcase a lesson of their own?
 - b. Consider leading a field trip, perhaps at the RMS GSA meetings, geared toward educators and those interested in geoscience education.
4. New ideas
 - a. Quarterly Newsletter
 - i. March (GSA/NAGT RMS meeting push), June (year in review-celebrate awardees; celebrate other RMS member stuff; sharing a lesson; Rendezvous info; push for leadership), September (intro OEST), December (OEST push)
 - b. Leverage GSA structure to promote NAGT RMS
 - i. Get enough interest to have our own technical session
 - ii. Pre-GSA RMS field trip for NAGT folks
 - c. Contact State Geologists
 - i. create more opportunities for educators
 - ii. regional geology nugget for the newsletter- use in the classroom or field site
 - iii. any public talks given by state geos promote in newsletter.

Our goals for this year align with the goals of promoting high-quality Earth education and support current and future geoscience educators throughout their careers.