

Privacy Policy

The Houston Geological Society ("HGS," "we," "our," or "us") respects your privacy and is committed to protecting the personal information you provide when you visit our website or interact with our organization. This Privacy Policy explains what information we collect, how we use it, when we share it, and the choices available to you.

Information We Collect

We may collect the following categories of personal information:

- Contact information, such as your name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number.
- Membership information, including employer, professional affiliation, committee participation, and membership status.
- Transaction information related to event registrations, donations, purchases, or membership dues.
- Payment information, which is processed by our third-party payment processors. HGS does not store complete payment card information.
- Website usage information, including your IP address, browser type, operating system, referring website, pages visited, and the date and time of your visit.
- Any other information you voluntarily provide through forms, surveys, emails, or other communications.

How We Use Your Information

We use personal information to:

- Process memberships, registrations, donations, and purchases.
- Communicate regarding HGS events, programs, publications, and member services.
- Respond to inquiries and provide customer support.
- Improve our website, services, and member experience.
- Maintain the security and integrity of our systems.
- Comply with applicable legal obligations.
- Administer and operate the activities of HGS.

We process personal information only for purposes that are reasonably necessary and compatible with those described in this Privacy Policy.

Cookies and Website Technologies

Our website uses cookies and similar technologies to improve website functionality, remember user preferences, analyze website traffic, and enhance the user experience.

Cookies are small text files stored on your device. They do not run programs, deliver viruses, or provide us access to your computer.

Most web browsers automatically accept cookies. You may modify your browser settings to refuse or delete cookies; however, some portions of the website may not function properly if cookies are disabled.

Sharing of Information

HGS does not sell your personal information.

We may share personal information with trusted service providers that assist us with website hosting, payment processing, event registration, email communications, data management, analytics, and other services necessary to operate HGS. These providers are contractually expected to safeguard personal information and use it only for the services they provide.

We may also disclose information:

- When required by law;
- To comply with legal process;
- To protect the rights, property, or safety of HGS, our members, or others; or
- In connection with organizational restructuring or similar transactions.

Data Security

HGS uses reasonable administrative, technical, and physical safeguards designed to protect personal information from unauthorized access, disclosure, alteration, or destruction. No method of electronic transmission or storage is completely secure, and we cannot guarantee absolute security.

Data Retention

We retain personal information only for as long as reasonably necessary to fulfill the purposes described in this Privacy Policy, comply with legal obligations, resolve disputes, and enforce our agreements.

Your Privacy Rights

Subject to applicable law, you may have the right to:

- Confirm whether we process your personal information.
- Request access to the personal information we maintain about you.
- Request correction of inaccurate personal information.
- Request deletion of personal information, subject to legal exceptions.

- Obtain a copy of certain personal information you previously provided to us in a portable format, where applicable.
- Opt out of certain processing activities if required by applicable law.

To exercise these rights, please contact HGS using the information below.

If we deny your request, you may have the right to appeal our decision by contacting us using the information below and indicating that your request is an appeal.

Children's Privacy

Our website and services are not directed to children under the age of 13, and we do not knowingly collect personal information from children.

External Links

Our website may contain links to third-party websites. HGS does not control these websites and is not responsible for their privacy practices or content. We encourage you to review the privacy policies of any third-party websites you visit.

Communications

HGS sends communications related to membership, events, educational programs, organizational activities, and other Society business. Individuals may unsubscribe from promotional email communications by following the instructions included in those communications or by contacting HGS. Transactional or administrative communications may still be sent when necessary.

Changes to This Privacy Policy

HGS may update this Privacy Policy periodically to reflect changes in our practices or applicable law. Any updates will be posted on this page with a revised effective date.

Contact Information

If you have questions about this Privacy Policy or wish to exercise your privacy rights, please contact:

Houston Geological Society

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713-463-9476

Effective Date: July 1, 2026