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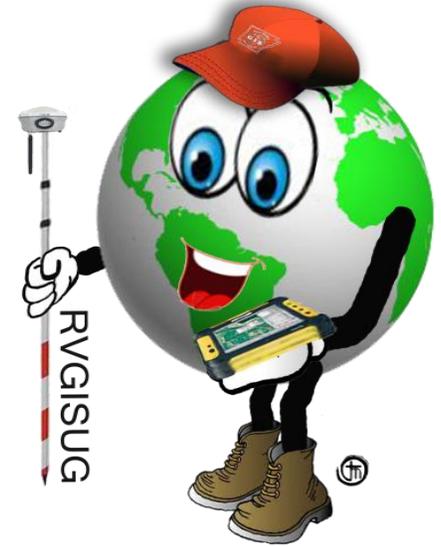
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GIS day
2014

Exploring GIS/GPS

Wednesday,

November 12, 2014

Kay Rodgers Park

Fort Smith, AR

9am - 2 pm

GIS day 2014

The first River Valley GIS Day was held November 2009 and is the only event in this area that focuses solely on students; the **future** GIS Professionals. Over the last 5 years, this GIS event has impacted approximately 2,000 students and educators. This event allows them to share, learn, and collaborate together with GIS professionals in the River Valley. This year we will be hosting our 6th annual event with anticipation of sharing GIS/GPS technology with 500+ students from area schools.

What is GIS Day?

GIS Day is a global event during which GIS (Geographic Information Systems) users work to expand the understanding of how GIS technology and geography make a difference in our lives. GIS, a computer-based tool used to map and analyze features and events, combines the power of a database with the visualization capabilities offered by maps. Hundreds of thousands of people in the world use GIS to solve problems in areas such as environmental protection, pollution, health care, land use, asset deployment and routing, natural resources, conservation, business efficiency, education and social inequities.

What is GIS?

This is probably the most asked question posed to those in the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) field and is probably the hardest to answer in a succinct and clear manner.

GIS is a technological field that incorporates geographical features with tabular data in order to map, analyze, and assess real-world problems. The key word to this technology is Geography – this means that some portion of the data is spatial, in other words, data that is in some way referenced to locations on the earth. Coupled with this data is usually tabular data known as attribute data. Attribute data can be generally defined as additional information about each of the spatial features. An example of this would be schools. The actual location of the schools is the spatial data. Additional data such as the school name, level of education taught, student capacity would make up the attribute data. It is the partnership of these two data types that enables GIS to be such an effective problem solving tool through spatial analysis.

GIS operates on many levels. On the most basic level, GIS is used as computer cartography, i.e. mapping. The real power in GIS is through using spatial and statistical methods to analyze attribute and geographic information. The end result of the analysis can be derivative information, interpolated information or prioritized information.

"GIS is…" quotes

"In the strictest sense, a GIS is a computer system capable of assembling, storing, manipulating, and displaying geographically referenced information, i.e. data identified according to their locations. Practitioners also regard the total GIS as including operating personnel and the data that go into the system." USGS

"A geographic information system (GIS) is a computer-based tool for mapping and analyzing things that exist and events that happen on earth. GIS technology integrates common database operations such as query and statistical analysis with the unique visualization and geographic analysis benefits offered by maps." ESRI

"GIS is an integrated system of computer hardware, software, and trained personnel linking topographic, demographic, utility, facility, image and other resource data that is geographically referenced." NASA

As users of GIS technology, we are excited to share this technology with area grade school and high school students. The River Valley GIS Users Group hosts a full day of numerous demonstrations that illustrates how geography is a part of our everyday lives. **We look forward to seeing your school at GIS Day 2014!**