

GeoMentors

AAG esri Community Newsletter

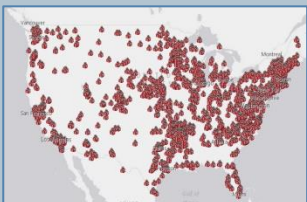
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Current
GeoMentor
Count:
732



Current
School
Count:
2,564



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December 2015

www.geomentors.net

Vol. 1, No. 7

It has been a fantastic first year of our re-energized GeoMentors program and we have all of YOU to thank for it! It's been a pleasure meeting you and working together to improve geography and GIS education in K-12 schools across the country. We can't wait to see what we'll achieve together and how much more we can continue to grow our community in 2016! Mappy holidays to you and yours! *From The AAG GeoMentors Team (and Ala-Mo, the unofficial AAG GeoMentors Team dog)*



Monthly Mentor Challenge

There has been a fantastic flurry of GeoMentor activity this year and we want to document it! This month we challenge you to congratulate yourself for your good work and tell us all about it!

Share your 2015 GeoMentor stories as [Case Studies](#) and plan ahead for outreach in 2016!

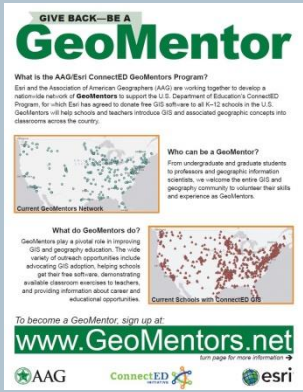
By filling out [this brief online form](#), you can help us document our program achievements, learn about how GeoMentors are collaborating with the K-12 community, and inspire other GeoMentors to get involved! And there are some additional perks for you too (*see the [Featured Resources](#) section below*). Also, start thinking about how you want to share your passion for geography and GIS with K-12 students in the new year! You could introduce GIS to a new school or grade level? Design a project for a specific class? Partner with groups like the Girl Scouts or 4-H? Plan for your new GeoMentoring adventure!

GeoMentor Spotlight

Each month we feature a GeoMentor volunteer to showcase the wonderful talent available in our community to assist K-12 schools.

Name: Melanie Stine

Position(s)/Affiliation(s): Visiting Assistant Professor in Environmental Science, Sweet Briar College; Assistant Professor in



Share [this flyer](#) with your geo-friends and colleagues to help grow our GeoMentors community!

Join our GeoMentor Online Communities

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[Esri GeoNet GeoMentors Group](#)

Newsletter Archive



Check out previous GM community newsletter issues in our [archive](#)!

What was your favorite class in K-12? Biology



How did you first learn about and/or use GIS? I first learned about GIS by taking a class on it as an undergraduate. It was a require course for my major (environmental science) at Sweet Briar College, and I am glad it was! I was a bit leery of GIS at first, but now I am teaching it!

Name one thing you love about GIS and/or geography. Both geography and GIS can help us have such a better understanding of the world than we would otherwise!

If someone asked you why they should learn about GIS and/or geography, how would you respond in one sentence? Understanding spatial concepts/relationships is important to many facets of our lives and integral for many careers.

Email address: mstine@sbc.edu; melanie.stine@utsa.edu
Website(s): <http://sbc.edu/environmental-studies>;
<http://colfa.utsa.edu/polisci-geography>

Read Melanie's full spotlight [here](#). Interested in being featured? Go [here](#) for more information. We are excited to learn about you!

Help High School Students Tackle the 'Visualize your Water Challenge'

Calling all GeoMentors in the Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes Basin states*! Help local high school educators assist their students in participating in the **'Visualize your Water Challenge'**! The challenge is seeking creative and compelling visualizations of water quality in eligible states* with submissions due March 1st, 2016. From a local stream to the entire watershed, high school students are challenged to tell the story of nutrient pollution in their region in creative and innovative ways using mapping tools.



TEACHERS: Partner with a GIS GeoMentor



Esri is creating free access to the ArcGIS online geographic information systems (GIS) software for all U.S. K-12 schools to explore geospatial technology and geographic concepts to students. The Association of American Geographers (AAG) is working with Esri to build a nationwide network of GeoMentors to assist educators with using their free accounts with students. You can help and engage your school with the same software used by government and business.

How can GeoMentors help you bring GIS into your classroom?
GeoMentors are knowledgeable GIS users ready to assist to the unique needs of each academic subject and student group. They can help set up your free software account, demonstrate available classroom activities, provide information on career opportunities, or help develop new activities based on your particular student audience.

What resources are available for teachers?
The GeoMentors program maintains online maps and databases for collaborators to connect with each other, a curated collection of ArcGIS Online educational resources, and curriculum materials for different subjects and grade levels, as well as several online groups and social media channels for community engagement and interaction.

Collaborate with a GeoMentor: visit www.GeoMentors.net

For questions or more information, contact program staff at geomentors@esri.com



Share [this flyer](#) with K-12 teachers and schools to let them know about our GeoMentors program!

Report your GeoMentor Activities!

Tell us about your activities and receive an official [certificate of participation!](#)



Questions? Contact program staff at geomentors@aaq.org



Participating in the Visualize Your Water challenge will give students the opportunity to master career-ready technology skills, learn more about nutrient pollution in their local watershed, and receive recognition and prizes for their contributions. Review the [Getting Started Guide](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to learn more and reach out to high school teachers to see if you can help!

The challenge is hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, Great Lakes Observing Systems, and Esri with the assistance of the U.S. Department of Education in support of the work of the [Challenging Nutrients coalition](#). Questions? Email vizurwater@epa.gov.

**Eligible states: Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin.*

Featured Resource: GeoMentor Case Studies

Not sure how to get started as a GeoMentor or just simply curious as to what other GeoMentors are up to? Check out our growing library of [GeoMentor Case Studies!](#) Learn about the specific and diverse experiences of your fellow GeoMentors working with different grade levels, on different subjects, and in different educational settings! How did they connect with their collaborator? What resources were used to engage students with GIS? Read about experiences from Delaware to California, with 2nd graders to high school seniors!



Consider [submitting your own stories](#) too! Not only will you help improve the program by informing staff of how GeoMentors are engaging the K-12 community, but you'll also: 1) **receive your GeoMentors Certificate** for your own service records; 2) have a

place in our online collection of case studies (if you choose to share your information); AND, 3) we can **send you a 'GIS Innovator' pin** from Esri to recognize and signify your mentorship efforts! We would really appreciate any stories we can get by **Wednesday, December 23rd** to include in our annual program report!



If you have curriculum resources you would like to suggest for this feature or to share with fellow GeoMentors in general, please share them with us at geomentors@aaq.org.

Questions? Contact us at geomentors@aaq.org
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