

GeoMentors

AAG esri Community Newsletter

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Current
GeoMentor
Count:
636



Current
School
Count:
2,033



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October 2015

www.geomentors.net

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It's already fall and our GeoMentors have started numerous collaborations with educators across the country! Way to go! If you haven't gotten started yet, no worries. Volunteer your time, when you have time, and [let us know](#) how we can help! You can also [follow these 5 steps](#) to get going. For now, take a break from your busy day to complete our monthly mentor challenge, read about our featured GeoMentor, and check out new available GeoMentors resources below.

Monthly Mentor Challenge

We all know that a big part of the utility of our GIS and map-making efforts is the availability of accurate data. Let's pool our collective experiences to create a list of great data resources across many topics! This month we challenge you to:

Share a geospatial data resource to our GeoMentors' [Twitter account](#), [Facebook page](#), or [email](#)

Finding and sharing geospatial data sources relevant to a teacher, classroom, or school's interest is a very helpful service you can do as a GeoMentor. Share one data resource with us that is valuable to you in your work or interest area. We will collect these to create a data resource blog post for our online GeoMentor communities to share with everyone! You may just find a great data source for your own use from other GeoMentors!

GeoMentor Spotlight

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

Name: Chuck Powell

Position/Affiliation: Senior GIS Specialist/Cartographer, Westland Resources



What was your favorite class in K-12? I always loved history because you are learning the story beyond the facts. I had great

AAG at the Forefront of Geography Education Change

AAG President (*and GeoMentor!*) Sarah Bednarz promotes the GeoMentors program in her [latest column](#).



Join our GeoMentor Online Communities

[@AAGGeoMentors on Twitter](#)

[AAG GeoMentors Knowledge Community](#)

[AAG GeoMentors Facebook Page](#)

[Esri GeoNet GeoMentors Group](#)

GeoLiteracy Blog Features GeoMentors Program

"Geo-literacy projects often open the door to collaboration between classrooms and community"

middle school and high school history teachers (Mr. Hayes and Mr. Summers) who always went beyond the textbook and took us for a ride.

How did you first learn about and/or use GIS? I was offered a full-time job working with a Right of Way company and they asked if I was familiar with ArcView. I had never heard of it, but thinking how different could it be from AutoCAD (which I used daily). So I answered "not a problem." The first couple weeks were challenging as I had to teach myself how to make simple maps. More importantly, I also learned how not to make a map. As my knowledge increased, I gradually shifted from strictly cartography to GIS analysis and more complicated and fun tasks.

Name one thing you love about GIS and/or geography. How a map can take a complex problem or solution and display information in such a way that the audience can grasp a concept easily. More subtly, how a map can tell a better story than words and how GIS can elegantly illustrate the blurring of technology and art.

Why did you want to volunteer as a GeoMentor? I was walking in my kid's school and they had a huge map of the playground and the equipment usage in the hallway. I realized the kids and teachers were using GIS and maybe I could help. I walked into the classroom, introduced myself to the teacher, and asked if I could help in any way. Volunteering at the school is usually my best day of the week.

If someone asked you why they should learn about GIS and/or geography, how would you respond in one sentence? You can look at a problem from many directions and see paths, perhaps multiple paths, to multiple solutions.



Email address: cpowell@westlandresources.com

Website(s): <http://bortongis.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html#>;
<http://westlandresources.com/services/gis-cartography/>

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

Featured Resource

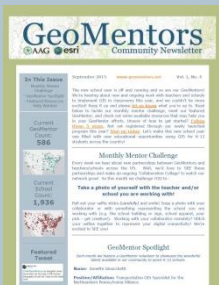
New [US History GeoInquiries](#) are available from Esri! This series expands upon the already available [Earth Science GeoInquiries](#) (designed for a middle school audience). GeoInquiries are designed to be fast and easy-to-use instructional resources that incorporate advanced web mapping technology. Each 15-minute activity in a collection is intended to be presented by the instructor from a single

partners.”

- Suzie Boss

Check out the full
[blog post.](#)

Newsletter Archive



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

Report your GeoMentor Activities!

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



Questions? Contact
program staff at
geomentors@aag.org



computer/projector classroom arrangement. No installation, fees, or logins are necessary to use these materials and software. Designed for high school classrooms, the [US History GeoInquiries](#) cover 15 topics, including: the American Revolution, War of 1812, Underground Railroad, Civil War, WWI, Dust Bowl, Pearl Harbor, and the Cold War.



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. We appreciate your help in building our community resources!

Share your GeoMentor Experience: Submit a Case Study

As part of our program responsibilities, we need to create a collection of [case studies](#) documenting successful GeoMentoring engagements. These case studies are not only project deliverables, but also show us ways we can improve the program by learning from our GeoMentors and their experiences. We would also like to share success stories with the broader GM community to inspire and encourage others to participate!

If you've had a GeoMentoring experience you would be willing to tell us about, please complete [this survey](#). Your information can remain private, used solely by program staff, or, if you are willing to share your experience with a wider audience, we would love to feature your efforts through our website, online communities, and social media (and will happily share those posts with you and/or tag you so you can see your own featured story!).

As noted on the survey, if you have developed any new educational materials or GIS activities through your GeoMentor efforts that you would be willing to share, please email them to geomentors@aag.org. We also welcome any photos of your GeoMentoring activities. If students are shown, please only include images showing students from the back so as not to reveal identities. We also welcome photos of you with your K-12 collaborator!

Questions? Contact us at geomentors@aag.org
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