

GeoMentors

AAG esri Community Newsletter

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Current
GeoMentor
Count:
689



Current
School
Count:
2,439



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November 2015

www.geomentors.net

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The holiday season is swiftly approaching as is the end of our first year of the re-energized GeoMentors program. Our community has already started some fantastic collaborations with K-12 educators and we hear about more activities every week! Be sure to [let us know](#) what you've been up to and consider submitting your successful GeoMentor engagements as [case studies](#) to help document and [showcase the program's efforts](#)! For now, kick back, relax, and learn the latest about our community and available resources!

Monthly Mentor Challenge

While we are all big fans and promoters of geography and GIS, there are still many students and adults who don't know about the diversity and utility of our discipline and related careers. So, this month we challenge you to:

Get involved in [Geography Awareness Week](#) (Nov. 15th – 21st) and [GIS Day](#) (Nov. 18th)

Geography Awareness Week takes place annually during the 3rd week of November to encourage citizens of all ages to think and learn about the significance of place and how we affect and are affected by it. This year's theme is "Explore! The Power of Maps", something our GeoMentors definitely know a thing or two about! To learn more, click on the links above, or, read the Featured Resources section below (yes, this is a shameless effort to get you to read this entire issue).

GeoMentor Spotlight

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

Name: Justin Farrow

Position(s)/Affiliation(s): Lighthouse Keeper Beautiful Nation Project; Webmaster USF Patel College of Global Sustainability; Graduate Assistant Sustainable Tourism USF; Resident Student Innovation Incubator USF Connect; Masters Student Sustainable

Teaching History with GIS



AAG Executive Director Doug Richardson promotes the GeoMentors program in his [ArcNews column](#).

Join our GeoMentor Online Communities

[@AAGGeoMentors on Twitter](#)

[AAG GeoMentors Knowledge Community](#)

[AAG GeoMentors Facebook Page](#)

[Esri GeoNet GeoMentors Group](#)

TEACHERS: Partner with a GIS GeoMentor

Esri is donating free access to the ArcGIS Online geographic information systems (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 receive data with the same software used by government and businesses.

How can GeoMentors help you bring GIS into your classroom?
GeoMentors are knowledgeable GIS users ready to assist to the unique needs of each educator, school, and student group. They can help set up your free software account, demonstrate available classroom exercises, 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 datasets for collaborators to connect with each other, a curated collection of ArcGIS Online educational materials for different subjects and grade levels, as well as local 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 geo mentors@aag.org.

AAG ConnectED esri

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

Tourism/Entrepreneurship

What was your favorite class in K-12? Geography, of course.

How did you first learn about and/or use GIS?

As a kid, I spent the majority of my time outside of school working in a reprographics shop owned by my father where surveyors and engineers were in and out all day. Somewhere along the line, I learned a lot about the needs of surveyors in getting their work done. In 2007 I began building Land Surveyors United, a global social support network for professional land surveyors - now the largest in the world. In 2011, a few colleagues and I started the Beautiful Nation Project, an experiential learning project for students in 3rd-10th grades to build deep connections with one another and with earth.



Name one thing you love about GIS and/or geography.

Learning geography is like trying to eat an elephant- the smart ones take it one bite at a time.

If someone asked you why they should learn about GIS and/or geography, how would you respond in one sentence?

If we do not teach kids to think outside of their local environment, we are chaining them to it.

Email address: justin@beautifulnationproject.org; jfarrow@mail.usf.edu

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<http://landsurveyorsunited.com>; <http://patel.usf.edu>;

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

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

GeoMentor Opportunities with 4-H

If you haven't been able to make a connection with a K-12 school or teacher, consider volunteering as a GeoMentor with 4-H as another way to engage students with geospatial technology! Just as Esri

offers free ArcGIS software to K-12 schools, they also offer free software to 4-H clubs in the US to facilitate and encourage science, citizen and healthy living investigation. Clubs just need to [apply for a software grant](#) (Click 'Education', then click the Orange button next to 'Apply for an Education Program').



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



There is a growing movement in 4-H to include geospatial technology activities; in fact, there's even a Geospatial Task Force! The 4-H **Youth Community Mapping** group supports youth mapping projects across the US; their website **showcases a variety of student projects** and features **educational resources and project ideas** that can help you in your GeoMentor efforts with 4-H or elsewhere. The 4-H History Preservation Program also has a current effort to **'Map Your 4-H History'**, getting youth to gather, organize, and map historical information about 4-H in their communities.



Find a 4-H office near you to see how you can help introduce or expand the use of geospatial technology in their youth programs!

Featured Resources

What better way to jumpstart or add to your GeoMentor efforts than getting involved in Geography Awareness Week and GIS Day! Geography Awareness Week is November 15th – 21st (with GIS Day on November 18th) with the theme of "Explore! The Power of Maps" and there are multiple ways to get involved!

- Check out the **Geography Awareness Week website** for ideas on incorporating the power of maps into classroom activities as well as tools for event planning and promotion.
- Visit the **GIS Day website** to search for and learn about GISDay events taking place around the globe! Follow [@gisday](#) on Twitter.
- Get involved in **OpenStreetMap's GeoWeek** efforts to invite teachers, students, and map lovers from around the world to celebrate geography and make maps using OpenStreetMap. Follow [#osmgeowee](#) on Twitter for news and events, or to share your own!
- Explore the **National Education Association's webpage for Geography Awareness Week** for K-12 educational resources.



15 - 21 NOVEMBER 2015



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