

# News Release

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## **STONECO EDUCATES STUDENTS BY SPONSORING FIELD TRIPS TO QUARRIES**

MILAN, Mich. – For more than 10 years, Stoneco, Inc., a mining and mineral extraction company, has given local school children the opportunity to learn about science and geology in the ideal setting – from the inside of a quarry. Since its inception in 1993, the Stoneco School Field Trip Program has allowed more than 11,000 students to use all of their senses as they participate in a hands-on science and history lesson about the mining industry.

Stoneco, with operations throughout Monroe County and Southeast Michigan, offers tours of quarries in Monroe, Ottawa Lake and Maybee, Mich., locations. The School Field Trip Program allows students in Kindergarten through 12th grade to visit the quarries and spend time learning in a different environment.

“Being a good neighbor is and always has been a priority for Stoneco,” said Stoneco School Tour Supervisor, Ryan Lumpford. “Through the School Field Trip Program, we invite students to visit a nearby quarry and enjoy the day learning about the mining industry, geology and history. We truly value the time we spend teaching the students in a hands-on, exciting environment.”

A field trip to a Stoneco quarry includes an extensive tour of the operation, a question and answer session with quarry personnel, a history lesson on mining and a lesson on rock and mineral uses. The Toledo Rock Hounds, a local rock and mineral club, come to the tours and lead the children on a “rock hunt,” where they are encouraged to look for rocks and minerals to take home with them as a souvenir. The tour typically lasts two hours.

The School Field Trip Program has been praised by students, parents and teachers.

According Michelle Gorniak, a teacher from Monroe Road Elementary, students love “digging for fossils” and often refer to it as “their quarry” when driving by with family. Parents said children who have taken the tour are still talking about the trip and call it the “best day ever.”

Teachers welcome the chance for students to learn in a different environment.

“The trip to the quarry was something the children will never forget. Being able to go down to the bottom of a quarry and eat lunch up on top of rocks is so exciting for the students,” said Lorraine Dressel, a first grade teacher at Whiteford Agricultural School and Whiteford Township Trustee. “The trip applied to various subjects such as math, science, social studies and community. We appreciate that a business in our community gives us the chance to visit, learn and see what they do as well as allowing us to stay all day.”

Stoneco values community involvement and enjoys working with students to learn about the mining industry. The School Field Trip Program has given tours to thousands of elementary, middle and high school students from around the region.

More than 1,000 students toured Stoneco in 2003; in 2004 that number has already been surpassed.

“The Stoneco field trip is an excellent example of a local business teaming up with education,” said Joel Lisker, a fourth grade teacher at Dundee Community Schools. “It is a win-win situation for all.”

For more information or to schedule a tour of the quarry for September or October 2004, please contact Ryan Lumpford at (734) 241-8966.

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