

faq: what is the San Xavier Mine?

The San Xavier Experimental Mining Laboratory is located approximately 23 miles south of Tucson. The mine is student run and is set up like an operating mine with managers, shift foreman, and weekly planning meetings. Students work on projects at the mine to gain practical experience. The mine is also home to an underground construction worker training program.

The SX Mine – “Building camaraderie”

The SX Mine is part of what was once the largest underground mine in the district. Founded in 1880 by the San Xavier Mining and Smelting Company, the mine was operated until 1952, producing silver, copper, lead and zinc. Beginning in 1959, the mine workings surrounding the Number #6 Shaft were leased to the University of Arizona, College of Mines, for educational purposes. In 1975, the Number #6 Shaft and related workings were donated to the University. The mine currently utilizes three underground levels (adit level, 100 feet deep level and 150 feet deep level), two of which are serviced by the primary shaft. The mine is structured like an operating mine, where all supervisory positions are held by undergraduate students including mine manager, safety manager, and shift foremen. Working in conjunction with the faculty advisor, Dr. Hugh Miller, student mine management is involved in nearly every facet of the operation including safety training, mine planning, regulatory compliance (MSHA, OSHA, ATF, State Mine Inspector), and supervision. Students normally work one 8-hour shift per week where they participate in a wide range of activities associated with development, unit operations, and maintenance. Upper-division students have the option of proposing engineering projects and if selected are held responsible for the design, implementation, and completion of the proposed project. The facility is also used by the US Bureau of Land Management, the Southern Arizona Rescue Association, and Laborers AGC for training.



mne contacts
Mary M. Poulton, Department Head
520 621 8391
mpoulton@email.arizona.edu

Olivia Hanson,
Administrative Associate
520 621 6063
mgedept@email.arizona.edu



Department of Mining and
Geological Engineering
1235 E. James E. Rogers Way
P.O. Box 210012
Tucson, AZ 85721-0012
<http://www.mge.arizona.edu>