

GeoMentors

AAG esri Community Newsletter

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Current
GeoMentor
Count:
233

Current
School
Count:
1,290

Report your
GeoMentor
Activities!

Tell us about your activities and receive your official certificate of participation!

Join our
GeoMentor
Online
Communities:

Follow @AAGGeoMentors on Twitter!

June 2015 www.geomentors.net Vol. 1, No. 1

Welcome to our first GeoMentors Community Newsletter! We want to reach out to our growing GeoMentors community about once a month to encourage your efforts and provide program-related information. The first part of 2015 has involved the relaunching and rebuilding of the GeoMentors program. With the main elements in place, we are now actively recruiting GeoMentors (thank YOU for being early registrants!) and encouraging our GeoMentors to start engaging schools and teachers. Summer is a great time to get schools to sign up for their free GIS software and start collaborating with teachers in preparation for the new school year in the fall.

Monthly Mentor Challenge:

Each newsletter, we'll pose a challenge to our GeoMentors community (all in good fun of course!). Having just recently relaunched the GeoMentors program, we are currently focused on community building, so, this month we challenge YOU to:

Recruit 2 of your geo-friends to sign up as fellow GeoMentors!

We also want to set a community goal of having at least 20 GeoMentors complete this monthly challenge! So tell your mappy friends about the great outreach opportunity of the GeoMentors program and help us reach our goal!

Let us know if you complete this Monthly Mentor Challenge so we can see if we reach our community goal! Tell us at geomentors@aag.org.

GeoMentor Spotlight:

Each month we'll feature at least one GeoMentor volunteer, learning more about them and the wonderful talent available in our GeoMentor community to assist K-12 schools. If you are interested in being featured, go herefor more information. We are excited to learn more about our GeoMentor community members! In this issue, meet **Paisly Di Bianca** of the U.S. EPA!

[AAG GeoMentors Knowledge Community](#)

[AAG GeoMentors Facebook Page](#)

[Esri GeoNet GeoMentors Group](#)

Upcoming Events

Are you attending the Esri User Conference in July in San Diego?

Look for the AAG/GeoMentors booth in the Expo! Come by and say hi!



[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



Name: Paisly Di Bianca

Position/Job and Affiliation: Environmental Protection Specialist/GIS Coordinator, US Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 Office, Chicago, IL

What was your favorite class in K-12? In grammar school I loved our culture studies classes; in high school I devoted my time to studying Spanish and photography.

How did you first learn about and/or use GIS? I've always enjoyed learning about new places. Before I "discovered" geography, I did my explorations through studying languages and Anthropology. After I graduated college, I worked as an Academic Advisor at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). I found myself telling students to study what drew their interest. I decided to follow my own advice and enrolled in NEIU's MA program for Geography and Environmental Studies. I took a Cartography course as an elective; the instructor suggested I try a GIS course. I was hooked and never turned back. The work I do now for the EPA includes training staff on using geospatial technologies.



Why did you want to volunteer as a GeoMentor? I never had anyone tell me how cool Geography was when I was in K-12. My hope is help expose young people to Geography sooner rather than later so they can develop an appreciation of how it can apply to their careers in the future.

[Read Di Bianca's full Q&A](#)

Featured Resource:

In some issues, we'll feature a helpful classroom resource that may assist you and your K-12 collaborators with implementing GIS in the classroom.

Today, we're highlighting the [Earth Science GeoInquiries](#). 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. Recommended for grades 6-9, the Earth Science GeoInquiries cover 15 topics, including: topographic maps, remote sensing, climate change, earthquakes, volcanoes, mountain building, and atmosphere and ocean currents.

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. We appreciate your help in building our community resources!

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

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