

# GeoMentors

AAG esri Community Newsletter

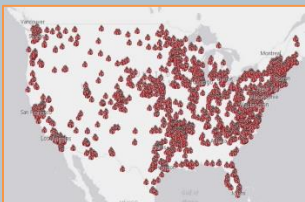
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Current  
GeoMentor  
Count:  
**1,000**



Current  
School  
Count:  
**2,730**



## Questions?

Contact program  
staff at  
[geomentors@aag.org](mailto:geomentors@aag.org)

February 2016 [www.geomentors.net](http://www.geomentors.net) Vol. 2, No. 2

2016 is moving right along! Stay connected with the GeoMentors community by tackling our monthly challenge and checking out the GeoMentor spotlight and Featured Resources. Attending the AAG Annual Meeting in San Francisco? Review our program activities and consider volunteering your time at the GeoMentors space and/or sharing your story at our GeoMentors session!

Questions? Email us at [geomentors@aag.org](mailto:geomentors@aag.org)!

## Monthly Mentor Challenge

Now in our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the re-energized GeoMentors program, we want to keep improving our work to enhance our community's impact on K-12 education. This month we challenge you to:

**Suggest one way, big or small, that we can improve the GeoMentors program**

Have a suggested resource or website amendment? Maybe a bit of advice to pass on to other volunteers? Let us know! Contact us via [email](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), or our [online feedback form](#). We appreciate your insight!

## GeoMentor Spotlight

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

**Name:** Marci Johnson

**Position(s)/Affiliation(s):**  
Biologist, National Park Service

**What was your favorite class in K-12?** Anatomy

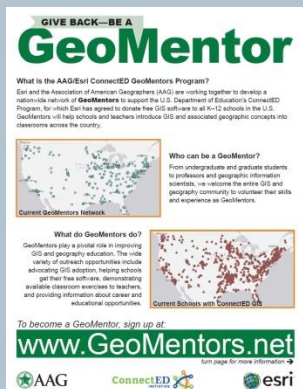
**How did you first learn about and/or use GIS?** I took a course during my last semester at the University of Colorado, but by



## Get a Free Pin!



Share your GeoMentor experience as a **case study** and receive the Esri GIS Innovator pin!



Share **this flyer** with your geo-friends and colleagues to help grow our GeoMentors community!

## Join our GeoMentor Online Communities

[@AAGGeoMentors on Twitter](#)

[AAG GeoMentors Knowledge Community](#)

[AAG GeoMentors Facebook Page](#)

[Esri GeoNet GeoMentors Group](#)

graduation that spring, the software I had learned was already obsolete. It wasn't until I moved to Glacier National Park that my boss taught me to use ArcView v.3 to help plan a bear project.

**Name one thing you love about GIS and/or geography.** Analyzing wildlife habitat use and movement data.

**Why did you want to volunteer as a GeoMentor?** I've enjoyed helping students using ArcGIS Online for science fair projects and always learn new skills when I help others.

**If someone asked you why they should learn about GIS and/or geography, how would you respond in one sentence?** GIS skills are valuable in many careers, including wildlife biology, and offer young people a way to apply interests in computers, technology, and design into their work. By adding a spatial component you will find yourself answering questions that you had never thought to ask.

**Email address:** [marci\\_johnson@nps.gov](mailto:marci_johnson@nps.gov)

**Website(s):** Our blog highlights some of the work we do in the Western Arctic National Parklands:  
<http://www.nps.gov/kova/blogs/runningherd.htm>

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



## GeoMentors Program at the AAG Annual Meeting in San Francisco

The GeoMentors program will have a visible presence at the **AAG's Annual Meeting** in San Francisco (March 29th – April 2nd). We encourage all current and aspiring GeoMentors to check out the program activities listed below. Also, keep an eye out for Program Coordinator Candice Luebbering as she would love the chance to meet our GeoMentors!

- **Visit the GeoMentors Program space**, near the conference registration area, to find program materials, speak with program staff, and meet other GeoMentor volunteers! Please **consider volunteering** an hour of your time to help promote the program! You can [sign up here](#) to help.

# ArcNews

## Don't Know Much about Geography

AAG Executive Director Doug Richardson discusses US students' geography knowledge in his [ArcNews column](#) (page 30)

## Newsletter Archive



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

## Get your Certificate!

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



- **Attend the GeoMentors panel session.** Learn more about available resources, current program achievements, and how to get involved. Panelists include AAG President Dr. Sarah Bednarz and members of Esri's Education team, David DiBiase and Dr. Joseph Kerski. There will be an open Q&A session including advice and insights from GeoMentors and staff. Consider sharing your experience at the session.

### **Session: [The AAG-Esri GeoMentors Program: Supporting GIS and Geography Education](#)**

Thursday, March 31st  
10:00-11:40AM  
Plaza A, Hilton Hotel, Lobby Level

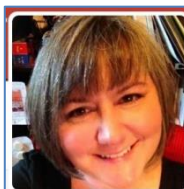
- **Pick up your GeoMentor ribbon!** Drop by the GeoMentors space (near conference registration) to get your name badge ribbon showcasing your involvement in this important community. This is a great way for GeoMentors to meet each other, network, and start new volunteer collaborations!



- **Talk to Esri staff** about the ConnectED Initiative and GeoMentors program at the Esri booth in the exhibition hall.
- **Help make GeoMentors program announcements in sessions.** Are you organizing or attending sessions whose audience might be interested in the GeoMentors program? Contact program staff at [geomentors@aag.org](mailto:geomentors@aag.org) for a promo slide to display and come by the GeoMentors space for flyers to distribute at your session.

## Featured Resource

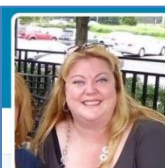
A great way to gain insight, ideas, and motivation for helping improve K-12 geography and GIS education is to see what members of this wonderful education community have to say on Twitter! Some of our favorite feeds to follow are:



**Barbaree Duke**  
[@barbareeduke](#) FOLLOWS YOU  
editor, teacher, webinar producer, project manager, writer and geospatial enthusiast



**Seth Dixon**  
[@ProfessorDixon](#)  
I love sharing resources w/other educators. I'm a @RICHnews professor & @RIGEA1 Alliance coordinator. I write for @NatGeoEducation. That's me. [@seth\\_dixon](#).



**penny anderson**  
[@GeoPenny](#)  
I'm a geography teacher and a member of the Virginia Geographic Alliance. I love to travel and share lesson ideas! Ask me about my Spam can. [#TeamGeography](#)



**josephkerski**  
[@josephkerski](#) FOLLOWS YOU  
The spatial perspective can transform education and society through the use of Geographic Information Systems for instruction, administration, and policy.

[@barbareeduke](#) [@ProfessorDixon](#) [@GeoPenny](#) [@josephkerski](#)

Questions? Contact us at [geomentors@aag.org](mailto:geomentors@aag.org)  
[www.geomentors.net](http://www.geomentors.net)