

Help us achieve our activity goal!

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October 2016 | Vol. 2, No. 10 | www.geomentors.net

Fall is in full swing and the holidays are perhaps too close on the horizon! We know that being a GeoMentor is just one of many roles you have in your life. We simply ask that you get involved when you can, to the extent that you can, even if it's just sharing the word about our program to other potential participants (GeoMentors or GeoMentees!). Have questions or comments? Email us at geomentors@aag.org. We always love hearing from you!

Current GeoMentor Count: 1,327



Current School Count: 3,898



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

Last month we asked you to share your earliest map memory. Here is the first memory that was shared with us:

"My earliest map memory is of receiving a map puzzle for Christmas when I was very young - 4 or 5, at most. I was hooked from then on. In later years, I would grab the old Rand McNally map we kept in the car and follow roads and rivers across states, scour each page for the silliest names, study the features as they changed from one side of the country to the other. My Mom was a lifelong member of the National Geographic Society also, so the first thing I did when a new issue of the magazine arrived in the mail was look for a map. If I was lucky, there was a huge map insert to pore over. Second-best, a foldout between the covers." - Laura Bell; Sacramento, CA

As a follow up, this month we challenge you to:

Think of at least one way you implemented spatial thinking TODAY (as in the day you are reading this newsletter!)

As a secondary challenge, think of how you could get K-12 students to see all the spatial thinking they do in their own lives and how important this skill is!



GeoMentor Spotlight

Andy Mink

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

Name: Andy Mink

Position and Affiliation: Vice President of Education, National Humanities Center

What was your favorite class in K-12? Government

How did you first learn about and/or use GIS? In 2006, I designed and led a project in which middle and secondary level history teachers were trained in how to use GIS tools to meet best practice research and teaching strategies for United States history. We discovered quickly that the data was slim and not organized along history topics, so much of the project was creating the data sets. We saw the power of student inquiry using GIS in the classroom as they interrogated the maps rather than viewed them statically.



Name one thing you love about GIS and/or geography: I am fascinated by the concept of someplace. Each of us has a personal geography that impacts who we are and how we view the world. I believe that these sensibilities are strongly reflective of a sense of place.

Why did you want to volunteer as a GeoMentor? I am constantly looking to support and partner with like-minded educators who are interested in developing innovative instructional approaches and materials. I hope that my experience in this field will be both aspirational and practical for my colleagues.

If someone asked you why they should learn about GIS and/or geography, how would you respond in one sentence? Because you can answer the question: why there?

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Twitter: [@Mink_ED](https://twitter.com/Mink_ED)

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

Earn a Free Pin

Share your GeoMentor experience as a [case study](#) and receive the Esri GIS Innovator pin!

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GeoMentoring Made Easy

Directions Magazine Article by Shannon White

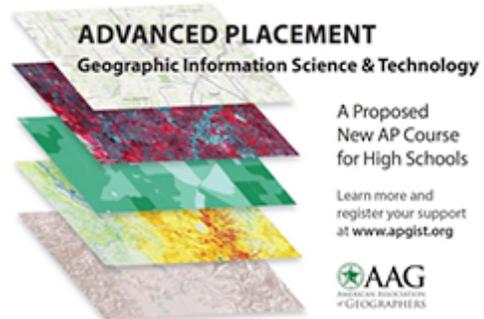
Not sure what being a GeoMentor entails or how to begin your GeoMentoring efforts? Check out this [great article](#) by Shannon White ([@shannonwhite](#)), Coordinator of the Missouri Geographic Alliance. She covers everything you need to know to get started including helpful web resources and why it's important to get involved!



DIRECTIONS MAGAZINE

Advanced Placement GIS&T Update

The AAG's proposal for a new AP Geographic Information Science & Technology (AP GIS&T) course has received broad support from high schools and the academic community. As of October 18, the proposal has been supported by 78 postsecondary institutions and 73 high schools. The College Board has asked the AAG to collect attestations of support from 100 academic geography/GIS programs and 250 high schools. GeoMentors can help make AP GIS&T a reality by encouraging academic departments and high schools to sign the attestation form at www.apgist.org.



GeoMentor Panelists Needed for the 2017 AAG Annual Meeting in Boston

Are you attending the upcoming AAG [Annual Meeting](#) in Boston next April? If so, we are looking for GeoMentor panelists for a session sponsored by the AAG's Geography Education Specialty Group. The session, "GeoMentors: Assisting in the Advancement of Geographic Education" will allow current GeoMentors to share their experiences and for interested attendees to ask questions and learn about how they can get involved

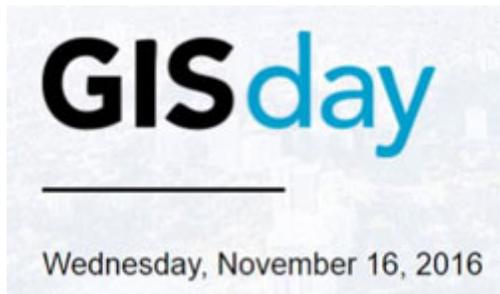


as GeoMentors themselves. If you are interested in being on the panel and sharing your GeoMentor story, please email Candice Luebbing at geomentors@aag.org.

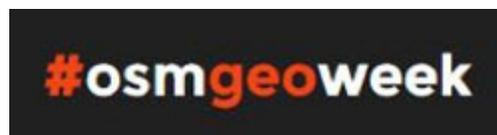
Featured Resource: Geography Awareness Week & GIS Day

If you don't have time to start a long term GeoMentoring relationship with a K-12 school or teacher, consider getting involved for one day or even a few hours for Geography Awareness Week (November 13-19) and GIS Day (November 16)!

- Check out the [Geography Awareness Week website](#) for classroom activities grouped by different grade levels (K-2, 3-5, 6-12)
- Visit the [GIS Day website](#) to search for and learn about GISDay events taking place around the globe and 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 [#osmgeoweeek](#) on Twitter for news and events, or to share your own.



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.

GeoMentors Flyer

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



Newsletter Archive

Check out previous issues in our [archive](#).



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

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