

GeoMentors

AAG esri Community Newsletter

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Current
GeoMentor
Count:
909



Current
School
Count:
2,680



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January 2016 www.geomentors.net Vol. 2, No. 1

Welcome to all of our newly registered GeoMentors (hi GISPs!) and hello again to our 2015 veterans! It's a new year focusing on the same mission: to help increase and improve geography and GIS in K-12 education across the country! Our community continues to grow as does our impact on the educational community, so let's keep it up! Read below for our monthly challenge, GeoMentor spotlight, and Featured Resources. Questions? We're just an email away at geomentors@aag.org!

Monthly Mentor Challenge

Given the thousands of K-12 schools in the US, the work to spread the word about the GeoMentors program and the availability of free ArcGIS Online accounts for schools is never done. To help with this monumental task, this month we challenge you to:

Share our educator-focused [flyer](#) with at least ONE K-12 teacher or school!

Maybe you have a friend who is a teacher, a child enrolled in K-12, or live near a school in your community. Take a moment to email this flyer to a K-12 contact and mention your role as a GeoMentor. This small gesture could lead to a rewarding educational experience for all parties involved; it could lead to a new group of students learning about GIS for the first time!

TEACHERS: Partner with a GIS GeoMentor

Esri is donating free access to its ArcGIS Online geographic information system (GIS) software to all U.S. K-12 schools to introduce geographic 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 make a difference with the same software used by government and businesses.

How can GeoMentors help you bring GIS into your classroom?
GeoMentors are non-adjacent GIS users who adapt to the unique needs of each educator, school, and student group. They can help set up your free software, assist, demonstrate, provide classroom materials, provide information on career opportunities, or help develop activities based on your particular student audience.

What resources are available for teachers?
The GeoMentors program maintains online maps and databases for collaboration to connect with each other, a curated collection of ArcGIS Online educational resources and curriculum materials, and a national network of GeoMentors to assist educators with using their free accounts with students. You can help and make a difference with the same software used by government and businesses.

Collaborate with a GeoMentor: visit www.GeoMentors.net
For questions or more information: connect@geomentors.net

AAG Connected esri

GeoMentor Spotlight

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

Name: Brian King

Position(s)/Affiliation(s): GIS Analyst V / Archeologist at Freece and Nichols, Inc. (Austin, TX); Vice President URISA Texas

GIVE BACK—BE A GeoMentor

What is the AAG/Esri Connected GeoMentors Program?
Esri and the Association of American Geographers (AAG) are working together to develop a national network of GeoMentors to support the U.S. Department of Education's Connected Program, for which Esri has agreed to donate free GIS software to all K-12 schools in the U.S. GeoMentors will help schools and teachers introduce GIS and associated geographic concepts into classrooms across the country.



Who can be a GeoMentor?
From undergraduate and graduate students to professors and geographic information scientists, we welcome the entire GIS and geography community to volunteer their skills and experience as GeoMentors.



What do GeoMentors do?
GeoMentors play a pivotal role in improving GIS and geographic education. The wide variety of outreach opportunities include introducing GIS to students, helping schools get their free software, demonstrating available classroom exercises to teachers, and providing information about career and educational opportunities.

To become a GeoMentor, sign up at:

www.GeoMentors.net



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

Join our GeoMentor Online Communities

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Get a Free Pin!



Share your GeoMentor experience as a [case study](#) and receive this GIS Innovator pin from Esri!

What was your favorite class in K-12? History

How did you first learn about and/or use GIS? I started using GIS while working in Cultural Resource Management. I used ArcGIS to depict archeological site boundaries and the location of shovel tests and backhoe trench excavations across the site.

Name one thing you love about GIS and/or geography. A GIS allows people to spatially organize large datasets, visually view complex issues, and ask questions that lead to wise decision making.

Why did you want to volunteer as a GeoMentor? Most people have no idea what is a GIS and do not realize how embedded it is in our daily lives. Introducing K-12 students to geography and GIS will change how they view the world and provide them with valuable skills that can be utilized once they enter the working world.

If someone asked you why they should learn about GIS and/or geography, how would you respond in one sentence? People who study GIS and geography are in a better position to ask analytical questions and make rational decision on topics that impact the earth (i.e. flooding, crime analysis, population distribution, predictive models).

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<https://www.linkedin.com/in/briancking>

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



Featured Resource

Building upon the GeoInquiry collection that includes [Earth Science](#) and [US History](#) exercises, Esri now also offers 15 [Human Geography GeoInquiries](#) (for a high school audience). GeoInquiries are designed to be fast and easy-to-use instructional resources that incorporate advanced web mapping technology. Each 15-minute activity in a collection is intended to be presented by the instructor from a single computer/projector classroom arrangement. No installation, fees, or logins are necessary to use these materials and software.



Newsletter Archive



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

Report your GeoMentor Activities!

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



Questions? Contact program staff at geomentors@aag.org



Designed for high school classrooms, the [Human Geography GeoInquiries](#) cover topics including: globalization, migration, language, religion, demography, agriculture, and development. GeoInquiries are a great way to quickly introduce geospatial technology into a classroom and generate interest in further use!

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@aag.org.

GeoMentor Photo Gallery

Here are some photos from GeoMentor activities in 2015! Each is linked to a case study so you can learn more about and be inspired by the variety of GeoMentor experiences taking place! Check out our full 2015 Case Study collection [here](#).



Questions? Contact us at geomentors@aag.org
www.geomentors.net