

GeoMentors

Community Newsletter

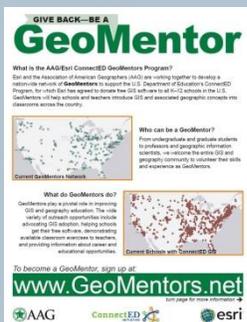


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Current
GeoMentor
Count:
306

Current
School
Count:
1516



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

July 2015

www.geomentors.net

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Happy summer to our GeoMentors Community! In addition to well-deserved vacations and warm weather to enjoy, summer is a great time to start sharing GIS resources with schools and teachers in preparation for the new school year in the fall! Read below to be motivated by our monthly challenge, learn about one of your fellow GeoMentors, and get some pointers and resources on how to get started as a GeoMentor!

Monthly Mentor Challenge

First, a shout out to **Mike Rienti**, a University of Buffalo Geography PhD Student, who was the first to tell us that he completed last month's challenge (*recruit 2 new GeoMentors*). Great work, Mike! We have 70 new GeoMentors since last month!

With our growing GeoMentors Community, we now encourage you to reach out to schools and educators about the freely available GIS software and how it can be used in their classrooms. This month we challenge YOU to:

Contact at least ONE school or educator in your community to tell them about the Esri ConnectED and GeoMentors programs

To help you do this, check out this month's Featured Resource below and additional helpful materials [here](#). Let us know if you complete this Monthly Mentor Challenge at geomentors@aag.org. Let's get more schools signed up and set up with GIS software in preparation for the new school year!

GeoMentor Spotlight

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

Name: Allison Hunt

Position/Affiliation: AP Human Geographer Teacher at DuPont Manual High School; Curriculum & Instruction PhD student at the University of Louisville

Report your GeoMentor Activities!

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

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Join our GeoMentor Online Communities

Follow [@AAGGeoMentors on Twitter!](#)

[AAG GeoMentors Knowledge Community](#)

[AAG GeoMentors Facebook Page](#)

[Esri GeoNet GeoMentors Group](#)

What was your favorite class in K-12? Anthropology, unfortunately geography wasn't offered at my school.

How did you first learn about and/or use GIS? I didn't realize it was GIS at the time, but in my first career as an Investment Representative we used GIS software to explore and analyze demographic information for our office locations.

Why did you want to volunteer as a GeoMentor? To show others that, although it is a complex tool, there are simple ways it can be used to enhance geographic analysis.



If someone asked you why they should learn about GIS and/or geography, how would you respond in one sentence? All problems we face are, at their root, geographic problems – from where to lay fiber optic cables to how to minimize our environmental impact to ethnic conflicts; a firm base in geographic literacy will result in more effective solutions to the issues we currently face in the future.

Email address: allison.hunt@jefferson.kyschools.us
Website: <http://allisonhunt.wikispaces.com>

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

I've signed up to be a GeoMentor!Now what?

First of all, thanks for signing up! We appreciate your initiative to help introduce GIS and geography into K-12 education across the country and are happy to have you as part of our community!

What should you do next?Follow these 5 steps!

1. **Know the ropes.** If you haven't already, take a few minutes to learn about the Esri ConnectED Initiative and the GeoMentors program built to support it. Click [here](#).
2. **Know the resources.** Before pursuing a volunteer opportunity, take a moment to browse the training and curriculum materials readily available to you. These may be helpful to you and are also great resources to know to tell schools and teachers about. Click [here](#).
3. **Review guidelines.** Before contacting potential collaborators, review some basic GeoMentor program guidelines. Click [here](#).
4. **Find a Collaborator.** Find a teacher or school to work with using your own social network or our available online databases and maps. Click [here](#).

OR Find a new school to recruit to the program. Find

Upcoming Events



Attending the Esri User Conference in July in San Diego? Look for the AAG/GeoMentors booth in the Expo!

Also check out the Plenary session, *ConnectED and the Esri-AAG GeoMentor Program*, at the Esri Education GIS Conference

Where: Marina – Salon G

When: Tuesday, July 21st from 8:30am to 10:00am



a school that has yet to sign up for their free GIS software and help introduce them to this opportunity! You could be the one to bring GIS software and activities into the classrooms of your alma mater, your child's school, or your local community schools! Click [here](#).

5. **Reach out and get started!** Use the provided guidelines to contact an educator registered in our program that is seeking a GeoMentor (guidelines [here](#)) or to contact other schools, school districts, or teachers directly (guidelines [here](#)) to start your collaboration and contribution to K-12 education!

Also, don't forget to....

Join the GeoMentors Community! Follow [@AAGGeoMentors](#) on Twitter, like [AAG GeoMentors](#) on Facebook, join the [GeoMentors GeoNet Group](#), and/or the [GeoMentors Knowledge Community](#) for program news, events, and discussions.

Tell us about your GeoMentoring engagements! [Reporting your experiences](#) helps us track and improve program efforts. We'll also provide you a [program certificate](#) for your service records.

It is through your efforts, expertise, and enthusiasm that we can really make a difference in K-12 education across the country with GIS and geography! Have questions? Contact program staff at geomentors@aag.org. Happy GeoMentoring!

Featured Resource

Related to our Monthly Mentor Challenge, this month's featured resource is a [template letter](#) for contacting schools and educators new to the Esri ConnectED and GeoMentors programs to let them know about the free software and help available. Use this template to craft your outreach communication to a school or educator you would like to work with in your local community or elsewhere. Substitute your information in the designated spots or use this for ideas for drafting your own outreach message. Help bring GIS into more K-12 schools!



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