

**COLORADO GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE**

## Spring 2016

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Welcome to those of you who are new to the [Colorado Geographic Alliance](#). COGA is a statewide educator's organization working with the social studies, science, environmental, and technology communities to support geography in every corner of the state.

### A Great Day to be Outside in Sondermann Park



COGA partnered with the [Catamount Institute](#) in Colorado Springs to produce the only public [BioBlitz](#) in Colorado on Saturday, May 7, 2016. Sondermann Park was delighted to join Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Fort Sumter National Monument, Chippokes Plantation State

Park and over 200 other locations across the United States in identifying, counting, and recording species in this important open space. Over one hundred participants heard woodpeckers, caught (and released) mayflies, and identified multiple types of lichen and grasses important to riparian and grassland ecosystems. Wondering what was observed and collected? Check out the map and photos of Colorado's BioBlitz at Sondermann Park on [iNaturalist](#).

Many visitors had not been familiar with this community resource and were pleased to have the chance to explore the area under the guidance of teachers who directed children to catch insects with nets, scientists who described the variation of water droplets on plants, and volunteers who made sure all the tables and signs were in place. Are you interested in hosting a [schoolyard BioBlitz](#)? Contact COGA for ideas and resources.

### National Geographic's Giant Map of Colorado

Teachers know how important it is for students to understand how Colorado is constructed. The next generation of Coloradans needs to be

## Colorado Springs Historical Map Explorer



[Tierra Plan LLC](#) has launched an interactive map site called the [Colorado Springs Historic Map Explorer](#). The explorer features a collection of twenty-four historic maps provided by the City of Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum.

Original paper maps from the museum archives were digitized as part of a larger project called *The Story of Us*. You can read more about that project [here](#).

These fascinating maps are now available in this easy-to-use website for anyone who wants to explore the history and landscapes of the Colorado Springs region.

Please explore these historic maps, share with your friends, and encourage kids and students to explore!

## Geospatial Technology in the



familiar with landmarks, national parks, and historical sites, as well as understand the physical landscape of the state. Based on the highly-successful national giant traveling map program featuring continents and the Pacific Ocean, National

Geographic has created a giant map (14 x 21 feet) of each state that will travel to schools, libraries, and museums.

National Geographic's Giant State Maps provide an opportunity for educators and students to learn about their states in a rich and powerful way. The giant state map program is designed to encourage geographic learning through physical movement and games that teach students place names, physical geography, and cultural geography as well as map reading skills. Colorado is also developing an online atlas that can be used prior to and following the giant map's visit. COGA will be seeking educators to help develop lessons for use on the giant map as well as with the online atlas. Look for opportunities to participate in this activity across the state.

Please contact COGA at [coga@uccs.edu](mailto:coga@uccs.edu) to reserve the Giant Map of Colorado for your school!

## BioBlitz Professional Development Workshops for Teachers



On May 2nd and 3rd COGA partnered with the Catamount Institute, a Colorado Springs environmental education organization, to host 46 teachers for professional development workshops to demonstrate how teachers can develop a BioBlitz at their schools. The workshops were led by environmental

educators from the Catamount Institute and centered on plant communities at Sondermann Park in Colorado Springs. Teachers got a chance to use printed resources such as plant keys to interpret the environment around them. Site investigations included birds and mammals, soil and insects, trees and shrubs, and lichen, grasses, and flowers. Teachers practiced what they learned later in the week as they guided visitors to look carefully at their surroundings during the public BioBlitz.

## Upcoming Workshops

**Online Summer Course: Teaching Geography in the 21st Century**



Geographic Information Science (GIS) encompasses computer hardware and software systems that are used to store, display, analyze, and map information related to multiple fields. These tools include maps and globes, global positioning (GPS) units, and web-based interactive programs such as Google Earth. Students in Colorado benefit from learning how to use geographic information and COGA is working to support their teachers to be knowledgeable and comfortable with the technology.

Wondering what your students can do? Check out [geospatial technology lesson plans](#) on the COGA website, create projects using [MapMaker](#) at National Geographic, and get ideas from [story maps](#) developed through Esri, Inc.

GPS Units for Loan: Don't forget - COGA has ten GPS units that can be loaned (for

This course is designed to build geographic concepts, perspectives, and skills for those teaching geography, as well as to those teaching other disciplines who seek to use geographic principles. It will also help educators and their students to understand why and how geography is relevant to 21st Century life. Topics include population, land use, urban, economic, health, and natural hazards. Running throughout the course will be a focus on scale, systems thinking (such as climate, watersheds, and energy systems), critical thinking, place, time and space through an inquiry-driven, hands-on, problem-based format. The course includes pedagogical strategies and technological tools to teach conceptual foundations, skills, and geographic perspectives; it will begin May 25th, and last 5 weeks. Click [here](#) to register.

### **Special Topics Workshop: Learning GIS with Primary Sources** **This workshop was rescheduled from April 16, 2016 due to inclement weather.**

*Greeley UNC Campus, Tuesday, August 2, 2016 8:30am - 4:00pm*  
Access and investigate multiple genres of primary sources to develop expertise in the use and application of Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Walk with a GPS device in Greeley and learn methods to incorporate alternate analyses of GIS results into classroom materials. Practice schemes to promote critical thinking and hypothesis testing while examining items from the Library of Congress. Learn from primary source-based activities aligned to standards, incorporating the millions of digitized primary sources available on the Library of Congress website. Applicable to all grade levels and teaching disciplines. Pre-requisite: Teaching with Primary Sources Essentials Exploration Workshop. Optional fee-based graduate credit available through UNC. Email [Linda Pfeiffer](#) for information.

### **Special Topics Workshop: Geography in the Social Studies** *Greeley UNC Campus, Wednesday, September 8, 2016*

The department of Geography and GIS at UNC will host a one day workshop on Geography in the Social Studies. This event gives priority to secondary social studies teachers in the rural districts of Colorado's eastern plains, though all districts are welcome to apply. Workshop topics will feature: space and scale, natural resources and environment, population and migration, urbanization and economics, cultural and political geography, and maps and GIS. Click [here](#) to register.

### **Integrating the Social Studies Across Colorado History - Professional Development in Denver**

Join us for professional development designed to enhance your skill in teaching the core concepts and tools from history, geography, economics and civics that are emphasized in Colorado's fourth grade Social Studies Standards. Four leading social studies organizations collaborate to bring this day-long workshop to elementary teachers. Subject area experts will help you understand how each discipline views the world and, more specifically, Colorado. Presentations will blend content and pedagogy and will share resources to take back to your classroom.

free) to schools for educational use. [Click here for info!](#)



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#### Colorado Geographic Alliance

Department of Geography and  
Environmental Studies  
1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway  
Colorado Springs, Colorado  
80918

History Colorado Center 1200 Broadway Denver, CO 80203

Saturday, October 15, 2016 8:30am - 4:30pm

Click [here](#) for more details. Registration will be available later in the summer .

## Teaching Geography Using Primary Sources



The Colorado Geographic Alliance continues to work with the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Western Region (TPS) offering "Teaching Geography using Primary Sources" programs across the state.

Workshops - in both one-day and two-day formats - are now available for presentation at schools and districts across the state. Participants practice identifying and choosing primary sources for the classroom, as well as using tools to analyze primary sources through a geographic lens. Please contact [coga@uccs.edu](mailto:coga@uccs.edu) if you are interested in scheduling one for educators in your area. There is no charge for a workshop.

## Colorado Geographic Bee Winner



Congratulations to Cooper Hanley, a 7th grader from Louisville Middle School, and 2016 National Geographic Bee Colorado Champion!

Be sure and cheer Cooper on when he attends the National Geographic Bee in Washington D.C. from May 22-25, 2016.

Please contact the Colorado State Bee Coordinator, Rebecca DiMaio ([rardimaio@gmail.com](mailto:rardimaio@gmail.com) / 720-290-0798), for information about registration for 2016-2017.

## 2016 History Day Winners

Congratulations to this year's winners for the best use of geography at National History Day in Colorado. The History Day event took place on April 30th at the University of Colorado Denver.

The junior division prize went to Jack Beardshear, Ross Combs, Liam Leasure and Max Risher of McAuliffe International School in Denver for their website entitled, "Medieval Spain: Age of Tolerance." The website examined historical distributions of peoples and attitudes in medieval Spain. The group effectively implemented maps and considered the impact of geography on the people of the Iberian Peninsula in an attractive and informative presentation.

In the senior division, Brooke Wunder of Bear Creek High School in Lakewood produced a documentary entitled "The Silk Road: Encountering the Spread of Zoroastrianism Throughout the Eurasian World." This

project brought to life the transfer of cultural attributes as a product of trade. The analysis was supported by maps and the flows of ideas and people were well described.

Well done, Jack, Ross, Liam, Max, and Brooke!

## 2016 Science Fair Winners

Congratulations to this year's winners for the best use of geography at the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair. The CSEF took place April 7th through 9th in Fort Collins at Colorado State University. The senior division winner was Elyssa Hofgard, and the junior division winner was Jeffery Brittain.

Elyssa's project was titled, "An Historical Analysis of the Current California Drought." She modeled several climatic variables and presented her findings in maps. Elyssa is a junior at Fairview High School in Boulder. Her advisor was Dr. Gilbert Compo.

Jeffery's project was titled, "Deer Crossing." He analyzed the distribution of deer in relation to auto-deer crashes. He utilized Google Earth to show the distribution of deer and their respective habitats. Jeffery is a seventh grader at Ignacio Middle School in Ignacio. Erik Skaggs was Jeffery's advisor.

Great work, Elyssa and Jeffrey!

## UCCS LAS Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Congratulations to previous COGA Administrator, Sara Santa Cruz, on receiving the 2015-2016 UCCS LAS Outstanding Graduate Student



Award. Sara graduated with her M.A. in Applied Geography in December 2015, and is now serving in the Peace Corps in Madagascar. During her service, Sara will be assisting local communities with techniques for organic gardening, permaculture, and rice

cultivation.

Congratulations, Sara!

## UCCS Undergraduate Student Sustainability Award

Congratulations to another COGA Administrator alumni, Alex Sinchak, on receiving the 2015-2016 UCCS Undergraduate Sustainability Award. Alex was awarded for her dedication to Divestment and Climate Change for the

student organization Students for Environmental Awareness and Sustainability (SEAS). In addition, Alex was awarded a [Jacquelyn Beyer Women in Geography Fellowship](#) for Spring 2016. Alex is a senior majoring in Geography and Environmental Studies and minoring in Sustainability.

Way to go, Alex!

## A Note from the New COGA Administrator

Hello!

My name is Becky Gronewold, and I joined the COGA team this April. I am currently finishing my first year of the graduate program in Applied Geography at UCCS. I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Northern Iowa with a B.S. in Geographic Information Science and a B.A. in Geography and Environmental Systems.

My research interests lie in ecological restoration, conservation, and public land studies, with a particular interest in urban greenway and trail design, planning, and management.

While attending the University of Northern Iowa, I worked with the [Geographic Alliance of Iowa](#); there I co-coordinated workshops for the implementation of geospatial technologies in secondary science and social science classrooms. In addition to my professional research interests, I have always had a passion for geographic education, and education in general. My mother is a teacher, as well as each of my five older siblings. I couldn't be more thankful for their positive influence, and their enthusiastic outlooks on teaching.

I look forward to serving as an advocate for the increased interest and awareness of geographic education in Colorado with the Colorado Geographic Alliance.

Best,

Becky Gronewold

## Resources for Geography Educators

### National Geographic Education Teaching Resources

[National Geographic Education Teaching Resources](#) provide ideas, lessons, and activities for K-12 classroom settings to engage students. This site also offers

daily ideas for educators along with mapping, media, professional development opportunities, educational games, and more. Check out ideas for preparing for a [Neighborhood BioBlitz](#). You can also access resources from states across the country through the [Network of Geography Education Alliances](#).





## Esri EdCommunity Instructional Resources

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can help learners of all ages and academic disciplines understand the world around them. GIS engages students and teachers in studies that promote critical thinking, integrated learning, and multiple intelligences. Resources on this [site](#) can be used in a variety of formal and informal education settings. You can also take explore an online course which will introduce you to the basic components of a GIS and learn about fundamental concepts that underlie the use of a GIS. As you practice working with GIS maps and geographic data, you will learn how a GIS helps people visualize and create information that can be used to make decisions and solve problems. Learn how you can get started with GIS [here](#).

Interested in moving GIS into your classroom, school, or district? Contact the Colorado Geographic Alliance to learn more about professional development opportunities in geospatial technology. You can reach us at 719-255-5217 or [coga@uccs.edu](mailto:coga@uccs.edu).

## Geography Educators in Tampa, July 28-31, 2016



**National Council for Geographic Education**

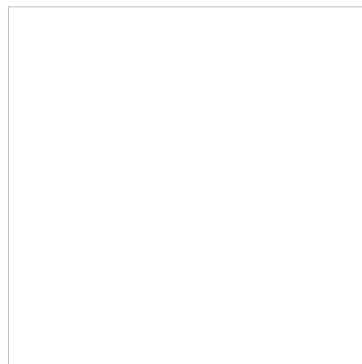
*Supporting geography educators since 1915*

### National Conference on Geography Education

NCGE is looking for volunteers to assist in making its conference a success! Volunteers will be reimbursed or comped for conference registration fees (8 hours= 50% off of registration; 16 hours= full coverage of registration). For more details, visit the [NCGE Conference](#) site.

Members of the Colorado Geographic Alliance receive discounted memberships and undergraduate and graduate students are eligible for FREE NCGE membership through the [NCGE Future GeoLeader Program](#).

## COGA Facebook and Blog



### Follow us on Facebook!

Our [Facebook page](#) posts upcoming events that are open to the public. You can also find interesting links to photo galleries and articles on geography.

### Check out our Blog as well!

[COGA's blog](#) shares workshop opportunities and professional development sessions for educators as well as geography education resources.

# Colorado Geographic Alliance

## VISION:

Changing our understanding and  
experience of the world

## MISSION:

To instill and nurture spatial awareness  
and geographic literacy

## VALUES:

Inspiring passion for Earth and its inhabitants  
Connecting people with geography  
Honoring inclusivity and diversity  
Exploring physical and human environments  
Developing spatial perspective

## CONTACT COGA:

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Colorado Springs, CO 80918  
719-255-5217

Ideas for upcoming newsletters? Great topics, links, or upcoming events you'd like COGA to share with geography educators? Let us know! We're here to connect.

[coga@uccs.edu](mailto:coga@uccs.edu)

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