



Dr. Katie Maloney to Present Poster: Rocky the Raccoon: An Illustrated Children's Book Series for the Next Generation of Geoscientists at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas on October 22, 2025

- Book and accompanying teacher's guide for Grade 4 can be viewed digitally for free on our "Kid's Zone" on GeoscienceINFO.com and purchased in paperback on Amazon

October 20, 2025, Toronto, Ontario: The APGO Education Foundation ("APGOEF") is delighted to announce that **Dr. Kate Maloney, P.Geo.**, principle author of our children's book "**Rocky the Raccoon Explores the Niagara Escarpment**" will be presenting a poster entitled "**Rocky the Raccoon: An Illustrated Children's Book Series for the Next Generation of Geoscientists**" at the Geological Society of America (GSA) Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas on October 22, 2025. Rocky is available on our **Kid's Zone** on GeoscienceINFO.com at <https://kidszone.geoscienceinfo.com/>. The book can also be purchased in paperback on Amazon at <https://a.co/d/5bL3ktR>.

Details of the poster session and abstract follow:

257-6 Rocky the Raccoon: An illustrated children's book series for the next generation of geoscientists

Session: Diversifying Geoscience Education Across the Academic Playing Field: Using Creative Methods to Foster the Current and Next Generations of Geoscience Professionals (Posters) Poster

Categories: Geoscience Education; Geoscience Information/Communication; Geoheritage

Authors:

Maloney, Katie M., Eyles, Carolyn H., Young, Alexander, Schwarz, Deana, Pearson, William

Rocky the Raccoon

**Explores the
Niagara Escarpment**



Written by
Dr. Katie Maloney and Dr. Carolyn Eyles

Illustrated by
Alexander Young

Co-author **Dr. Carolyn Eyles**, a Director of APGOEF and Professor Emerita at McMaster University said:

"We hope Rocky and his adventures with rocks and fossils will inspire kids of all ages to find out more about the fascinating history of environmental change preserved in the Niagara Escarpment. The book is also intended to support Grade 4 students and teachers as they explore the wonderful world of Rocks and Minerals."



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Abstract:

The Niagara Escarpment is a topographic high composed of Ordovician to Silurian sedimentary rocks and contains a rich and diverse Paleozoic fossil record. The lithological characteristics of the Niagara Escarpment have a profound influence on the modern landscape in southern Ontario and its associated commercial and social activities. Hiking trails and conservation areas along the Niagara Escarpment are accessible to several major urban centres in southern Ontario with a combined population of over 7.5 million. However, there are limited resources available to the community that highlight the environmental significance of this natural wonder in accessible and exciting formats. Over the past decade, we have developed geoscience education materials for the public including field trip guides (e.g., GeoHikes, GeoPaddles) that can be utilized in person or virtually, (available at GeoscienceINFO.com). To showcase the importance of the Niagara Escarpment to the next generation of geoscientists and their teachers, we have created an open access, illustrated children's book and teacher's guide. The book follows Rocky the Raccoon as he explores the Chedoke Radial Trail (Hamilton, ON, Canada) and learns about the geological history of the Niagara Escarpment from a crinoid named Lily. The content of the book aligns with the Ontario Curriculum Grade 4 standards and a 48-page teacher's guide that accompanies the book features printable information sheets, virtual activities (e.g., GeoHikes), worksheets, reviews and quizzes. This project is part of an ongoing collaboration between the APGO Education Foundation, the Bruce Trail Conservatory, and the Aspiring Niagara Peninsula Geopark to promote geoscience education to elementary students. Upcoming trail signs will feature book pages at Ball's Falls Conservation Area located along the Bruce Trail and within the Aspiring UNESCO Niagara Global Geopark. This book series seeks to inspire younger generations to become stewards of their own environment and learn more about career opportunities in paleontology and geoscience.



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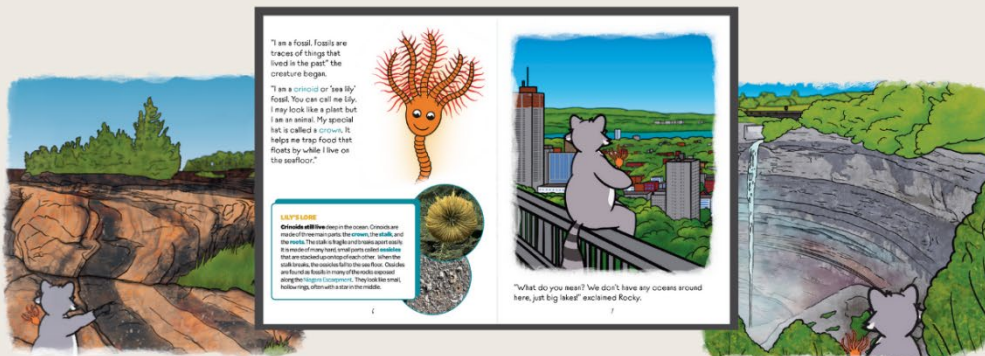
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ROCKY THE RACCOON



AN EDUCATIONAL STORYBOOK

HI! I'M ROCKY, YOUR CURIOUS GUIDE TO THE AMAZING WORLD OF ROCKS AND FOSSILS. ME AND MY FRIEND LILY THE CRINOID EXPLORE THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT TOGETHER IN OUR CHILDREN'S BOOK!



ROCKY THE RACCOON ALIGNS WITH THE GRADE 4 ONTARIO CURRICULUM. THE ACCOMPANYING TEACHER'S GUIDE INCLUDES HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES, POSTERS, QUIZZES AND MORE TO MAKE LEARNING ABOUT ROCKS FUN AND ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYONE!



**READ THE BOOK AND TEACHER'S
GUIDE ONLINE FOR FREE TODAY!**





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About the APGO Education Foundation

The APGO Education Foundation is a registered charitable organization under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, registration number 84604 5052 RR0001. The purpose of the charity is to advance the education of the public in the area of geoscience – see <https://apgoef.ca>. [GeoscienceINFO.com](https://apgoef.ca), developed by the Foundation, is an innovative one-stop spot for the public to gather information about the earth beneath their feet. This website provides interesting information on all facets of geoscience. A particularly exciting feature of GeoscienceINFO.com is the highlighting of virtual field trips in different areas in Ontario. This enables viewers to experience and learn about the geology of an area in person or while traversing it digitally in ESRI ArcGIS Online™ and StoryMaps™.

With the release of “Rocky the Raccoon Explores the Niagara Escarpment”, we have added an exciting new Kid’s Zone to GeoscienceINFO.com where the Rocky book and the accompanying Teachers Guide can be viewed digitally for free. The book can also be purchased in soft cover on Amazon at <https://a.co/d/5bL3ktR>. All proceeds will help fund further planned books in the series.

If you like our work, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support our programs.

To Donate - <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/apgo-education-foundation>

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