

Arizona Game and Fish Department's GeoMentor Program

2014-15



Heritage Fund

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) is looking for classroom teachers who wish to improve their understanding of GIS (geographic information systems) and its applications to wildlife management. Through a year-long program, Department education and GIS staff will serve as mentors to help teachers understand and apply GIS tools and content into their classroom instruction.

The primary goals of GeoMentor program include helping the participating teachers:

- Explain GIS as well as its history and development.
- Understand the role of GIS in wildlife management.
- Utilize existing GIS tools, such as HabiMap and ArcGIS, in their classroom.
- Create and implement a unique, wildlife-based GIS lesson or unit into their classroom.
- Increase awareness of wildlife and conservation related opportunities and activities in Arizona.

AZGFD staff and participating teachers would meet formally on four occasions throughout the school year. Two of these would be in-person and two would be virtual. The final in-person meeting would include an opportunity for the teachers to share their experience with the other participants and perhaps the general public. In addition, AZGFD staff would be available between meetings for phone/email consultation on a periodic basis. The tentative schedule would be:

- October 25 – first in-person meeting; held at AZGFD Phoenix headquarters; would involve training on GIS
- Early December – first virtual meeting; participants would begin discussions on potential lesson ideas
- Late January – second virtual meeting; participants would continue discussion and lesson implementation
- Early May – second in-person meeting; held at AZGFD HQ; would include a poster session by participants

To guarantee the most positive mentoring experience, the program is limited to a small number of participants. Teachers can apply as individuals or teams of up to three. Ideal participants would:

- Teach middle or high school in a public school in Arizona.
- Teach science and/or social studies (focus on geography).
- Have prior experience integrating technology into the classroom.

Participating educators would be responsible for:

- Attending the two in-person and two virtual meetings.
- Developing and teaching a unique, wildlife-based GIS lesson in their classroom during the current academic year.
- Creating and presenting a professional poster/white paper on their experience and lesson.
- Providing copies of lesson and presentation materials to AZGFD for larger distribution.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please complete the application on the back side of this paper. Applications should be emailed to Eric Proctor at eproctor@azgfd.gov by 5pm on Wednesday, September 24, 2014.



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2014-15 Application

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Year-round Phone: _____ Year-round Email: _____

School Name: _____ District: _____

School Address: _____

Grade(s) You Currently Teach: _____

Courses You Currently Teach: _____

Please answer the following questions on another sheet of paper.

1. If you are applying as a team, answer the questions above for each of the other participants. Teams cannot be more than three individuals.
2. Why are you interested in participating in the GeoMentor program? What do you hope to get out of it?
3. Briefly describe your current understanding of geographic information systems (GIS).
4. Briefly describe your experience integrating technology into your classroom instruction.
5. Briefly describe the access that you and your students have to computers and the Internet at your school?
6. To the best of your ability, describe the characteristics of the computers that you would be using to support this effort. This can include operating system, version, RAM, total hard disk space, available hard disk space, Internet speed, and firewall/data sharing challenges.

By signing below, I acknowledge that, if selected, I must participate in all sessions and develop and implement an original lesson in my classroom.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Scan the signed and completed application form and email it to eproctor@azgfd.gov.

DEADLINE TO RECEIVE ALL MATERIALS IS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2014

Applications will be reviewed and all accepted participants will be notified by the first week in October.