

Check out the GeoMentor Spotlights this month to meet some of your fellow volunteers!

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With nearly 1,500 volunteers, 4,500+ schools registered with software, and 400+ reported engagements (with many more taking place that we don't even know about), the GeoMentors community and Esri ConnectED efforts have grown immensely since our launch in the spring of 2015. Thank you for being a part of it all and we encourage you to keep up the great work, keep spreading the word about our program, and keep contacting us to let us know about your achievements and how we can help. Contact us with any questions, comments or ideas (including any for newsletter content) at geomentors@aag.org.

Current GeoMentor Count: 1,462



Current School Count: 4,627



Click on images to view the online maps. Choose map tab 1 to see ConnectED schools; choose map tab 4 to view the GeoMentors network.

Monthly Mentor Challenge

Our GeoMentors come from a variety of backgrounds with a wide array of expertise. They also get involved in an ever growing diversity of engagement activities. To be a GeoMentor and to take part in GeoMentoring can mean many different things. This month we challenge you to tell us:

How do you define the concept of 'GeoMentor' or of 'GeoMentoring'?

Share your perspective of what GeoMentoring is to you. Email us at geomentors@aag.org or contact us via Twitter [@AAGGeoMentors](https://twitter.com/AAGGeoMentors) or [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AAGGeoMentors). We'd like to share your definitions in the next newsletter

issue, so please send your thoughts our way!

GeoMentor Spotlight

John Nerge

Each issue we feature at least one GeoMentor volunteer to showcase the wonderful talent available in our community to assist K-12 schools. This month we're featuring two!

Name: John Nerge (*image from the Cat Café in San Diego at last year's Esri Conference*)

Position and Affiliation: GIS Coordinator for the City of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

What was your favorite class in K-12? My favorite subject in school was English, and I was planning to major in it. But then my first college course was Intro to Human Geography. I connected with the way the professor talked about the world because it was the same way that I think about and understand it. I realized I was a geographer, and I switched my major right away.



How did you first learn about and/or use GIS? I took an Intro to GIS course as part of my major in Geography. At the end of the course, I was generally confused, didn't like GIS, and swore it off for life. Then I took an Advanced GIS course and got to do more than just pick colors and north arrows. By the end of the course, I understood how powerful the technology is. I've been hooked ever since.

Name one thing you love about GIS and/or geography: I love putting someone's business data on a map for the first time. It creates such a wow factor and makes them instantly understand the power of location.

Why did you want to volunteer as a GeoMentor? I'm in the public sector because I want to use my skills to make local government more responsive and improve people's quality of life. Being a GeoMentor is a natural extension of that calling, and I think it's a great way to practice my civic duty and spread the use of GIS.

What kind of GeoMentor volunteer opportunity and experience are you looking for? I've mainly been working with K-12 schools and teachers. I don't think enough people, especially students, know that GIS exists. I want to show them that it's readily accessible to them and that you can make using GIS a career.

If someone asked you why they should learn about GIS and/or geography, how would you respond in one sentence? Everyone inherently understands geography, and if you learn how to actively apply that understanding using GIS, there's no telling how far you can go.

Email: john.nerge@brooklynpark.org

Website: www.brooklynpark.org/maps

Read our full collection of GeoMentor spotlights [online](#). Want to be featured? Information is available on our [program website](#).

Kyle Lockhouse

Name: Kyle Lockhouse

Position and Affiliation: Assistant Developer Manager for Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Projects at Tradewind Energy

What was your favorite class in K-12? English class, even though I was not a self-disciplined reader I would love to let my imagination run wild. Either that or gym class; I was not a great student in high school and would rather be outside.

How did you first learn about and/or use GIS? Unfortunately I did not learn about nor use GIS until my Freshman year of my undergraduate degree. I wish that I would have learned about it at a younger age because I love the idea of being able to apply it to any hobby or interest that I have.

Name one thing you love about GIS and/or geography: I LOVE the fact that you can apply GIS to just about any discipline or interest that you can think of, at least in some sort of fashion. From my love for rock climbing and snowboarding, or something more simple like transportation routes and local resources. Due to GIS, I was able to gain several reputable internships in college that lead to being a GIS Analyst at Tradewind Energy. Since then I have changed departments and found a career path that I can passionately pursue while still being able to have enough free-time to enjoy all of my many hobbies.

Why did you want to volunteer as a GeoMentor? I was motivated from a presentation given by other GeoMentors and even more so their students. I could see that the students, who ranged from 9th-12th grade, were all genuinely inspired by all of the applications that they could use GIS for. It was like the lightbulb went off and they realized that they could use it for almost anything, on top of the fact that it is a quickly growing skillset that could open a lot of opportunities for well-paying jobs.

What kind of GeoMentor volunteer opportunity and experience are you looking for? I am just looking for the opportunity to show people the potential of this program in hopes that it allows them to apply a skill set towards something that they not only enjoy, but something that they are passionate about.

If someone asked you why they should learn about GIS and/or geography, how would you respond in one sentence? GIS is such a broad program that it can be used to benefit you and anything that you are possibly interested in or would like to get involved with.

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Websites: [LinkedIn](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

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



GeoMentor Engagement Reports Continue to Roll In

Examples of Recently Reported Activities – Share yours too!

We continue to get updates from GeoMentors across the country about the activities they are planning, assisting, and leading with different educational communities and audiences. Here are just a few examples of recent reports received:

- **Adrian in Ohio:** Taught high school students about the use and application of GIS
- **Rupali in Virginia:** Gave a presentation about maps to 3rd graders
- **Mark in Minnesota:** Taught teachers about how GIS is used in local government
- **Neusa in New York:** Showed a 4-H club president how to collect GPS data and upload it into GIS

- **John in Minnesota:** Gave a presentation on GIS careers to high school students
- **Rob in California:** Presented about electoral geography and redistricting to 3rd-5th graders
- **James in New York:** Partnered college students with high school students to map invasive species

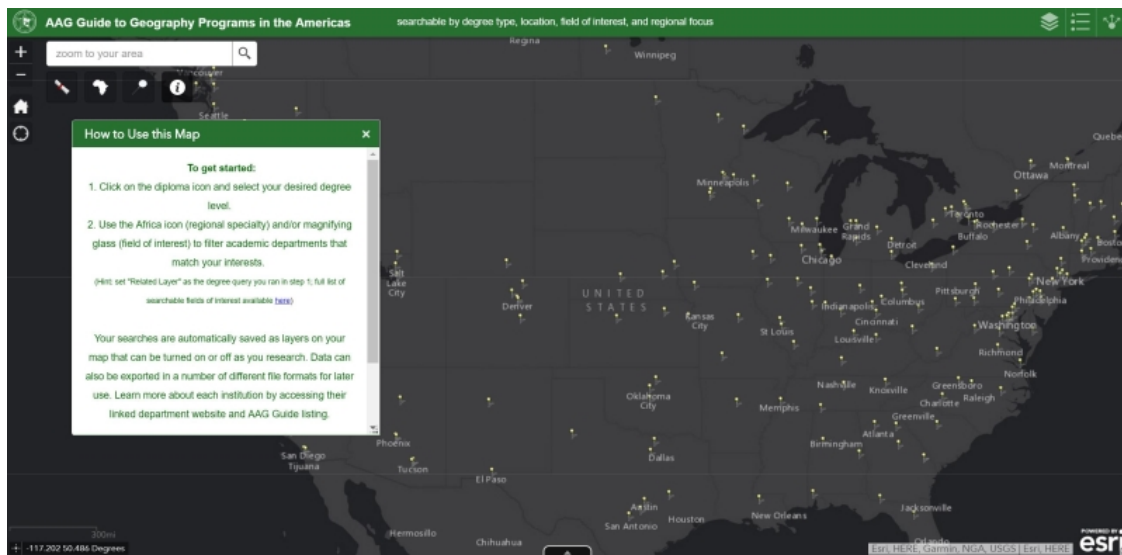
You can report your activities by emailing us at geomentors@aag.org or using our [streamlined online reporting form](#). Documenting your GeoMentor activities helps us: 1) know the impact our program is making, 2) learn how we can better support you in your efforts, and, 3) acknowledge your service with our program certificate. Each and every activity can be the spark that leads to more interest in and engagement with spatial thinking for K-12 students, so please do tell us about what you are up to!

The image shows a digital form titled "Document your GeoMentor Experience!" with logos for AAG and esri. The form includes a "Data Use Permission" section with a checkbox for public reporting, a "Contact Information" section with fields for name and email, and a "WHO did you volunteer with as a GeoMentor?" section. There is also a small disclaimer at the top regarding data collection and use.

AAG Guide to Geography Programs in the Americas

Free Online Resource to Research Degree Programs in Geography

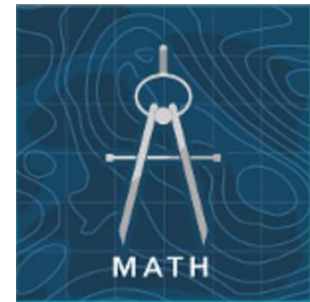
Are you working with high school students through your GeoMentoring efforts? Giving a talk about educational and career opportunities in geography or providing a teacher or counselor with information to share with their students? The AAG's Guide to Geography Programs in the Americas features an [online interactive map](#) that allows users to perform customized searches for geography programs by location, degree type, field of interest, and regional focus. The map includes hundreds of geography programs throughout the United States, Canada and Latin America, and more programs are added every year. Users have the ability to export map data in a variety of formats, share customized results and perform a variety of other functions. The map also comes with a helpful user guide to help you get started. The Guide is also available as a [PDF](#).



Featured Resource: GeoInquiries for Mathematics

Esri Continues to Expand on GeoInquiry Exercises

[GeoInquiries](#) are brief, guided classroom activities based on national curriculum standards and tied to commonly used textbooks that teach content via interactive maps in ArcGIS Online. Expanding upon the success of the existing five sets of GeoInquiries (Earth Science, US History, Human Geography, Interdisciplinary, and Environmental Science), Esri has announced a sample pack for a new forthcoming set for Mathematics. Aimed for high school classrooms teaching Algebra I and geometry, there are currently six activities available for testing: measuring the areas of circles, distance and midpoint, linear equations, centers of triangles, areas of complex figures, and volumes of pyramids. The new Math GeoInquiries are [available online](#), with additional activities being added regularly to complete the set of 15. Educators can complete a [field test survey](#) if they would like to provide feedback about their classroom use of GeoInquiries.



If you have 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 Events at the 2017 AAG Annual Meeting

The 2017 AAG Annual Meeting in Boston was the largest AAG Annual Meeting on record and GeoMentor Program activities were featured throughout the week (panel session, poster, workshop, and display area). Thanks to all who attended program events and sported the GeoMentor ribbon on their name badge. Every year, more people approach us already knowing about the program and wanting to get involved. Our community continues to grow and we love having the chance to interact with you at events and conferences!



Welcome to a new #GeoMentor, Cem Akkus, who signed up here at #AAG2017!!



GeoMentors panel session going on right now at #AAG2017, Hynes, 2nd level, room 201



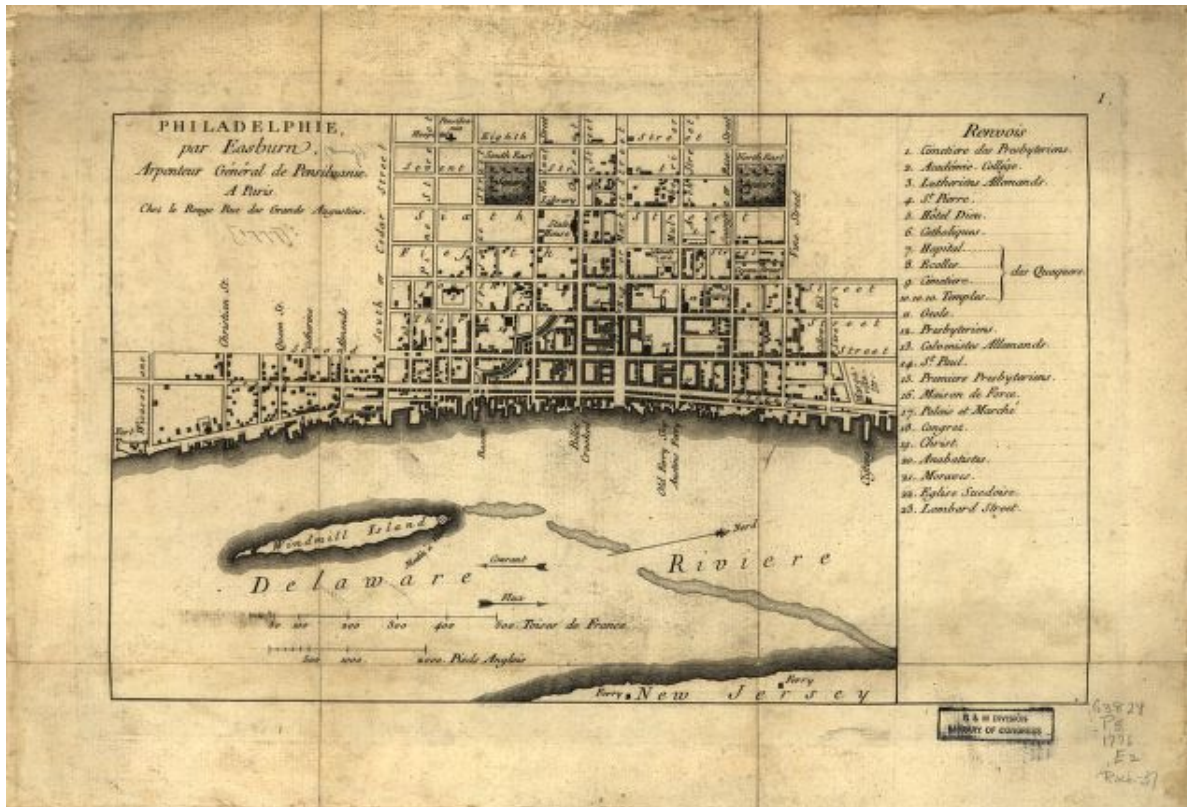
Come see our cool #GeoMentors poster printed on fabric by @Spoonflower A wrinkle free write-up on our activities and resources! #AAG2017



Geography Map Division of the Library of Congress

Digital scans of thousands of historic maps are available online

The Geography and Map Division at the Library of Congress holds the largest collection of cartographic materials in the world. They have "5.5 million maps, 80,000 atlases, 6,000 reference works, over 500 globes and globe gores, 3,000 raised relief models," as well as other formats such as CDs and DVDs. They also have a constantly growing digital collection with high-resolution scans of thousands of maps that you can access for free online. Consider searching for historic maps that might contribute to GeoMentor engagements you are participating in or that teachers could use to supplement their lessons on different topics! You can find more information about the Geography and Map Reading room [online](#) and search the [online collection](#).



[Map of Philadelphia](#), published in Paris in the late 1700s.

Upcoming Events: Esri Ed GIS & User Conferences

Will you be making your way to sunny San Diego for the [Esri Education GIS Conference](#) or [Esri User Conference](#) in July? If so, stay tuned to our GeoMentor channels ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and the June newsletter) for more information about our GeoMentor program presence. The GeoMentors program will be part of the Saturday plenary for the Education GIS Conference and will have a display area in the Exhibition Hall for the User Conference. We hope to see you there!



GeoMentors Flyer

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



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Questions? Contact program staff at geomentors@aag.org.

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