

Help us achieve our activity goal!

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The approach of a new school year means a new opportunity to get involved as GeoMentors! Before students are back roaming the halls, reach out to K-12 teachers to offer your help with implementing GIS, geography, and spatial thinking in the context of their classrooms and communities. Want to plan ahead even further? Consider how you could get involved in [GIS Day](#) in November!

Current GeoMentor Count: 1,255



Current School Count: 3,590

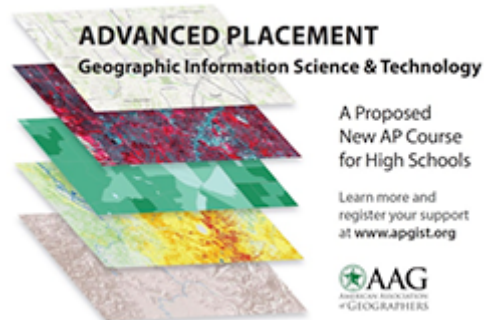


Click on images to view the online maps. Choose map tab 1 to see ConnectED schools; choose map tab 4 to view the GeoMentors network.

## Monthly Mentor Challenge

In addition to the GeoMentors program, the AAG is involved in another exciting GIS education initiative: the proposal of a new Advanced Placement GIS&T course! To make this new course a reality, we need to show the College Board that there is broad interest in and demand for such a course among high schools. We also need to provide a list of university departments willing to offer credit for the course. This month we challenge you to:

**Share the AP GIS&T proposal with a high school principal or academic department chair, and ask them to support the course by completing a brief attestation form. The proposal and attestation forms are available at [www.apgist.org](http://www.apgist.org).**



The AAG will provide the College Board with a list of high schools and universities that sign the attestation forms, along with any additional information and comments received on the forms. Our goal is to complete this process by October 1, 2016.

Just think of what a nationwide AP GIS&T course could do in terms of the visibility it will bring to our field, the spatial thinking skills it will support in classrooms, and the opportunities it will create for students. You can help make it happen! For questions, contact the AAG at [ap\\_gist@aaq.org](mailto:ap_gist@aaq.org).

## GeoMentor Spotlight

### Dawn Wright

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

**Name:** Dawn Wright

**Position and Affiliation:** Chief Scientist, Esri

**What was your favorite class in K-12?** Recess (just kidding), it was Science, with History a close second. We did not have geography in my K-12.

**How did you first learn about and/or use GIS?** I was not exposed to GIS until my doctoral education. A few years after the deep sea vehicle Argo was used to discover the HMS Titanic in 1986, I was presented with some of the first GIS datasets to be collected with that vehicle while a graduate student at UCSB. This provided me with the need and opportunity to learn GIS. It was also then that I became acutely aware of the challenges of applying GIS to deep marine environments which became the subject of my dissertation research back then in the early 1990s.



**Name one thing you love about GIS and/or geography:** The maps!!!!!!!

**Why did you want to volunteer as a GeoMentor?** I have been inspired by my colleagues both at Esri and AAG and wanted to do my part

**If someone asked you why they should learn about GIS and/or geography, how would you respond in one sentence?** Our very life on this planet depends upon it! It's primarily through both GIS and geography that we can understand human-environment interactions and cause-and-effect regarding climate change, migration and refugee movements, terrorist activity, ocean health, air quality, just about everything.

**Website:** [Oregon State University](http://Oregon State University)

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

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

## Summit-Questa Middle School, Davie, Florida

8th grade students at Summit Questa Middle School produced Story Maps as an independent study.

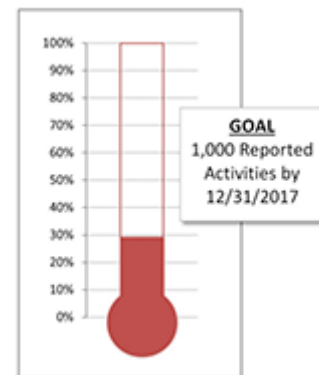
[GeoMentor Michelle Doyle](#) worked with students for a few hours per month during their lunch break. Classes covered technical knowledge and motivational Story Map examples. The students themselves decided to apply their new skills to their assignments in their Science curriculum on the current state of the major biomes in the world. The students' Story Maps can be found [here](#) or by clicking on the image to the right.



What started out as a GeoMentoring volunteer opportunity at Summit-Questa has now turned into a component integrated with the school's existing curriculum. This past year, students that selected and participated in the Story Map Series in Advanced Science received a Certificate as part of their end of the year awards ceremony.

## Help us Reach our Activity Goal!

We continue to receive great reports from the GeoMentor community about the range of volunteer activities taking place across the country (like the above story from Michelle). However, we realize there are many additional engagements taking place that we don't know about! We really want to hear about all of your efforts so we can both track our program's progress and acknowledge your achievements. Whether you are just getting started contacting potential collaborators or have completed a volunteer experience already, please let us know! Our program goal is to document at least 1,000 GeoMentor activities by the end of 2017. Send us a quick note about your activities, big or small, in process or completed, to [geomentors@aag.org](mailto:geomentors@aag.org). If you're short on time, drop us a line via [Twitter](#) and we'll follow up with you. Remember, we'll send you your GeoMentor Certificate(s) for completed activities. Help us reach our community goal!



## 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](#).

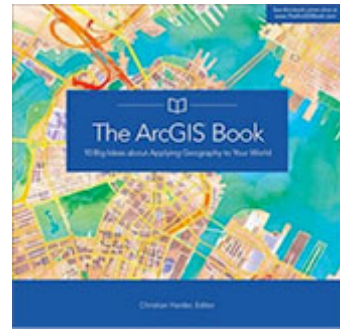


## Featured Resource

### The ArcGIS Book

Need some ideas or inspiration for exploring web GIS for yourself or with educators and students in your GeoMentor efforts? First released at the 2015 Esri User Conference, [The ArcGIS Book](#) offers "10 Big Ideas about

Applying Geography to Your World". The book is available for free as a [downloadable, interactive PDF](#). Many teachers have already used this resource as a teaching tool with their students. Chapters cover topics ranging from Story Maps and Spatial Analysis to 3d mapping and apps. [There's now a new [Instructional Guide for The ArcGIS Book](#) as a companion textbook, available for [purchase](#).]



Questions? Contact program staff at [geomentors@aag.org](mailto:geomentors@aag.org).

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