

Mappy Holidays from the GeoMentors Program!

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The end of our second year of the re-energized GeoMentors program is rapidly approaching. We are so grateful to have you as part of our community and to have the opportunity to work with you to support geography and GIS education. Mappy Holidays to you and yours!

Current GeoMentor Count: 1,382



Current School Count: 4,134



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

Documenting your GeoMentor activities is important to help 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. To make this as easy as possible we've created a new, streamlined online reporting form. This month we challenge you to:

Check out and bookmark our new brief [online reporting form!](#)

If you have any activities to report from the last year, use it to let us know. If you are planning some activities for the future, make a note to fill it out after your events. Simply provide the who/what/where/when from your activities and hit submit!

A screenshot of a web form titled "Document your GeoMentor Experience!". The form includes the AAG and esri logos at the top. Below the title, there is a section for "Data Use Permission" with a checkbox and text. A "Contact Information" section includes fields for "Your Name:" and "Your Email Address:". At the bottom, there is a section for "WHO did you volunteer with as a GeoMentor?" with a text input field. The form has a light green background and a white border.

GeoMentor Spotlight

Erin Kelly

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

Name: Erin Kelly

Position and Affiliation: Library Technician at the Library of Congress

What was your favorite class in K-12? I always liked math and environmental science classes. I took AP Environmental science in 12 th grade and absolutely loved it. That's what sort of got me into GIS/geography.

How did you first learn about and/or use GIS? Freshman year of college I was majoring in environmental science, but had to take a physical geography as a general education course. At that time I did not know about GIS. My physical geography teacher was amazing and made learning about geography so much fun. I decided to do some research, met with advisors, and finally changed my major to Geography and Environmental Planning with a minor in GIS!



Name one thing you love about GIS and/or geography: I think the biggest thing for me is that you can use GIS/geography in every aspect of life. It is exciting when you start seeing how geography can benefit so many different career fields. Of course I knew about the basic geography fields, but when I started to look up other career fields, so much opened up. You can use geography/GIS for public health, real estate, farming, and even viticulture!

Why did you want to volunteer as a GeoMentor? I actually learned about GeoMentors on GIS Day and immediately fell in love. My entire educational career I have helped people and volunteered for different charities and GeoMentors gives me a chance to get back into the volunteering realm. Also, when you are passionate about what you do, you want to share that passion with others.

If someone asked you why they should learn about GIS and/or geography, how would you respond in one sentence? Because it's awesome!! -- GIS is a tool that can be used to benefit just about any career and maps help illustrate ideas/information in a more easy to understand and concise way.

Email: EEKelly626@gmail.com

Website: [LinkedIn](#)

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!

Get Your Certificate

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



GeoMentor Reports from the Field

GIS Day and GeoWeek Events

GeoMentors participated in events across the country to help celebrate and elevate Geography Awareness Week and GIS Day (including the first [@theAAG TwitterChat!](#)). Here are just a few activities from GMs and GM staff shared on Twitter. What did YOU do for GeoWeek or GIS Day? What would you like to do for it next year?

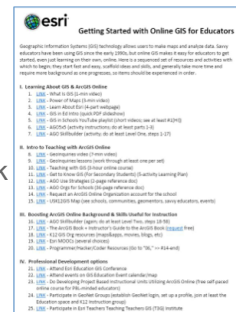


Featured Resource

Getting Started with Online GIS for Educators

If you bookmark just one resource website for helping K-12 schools implement ArcGIS Online, bookmark [this one](#). This catch all, hyperlinked PDF connects you to resources we consistently share for the most frequently asked questions, from explaining the benefits of GIS and setting up a school's organizational account, to readymade exercises and professional development opportunities. Use this to draw pertinent resources from for your collaborations with K-12 educators, or share the link with them directly!

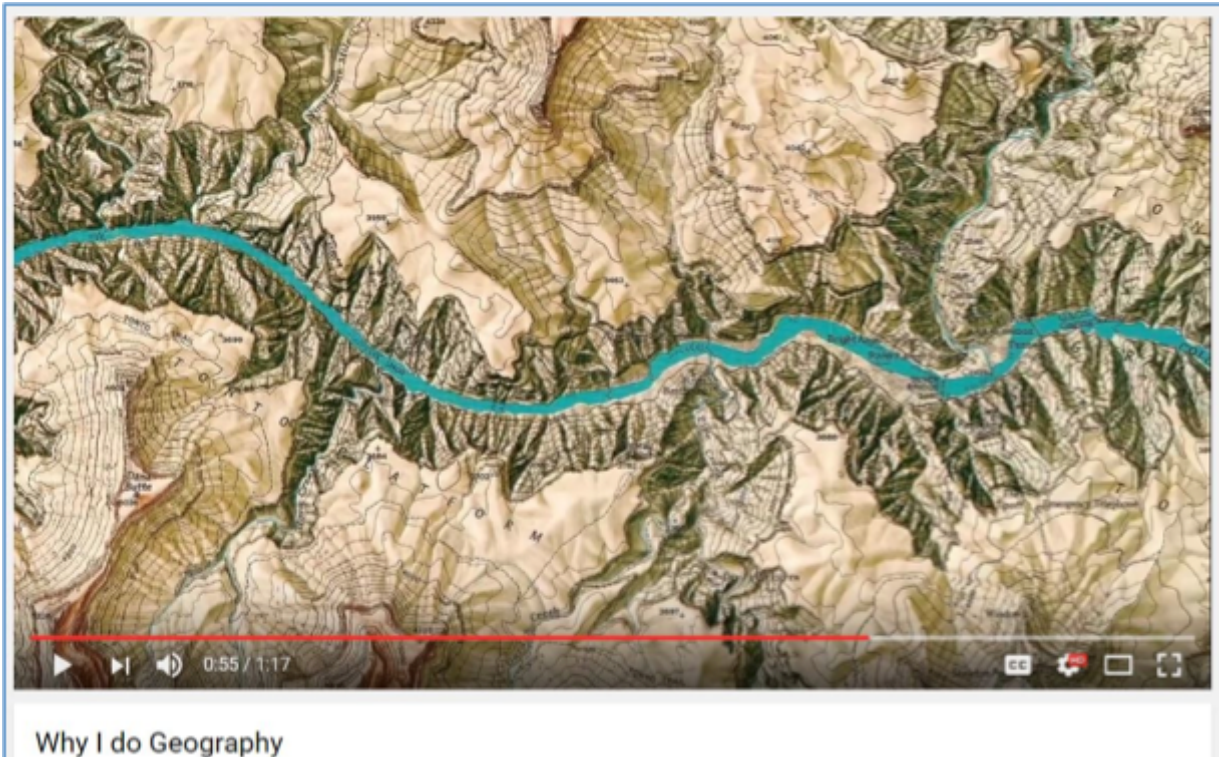
If you have resources you would like to suggest for this feature or to share with fellow GeoMentors in general, please share them with us at geomentors@aaq.org.



Why I Do Geography

Video by George Washington University Student

Need a reminder of why we all love geography or a different resource to share with students about why geography matters? Max Grossman, a student at George Washington University, made a great video about why he does geography for his Senior Seminar class. [Check it out!](#)

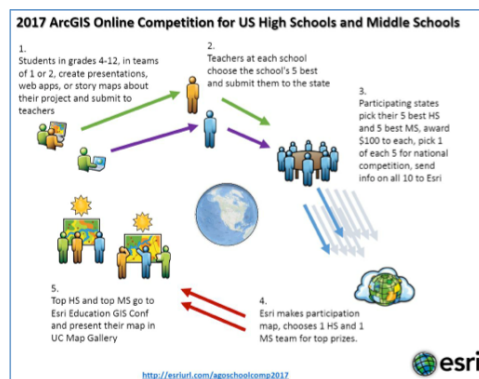


ArcGIS Online U.S. School Competition 2017

Help Organize the Competition in Your State

Esri has announced a new competition for 2017 for students to share their work with ArcGIS Online: "The ArcGIS Online US School Competition 2017 is open to high school (gr.9-12) and middle school (gr.4-8) students in the U.S who can analyze, interpret, and present data via an ArcGIS Online presentation, web app, or story map." This is a state-level competition with state winners submitted to Esri and students with the top projects winning a trip to the 2017 Esri Education Conference.

Each state needs a state leadership team to run their state-level competition and this is a great potential role for GeoMentors! GeoMentors might also find opportunities to help teachers, club leaders, or even individuals students with efforts related to this competition. Full competition details are [available online](#). You can also email Charlie Fitzpatrick, Esri K12 Education Manager, at cfitzpatrick@esri.com with additional questions.



Reminder: Help Make AP GIS&T a Reality

Share Information with Your Local High Schools

The AAG is continuing efforts to move forward with a proposal for a new AP course in Geographic Information Science & Technology. To reach the next step of the proposal process with the College Board, at least 250 high schools must indicate their support for such a course by signing an online attestation form. We are about halfway there, but we could use your help! Share this online postcard with high schools in your area to let them know about this potential new opportunity for their

students and encourage them to add their name to the growing list of high schools who would like to offer such a course to their students in the future. The full course proposal and attestation forms are available online at www.apgist.org. For questions, contact the AAG at ap_gist@aaq.org.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
of GEOGRAPHERS

ADVANCED PLACEMENT
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Support this Newly Proposed AP
Course for High Schools

Add your high school at www.apgist.org

AAG Launches New Twitter Chat Series

Join the #AAGChat on Careers in Geography, Jan. 12, 2017

Mark your calendars to join in on an #AAGChat on careers in geography. The chat will address the many diverse career opportunities for geographers in a variety of industries and employment sectors and how geography students, graduates and early-career professionals can identify appropriate job openings. The discussion will also highlight the many career resources available through the AAG, including the Jobs in Geography Center, Student Opportunities website, and more. The GeoMentors program will be participating in the chat ([@AAGGeoMentors](https://twitter.com/AAGGeoMentors)) and we hope many of our GeoMentors will chime in with their experience as well. Please encourage any students interested in career paths in geography to participate too!

The chat will occur on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017, from 3-4 p.m. EST. To participate in the chat, please use the hashtag, #AAGChat. Make sure to follow the AAG on Twitter by searching for the handle, [@TheAAG](https://twitter.com/TheAAG)!



Join us for another
#AAGChat

and learn more about careers in geography.

Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017
3-4 p.m. (EST)

follow [@theAAG](https://twitter.com/theAAG)



GM Newsletter Shifting to Bi-Monthly Schedule in 2017

Starting in 2017, we'll be sending this newsletter every two months instead of every month (so our next issue will be in February 2017). The same great info and updates will be coming your way, just concentrated in fewer issues. We'll still be in touch via check up emails and don't forget you can always contact us directly via email at geomentors@aaq.org and stay up to date with the program via [Twitter](https://twitter.com) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com)!

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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GEOMENTOR**

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ACTIVITIES**



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