

Winter 2016

In This Newsletter:

[Night with a Geographer](#)

[Geospatial Technology in Classrooms](#)

[Upcoming Workshops](#)

[National Geographic Bee](#)

[Resources for Geography Educators](#)

[Tesla's Toolbox: GIS in Everyday Life](#)

[National Recognition for Denver Geography Teacher](#)

[NCGE Award Nominations Due February 1st](#)

[What Geographers Do](#)

[Teaching with Primary Sources](#)

[Giant Traveling Maps Visit Colorado](#)

[Geography Awareness Week Recap](#)

[What to expect during the Colorado legislative session](#)

[The Geography Teacher has a New Editor](#)

[COGA Facebook and Blog](#)

Night with a

Welcome to those of you who are new to the [Colorado Geographic Alliance](#). COGA is a statewide educator's organization in which the collective knowledge of experienced teachers of geography, geographers in academia, and professional geographers is shared to strengthen the position of geography in Colorado schools. COGA works with the social studies, science, environmental, and technology communities to build on mutual objectives and to strengthen 21st century skills of Colorado students. We look forward to working with you to enhance students' knowledge of geography and spatial concepts.

Upcoming Workshops

Integrating the Social Studies - Teacher Professional Development Workshops in Pueblo and 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 4th 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.

El Pueblo History Museum 301 North Union Avenue Pueblo, CO 81003
Saturday, January 23, 2016 8:00am - 4:30pm

Click [here](#) for more information and to register for the Pueblo workshop in January.

History Colorado Center 1200 Broadway Denver, CO 80203
Saturday, March 5, 2016 8:30am - 4:30pm

Click [here](#) to register for the March 5th workshop and for more details.

Applying Geographic Thinking with Primary Sources Teaching with Primary Sources Special Topics Workshop

Saturday, January 30, 2016 8:30am - 4:00pm, Loveland

Access and investigate multiple genres of primary sources to develop expertise in geographic thinking. Working with geographers from the Colorado Geographic Alliance (COGA) and Library of Congress facilitators, learn methods to incorporate alternate analyses of classroom materials. Practice schemes to promote critical thinking and hypothesis testing while examining primary sources. 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: Essentials Exploration Workshop. Optional fee-based graduate credit

Geographer

*Why Maps Matter:
Geotechnologies for a
Smarter Planet
Mountain Chalet 226 N.
Tejon St. Colorado Springs
80903 Wednesday,
February 24th, 2016 6:15pm*

The impact of Geotechnologies goes beyond locating a retailer; today's maps can actually help to make the world safer, healthier and smarter. Join geographer and educator Joseph Kerski for a journey through some of the major issues of our 21st-century world to discover how maps are changing the ways we understand our planet. From natural disasters to global warming, from immigration patterns to transportation, from agriculture to epidemics, today's maps not only provide location information, but also trends, projections and analyses.

This free presentation features animations, videos and live web-based maps to illustrate advanced capabilities. Map everything from real-time airplane locations to your last hike, explore some of the major challenges facing our 21st-century world, and discover why maps matter.

For more details about Night with a Geographer, click this [link](#).

Geospatial Technology in the Classroom

available through UNC. Click [here](#) for details and click [here](#) to register.

National Geographic Bee



The National Geographic Bee challenges students to learn more about their world and starts with a contest at the school level. Get your students on the path of global citizenship. The Geographic Bee questions will test their knowledge of people, places, and animals across the world. Discounts for your school are still available through January 18th.

Click here to learn more about and register for the [National Geographic Bee](#).

Please contact the Colorado State Bee Coordinator, Rebecca DiMaio (rdimaio@gmail.com / 720-290-0798), for discounts on registration and financial assistance.

Encourage your students to take the [Daily Quiz](#).

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. 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 informational 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.



United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Do you [need a geologic reference of Alaska, or Mars](#), in your classroom? The USGS education [site](#) is a great place to explore. This site provides lesson ideas by grade level for elementary, secondary, and undergraduates. Maps are available for a variety of

themes, including geographic names and the age of rocks and elevation.



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



Like Us on FaceBook

[Check out our blog!](#)



National Council for Geographic Education

Supporting geography educators since 1915

NCGE K-12 Teaching Resources

The National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) is a non-profit organization chartered in 1915 to enhance the status and quality of geography teaching and learning. It provides resources to support all educators to create engaging, authentic, inquiry-based learning experiences for students. Resources on this [site](#) include webinars, journals, standards, and lesson plans.

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

Tesla's Toolbox: GIS in Everyday Life



Space Foundation Discovery Center
4425 Arrowswest Drive, Colorado Springs
80907

Saturday, April 23, 2016 10:00am - 12:00pm

Come to the Space Foundation Discovery Center in Colorado Springs for a workshop to gain experience with hands-on educational activities, take home technology projects, and explore the museum. Colorado Geographic Alliance Coordinator Steve Jennings will lead participants in understanding geospatial technologies and create real world solutions using geographic analysis.

This event is appropriate for ages 10 and up. Tesla's Toolbox takes place every 3rd Saturday of the month. For event details, admission information, and coupon click on this [link](#) or call 719.576.8000. Click this [link](#) to register.

National Recognition for Denver Geography Teacher

Read in [The Atlantic](#) about Chris DeRemer's work with students at Manual High School as they investigated data to learn about their neighborhood, local politics, and geographic technology. The Advanced Placement Human Geography students have been constructing stories about their observations on urban renewal and gentrification in East Denver. The project, titled "Altering the East Side", has been a long process focused on students finding their own stories as the neighborhood around them changes. This project has culminated in recorded narratives that highlight student experiences and observations. Though raw, these stories are true experiences from students at Manual, not research reports or analytical essays but a collection of stories by a group not typically represented in these discussions.

The Facebook [site](#) is designed to be a discussion. You are invited to add your ideas and comments so students can respond. Chris DeRemer writes, "Please remember that these are kids, mostly 9th graders, and they have put a lot of time into these stories and sharing their perspectives."

NCGE Award Nominations Due February 1st

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



The National Council for Geographic Education is dedicated to recognizing educators and advocates who have made outstanding contributions to geography education. Awards are given for teaching, research, and service. NCGE's highest award is the George J. Miller Award, named for NCGE's founder and long-time editor of the Journal of Geography. Award nomination materials should be submitted to the NCGE Central Office. The materials are then forwarded to the appropriate committees for evaluation. Winners are announced in early summer and recipients are recognized at a special ceremony during NCGE's annual conference. Colorado has boasted several past winners - please nominate a deserving educator or researcher for an award in 2016.

The deadline for award nominations in February 1st, 2016. Click [here](#) to learn more about nomination details for different awards.

What Geographers Do

Jeff Derry, a University of Colorado Colorado Springs alumnus, is the new Executive Director of the Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies (CSAS) in Silverton, Colorado.

Jeff's passion for Polar Regions led him to work seasonally in Antarctica and Greenland. In Antarctica, Jeff held positions such as oceanic research associate, fuels supervisor, mechanic, and Manager of Marble Point located at the base of the environmentally fragile McMurdo Dry Valleys. In Greenland, Jeff oversaw and conducted multidisciplinary scientific investigations at the summit of the Greenland icecap.

Jeff returned to school and earned a M.S. in Watershed Science from Colorado State University with an emphasis in snow hydrology. For a period of five years Jeff worked for GW-Scientific in Fairbanks, Alaska. After that, Jeff returned to Fort Collins and consulted with Golder Associates. Now Jeff continues his work at the Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies where he utilizes his skills and experience to contribute to the future development of CSAS and its mission to study snowpack in the San Juan Mountains in Colorado. Click [here](#) to learn more about Jeff and his work.

COGA features geographers and their careers on our website. Click on this [link](#) to learn more about What Geographers Do.



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 if you are interested in scheduling one for educators in your area. There is no charge for a workshop.

Giant Traveling Maps Visit Colorado

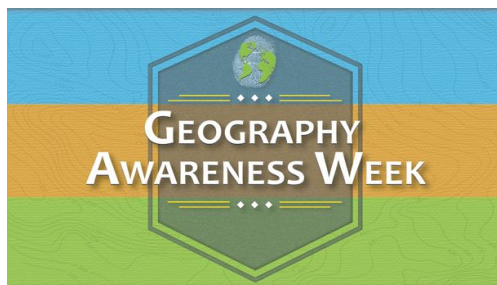
This fall, three of [National Geographic's Giant Maps](#) came to Colorado. Academy School District 20 in Colorado Springs hosted the map of Asia, and elementary school students across the district explored the physical geography of our largest continent. Denver Public Schools incorporated the North America map into its curriculum. The Giant Map of Africa traveled to Adams 14, Saint Vrain, and Lewis-Palmer school districts, and was also part of the [Cool Science Carnival Day](#) at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs campus on October 3rd. Najla, an elementary school student, observed, "I made a connection to the map, Africa made me think that the world is bigger than just Longmont."

Students from the community had the opportunity to learn about the continent with fun activities. Cool Science was a huge success; over 5,000 people attended the Carnival and over 250 kids visited the Giant Map.

Schools, districts, and nonprofit organizations may borrow a map from National Geographic for a two-week period. Check out the [COGA website](#) to learn about the rental process and to determine if your school or district might be eligible for map funding.



Geography Awareness Week Recap



Each year more than 100,000 Americans participate in Geography Awareness Week. Established by presidential proclamation in 1987, this annual public awareness program organized by National Geographic Education Programs (NGEP) encourages citizens young and old to think

and learn about the significance of place and how we affect and are affected by it. Geography Awareness Week is supported by year-long access to materials and resources for teachers, parents, community activists and all geographically-minded global citizens.

This past year, the theme of Geography Awareness Week was "Explore!"

The Power of Maps." Schools and government organizations recognized the holiday with proclamations and hosted activities such as classroom lessons and GIS Day demonstrations that educated participants on spatial geography and its importance in society.

Students, staff, and faculty at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs participated in the third annual GeoQuiz Night, centered around human, physical, and digital geography trivia questions. Members of the Colorado Springs community came to test their knowledge and prizes were awarded to those who answered questions including the following: "Which country borders the Caribbean Sea and is a major exporter of oil?" "What does LiDAR stand for?" "Which types of contour lines are the thickest and are accompanied with a number indicating the elevation?"

Click [here](#) to see photos of GeoQuiz.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Geography Awareness Week in Colorado and [here](#) to learn more about the yearly celebration organized by National Geographic.



What to expect during the 2016 Colorado legislative session

As you may recall, last spring the Colorado General Assembly spent a great deal of energy discussing assessment, ultimately passing bills reducing the amount of time students spend taking summative state tests. What does this year hold? "Chalkbeat" hosted five legislators on a snowy January afternoon to hear their [viewpoints](#). Finances continue to be of concern, both for K-12 and higher education, as do issues of student data privacy. The Colorado Geographic Alliance will work with educators and nonprofit organizations across the state to use available data collected by the Colorado Department of Education to determine the best use of our resources and materials.

The Geography Teacher has a new Editor

Colorado Geographic Alliance Coordinator Rebecca Theobald was recently named as the [new editor](#) of one of the National Council for Geographic Education's journals. She is looking forward to sharing resources, lesson plans, and projects with a national audience. Do you have a great lesson plan or an approach to learning that you would like to publish? Visit the instructions for authors [site](#) for more information.

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:

Colorado Geographic Alliance
coloradogeographicalliance@yahoo.com
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway
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

This project is funded in part by a grant from the
National Geographic Society Education Foundation.

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

[SafeUnsubscribe™ coloradogeographicalliance@yahoo.com](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by coloradogeographicalliance@yahoo.com in collaboration with



Try it free today