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### UNIVERSITY OF SEVILLE SEM MEMBERS ORGANIZE “MY FIRST GEOLODÍA” IN SEVILLE

Members of SEM, from the Department of Crystallography, Mineralogy and Agricultural Chemistry at the University of Seville, as well as from the Museum of Geology of the University of Seville, organized the first edition of “My First Geolodía” in Seville (FIG. 1).

“My First Geolodía” is an activity included within the Geolodía Project, aimed at younger audiences (primary school students). It consists of an outreach initiative involving field trips guided by geologists, free of charge and open to all audiences. This first edition of “My First Geolodía” was held at the Casa de la Ciencia Museum, allowing as many children as possible to attend without needing to leave the city of Seville.

The workshops developed during “My First Geolodía” provided simple yet rigorous information, enabling younger participants to observe their surroundings through “geological eyes” and understand how the Earth we live on works, and upon whose natural resources we depend. Participants gained an appreciation of the value of our geological heritage and the importance of protecting it.

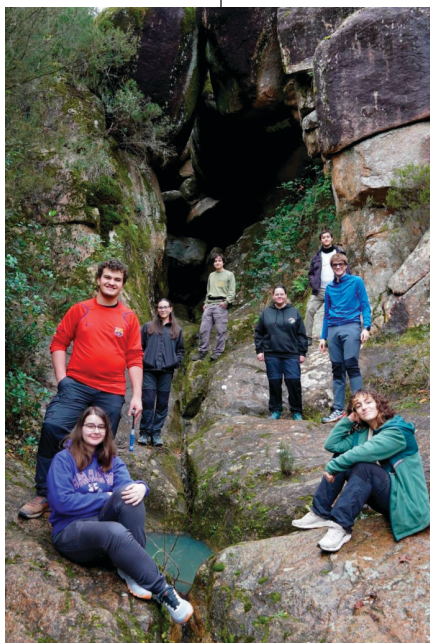
In this edition, the workshops included: Minerals with Superpowers, The Guardians of Invisible Water, When the Earth Shakes, Unearthing the Past, The History of Life in GeoSeville, and Geomanji.

Geolodía is an activity coordinated by the Geological Society of Spain (SGE), organized by the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology – Ministry of Science and Innovation, the Spanish Association for the Teaching of Earth Sciences (AEPECT), the University of Seville, and Pablo de Olavide University, with sponsorship from numerous public and private entities.

More information: GEOLODÍA 26 | Casa de la Ciencia <https://www.casadelaciencia.csic.es/es/citacontecimiento/geolodia-26>

### THE SEM-CAT STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

The SEM-CAT is a student association in the field of geology based in Catalonia (Spain). It operates as a regional branch of the Sociedad Española de Mineralogía (SEM), a scientific society that brings together not only mineralogists but also specialists in crystallography, petrology, and geochemistry. In this way, SEM-CAT is embedded within a broader academic and professional network that fosters interdisciplinary collaboration across the Earth sciences. The association was founded in 2018 by PhD students from the Department of Geology at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). Its creation responded to the need for a structured, student-led platform that could strengthen the academic community within the department while also promoting geology beyond the university environment. From its inception, SEM-CAT



SEM-CAT members on a field trip to Santa Coloma de Farners (Les Guilleries, Catalan Pre-Coastal mountain range).



SEM-CAT attendance at the mineral exhibition organized by the Grup Mineralògic Català (Barcelona).



Workshop on mineralogical classification of veinlets in porphyry copper systems, conducted by Richard G. Chuqui (MSC, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú).

has aimed to provide a dynamic forum where students can expand their scientific knowledge, exchange ideas, and engage with current research topics in an informal yet academically rigorous setting. Since its foundation, SEM-CAT has experienced significant growth, attracting a diverse body of members that includes undergraduate students from geology and environmental sciences programs, as well as postgraduate researchers. This student community operates under the guidance and mentorship of experienced faculty and senior researchers, ensuring both academic quality and continuity.

The association has developed a wide range of activities. These include the organization of seminars and conferences featuring invited experts from different branches of the geosciences, as well as field trips led by specialists that allow participants to gain hands-on experience in key geological sites. In addition, SEM-CAT has been actively involved in educational and outreach initiatives, contributing to the dissemination of geological knowledge to a broader audience and fostering public interest in Earth sciences.

Based on this experience, SEM-CAT serves as a successful model for student engagement in academic environments. The presence of similar

associations in other geology departments could provide substantial academic and social benefits, enhancing collaboration, encouraging knowledge exchange, and strengthening connections between institutions. Such organizations can also act as bridges between students and the wider scientific community.

Ultimately, the sustainability and success of associations like SEM-CAT depend on active student participation and commitment. A defining feature of their effectiveness is the leading role of students in designing, managing, and executing projects at the executive level, promoting both professional development and a strong sense of ownership within the academic community.

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