

# National Fossil Day™

*At the Dunn-Seiler Museum*

Oct  
12

~~~~~Department of Geosciences, Mississippi State University~~~~~

During Earth Science Week (October 10-14), the sixth National Fossil Day will be celebrated on **October 12, 2016**. For this special event, the Dunn-Seiler Museum is focusing upon Pleistocene life of Mississippi—including the American lion. The *first* American lion fossil was discovered in MISSISSIPPI, and the statue of famous paleontologist Joseph Leidy, outside the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, is shown holding this Mississippi fossil! Our National Fossil Day contest invites you to sketch, draw, or create an animal that lived in Mississippi in the last 2.6 million years – including mammoths, and saber tooth cats! Our Mississippi's Geologic Timeline can help you get started:

<http://www.geosciences.msstate.edu/dunn-seiler-museum/resources/>

## Fossil Art Contest (Categories: grades K-4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

- Create a model or draw a picture recreating Pleistocene life in Mississippi. Please remember to identify *what* your ancient life form is, and *when* it lived.

## Fossil Story Contest (Categories: grades 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

- Alternatively, if you would rather write an episode about Pleistocene life in Mississippi, please submit a short story that is 1500 words or less. Be sure to identify when your ancient organism(s) lived!

**Completed art work and stories are due by October 7, 2016.**

*Submissions will be judged on creativity and accuracy.*

Winners in each grade category (in both art and story competitions) will be awarded. Top winners' drawings will be included in a storybook on Mississippi's prehistoric life—and winners will receive a copy of the book with their award-winning work when the book is released!

The Dunn-Seiler Museum hosts school groups for tours, and fossil collecting at our local Cretaceous outcrop. Please check our website for more information. Tours can be scheduled through the MSU Visitors Center, 662.325.5203.

