



Did you know that by participating in The National Map Corps (TNMCorps) and editing points, you're actually considered a citizen scientist?

That's right! According to CitizenScience.org, citizen science is "the involvement of the public in scientific research" (2017). We rely heavily on you, our "citizen scientists" to conduct research for us by updating and mapping structures data. This data is then used by the USGS to update [The National Map](#) and [topo maps](#), thereby providing an important service to the community.

There are many benefits that stem from citizen science, for both projects and participants. Data production can be resource-intensive due to the costs of traveling to each site and the time necessary to record information in detail. By relying upon citizen scientists to help with data collection, projects can accomplish the same amount of work while spreading their project resources across a wider range of tasks. This is especially beneficial for tasks based out of government offices, whose projects often have tight budgets and are publicly funded.

Did you know??? There is a series of events held annually for Citizen Science Day in April! For more information, visit <https://scistarter.com/citizen-science-day>



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 [Citizen Science Day!](#)
- 2 [Setting up a Display Name](#)
- 3 [Technical Community Colleges vs. Trade Schools](#)
- 4 [Proper Formatting](#)
- 5 [Preschool Update](#)
- 6 [Amish Schools](#)
- 7 [Finding Unedited Points \(They're There!\)](#)
- 9 [TNMCorps Team Corner](#)
- 9 [TNMCorps Crossword](#)
- 10 [Recognition](#)

Using citizen scientists also allows projects to achieve a particular amount of transparency while educating the public about the missions behind, and the importance of such work. Citizen science gives participants an opportunity to contribute to a greater project, which often centers on working to improve their surrounding communities. Contributing towards such projects gives citizen scientists a deeper sense of investment and pride in their communities as a result.

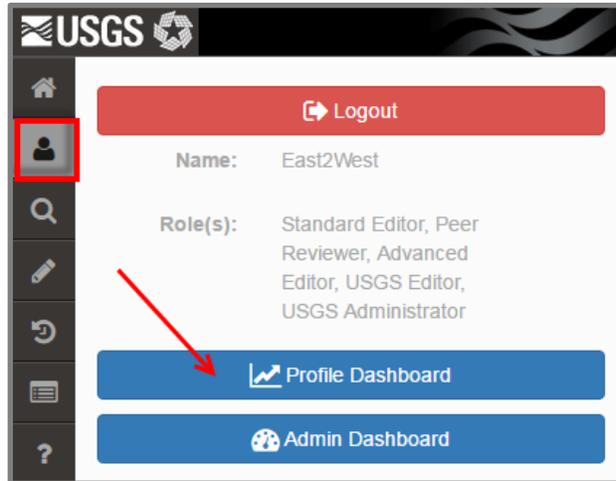
In addition to The National Map Corps, there are many opportunities to become involved in citizen science. The Citizen Science Association and SciStarter combine efforts to facilitate a series of events in April of each year, with activities geared around citizen participation. Other organizations facilitating citizen science activities include science centers, museums, libraries, universities and schools, and federal agencies, so check them out! And as always, we are gracious for the work performed by our citizen scientists and hope you decide to continue contributing towards our missions! Happy mapping!

Setting up a Display Name

Welcome to The National Map Corps! If this is your first time logging on and you need to create a display (user) name, or if you've been wondering how to change your username, the following steps will guide you through the process:

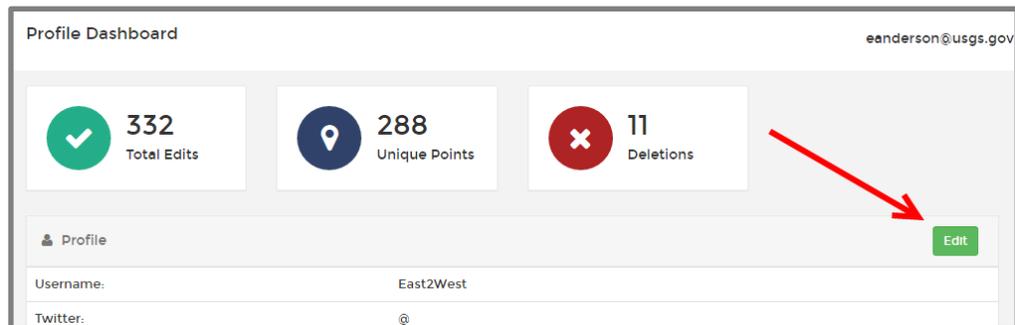
1

After you log on to the editor, go to your Profile Dashboard:



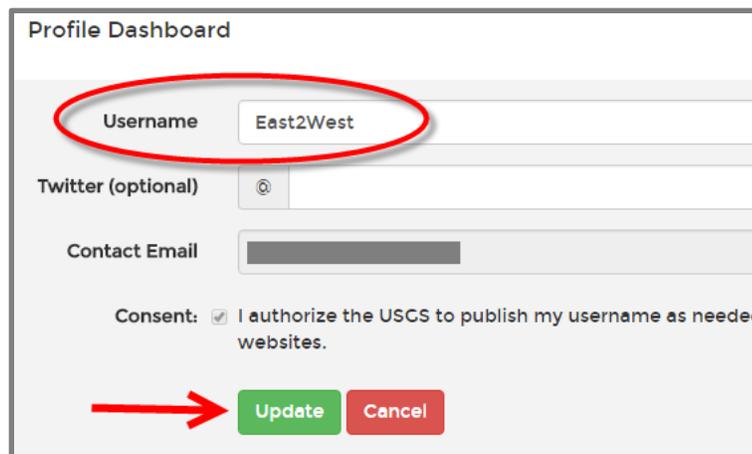
2

Click on the green 'Edit' button on the right:



3

Enter your new username and click the green 'Update' button. After you click update, you should be all set!



See some useful guidelines for choosing a username on the next page!





When choosing your username please follow these rules:

	YES	NO
Don't make it your full name	BJS128	Bob John Smith
Don't use the GUID (This is the number that you are randomly assigned when you first log in. It should be changed to something else)	MapMaster3000	{7cbbcb9321-68bb-4997-ad3-53a76801751g}
Don't use your email address as your username	east2west	east2west@gmail.com

Technical Community Colleges vs. Trade Schools

A challenge you might frequently encounter is discerning which feature type you should assign to a structure. Often it's pretty easy figuring out which feature type a structure belongs to; post offices and cemeteries for example. But sometimes you'll come across features that are more difficult to distinguish. These structures might have characteristics of more than one feature type and fall into a feature type "gray area."

Recently we came across some features that fell into this gray-area. The features in question were campuses for the Central Louisiana Technical Community College (CLTCC). CLTCC's websites indicated that vocational and/or technical careers heavily influenced CLTCC's program offerings. There were already some points in the Map Editor representing CLTCC's campuses and they were categorized as trade schools. Even the name seems to indicate that it's a trade school. With these traits and an authoritative website that lists a "welding boot camp" and a "manufacturing training center" among others, it has to be a trade school, right??

Not so fast... You know the saying, "Don't judge a book by its cover"?? The same can be said of structures that we map. On the surface, CLTCC appears to be a trade school; some initial surface digging seems to support that notion. But after doing some [deep research](#), we discovered that CLTCC offers associates degrees as its highest reward. As you may recall from our [Structures List](#), a "college/university" is defined as "an institution of higher learning that grants a degree at the completion of a course of studies."

CLTCC also offers a few academic courses as part of its programs. The academic courses and associates degrees offered render this institution a "junior college." Ok, so what's a junior college? The US Census Bureau has a [NAICS](#) code that answers this very question. The NAICS code for Junior Colleges is [611210](#), which defines them as "establishments primarily engaged in furnishing academic, or academic and technical, courses and granting associate's degrees, certificates, or diplomas below the baccalaureate level" (US Census Bureau, 2016). CLTCC certainly fits the bill for a junior college that offers academic and technical courses while offering associates degrees.

So with a bit of deep research and a critical eye, we see that a technical community college with several vocational and technical influences is indeed a "college/university."

As always, if you ever get really stuck and just aren't sure which category to group a feature under, we're happy to assist. Just check out our [Q&A website](#), or send us a message at nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov.

Proper Formatting

Proper name and address formatting ensures that the data you enter for us complies with our database standards. It also makes our job just a little bit easier when we're quality checking the data.

Here are just a few quick (but important!) things to remember when formatting names and addresses:

THE HUMBLE HYPHEN

<p>Name</p> <input type="text" value="Jenkins-White Elementary School"/> 	<p>If you come across a name or address from an authoritative source that includes a hyphen (-), make sure to include a space on each side.</p>
<p>Name</p> <input type="text" value="Jenkins - White Elementary School"/> 	

THAT PESKY PROPER CASE

<p>When editing red (unedited) points, you've probably noticed that the name and address are often entered in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS, or that street designators are abbreviated.</p> <p>While not absolutely required, we sure do appreciate it when our editors take the time to clean up the case and spell out those abbreviations!</p>	<p>Name</p> <input type="text" value="WARREN RD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"/> <p>GNIS ID</p> <input type="text"/>  <p>Address 1</p> <input type="text" value="311 WARREN RD"/>
	<p>Name</p> <input type="text" value="Warren Road Elementary School"/> <p>GNIS ID</p> <input type="text"/>  <p>Address 1</p> <input type="text" value="311 Warren Road"/>

THOSE DISCREET DIRECTIONS

Address 1 700 CAMELOT BLVD SW	
Address 1 700 Camelot Boulevard Southwest	

Just like street designators, cardinal directions in addresses are often abbreviated. When formatting those, we prefer that you spell them out.

We don't require Standard Editors to check and edit the address fields. However, if you decide to confirm address information, please take the time to format it properly.

For more detailed information on name and address formatting, see our aptly named [Name and Address Formatting Guide](#).

Preschool Update

If you've come across a preschool while editing and weren't sure what to do with it, you're not alone!

You may have heard conflicting information in the past, but we're here to clear up the confusion once and for all. If you find points representing preschools, please delete them. We are **not** currently collecting preschools or daycare centers, so you don't need to add them to the map either!



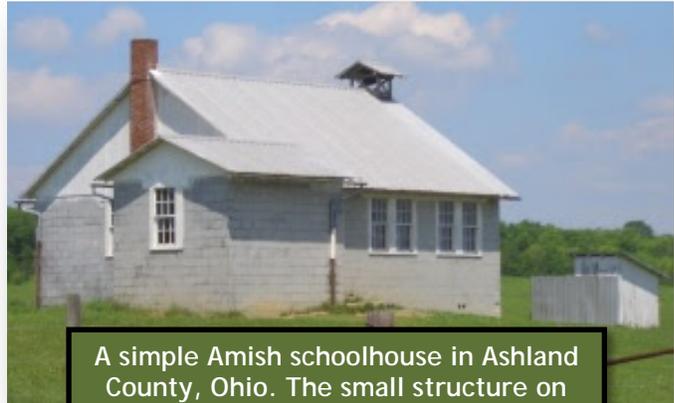
Amish Schools

As some of you well know, it can be extremely difficult to verify and locate Amish and small, rural schools! Sometimes all you have to work with is the name of a road and some non-descript buildings in the imagery. Unfortunately, we don't have a foolproof method for identifying Amish schools, but we can give you some pointers.

First, enter any street or address information you can find into an online map service to identify the general location of where you think the school might be. Then, using either the address or coordinates obtained from the online map service, identify the same location in the TNMCorps editor.

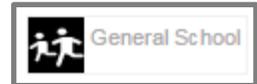
Next, we need to look closely at the imagery to try and identify some distinguishing features of a school yard in the surrounding landscape. Amish schools are often surrounded by make-shift baseball or softball fields or playgrounds (teeter-totters, swing sets, or 4-square lines). Occasionally you may also be able to identify small structures representing boys and girls outhouses near a larger building.

<http://amishamerica.com/why-do-amish-only-go-to-school-until-8th-grade/>



A simple Amish schoolhouse in Ashland County, Ohio. The small structure on the right is an outhouse.

Since most Amish schools provide education for children up to the 8th grade, they can be labeled with a General School icon.



This image illustrates what a playground might look like in the imagery. The shadows show that these are swing sets and that there is also a basketball court and a jungle gym. Based on the playground's proximity to the larger structure, we can reasonably assume that the larger structure is a school and place or move our point to that building.

If you're having a really difficult time locating the school even after doing thorough research, we advise against adding a point to the map. If you come across any questionable locations they should be deleted. But if you'd like to take on the challenge of editing Amish schoolhouses, you can find a list of private schools with 'Amish' in the name on the [National Center for Education Statistics \(NCES\)](http://nces.gov/) website. A state's Department of Education website is also a great resource since they often have databases of licensed schools, including Amish ones. You can also find a ton of interesting information about Amish communities at <http://amishamerica.com/>. If you choose to accept this challenge, we wish you the best of luck!

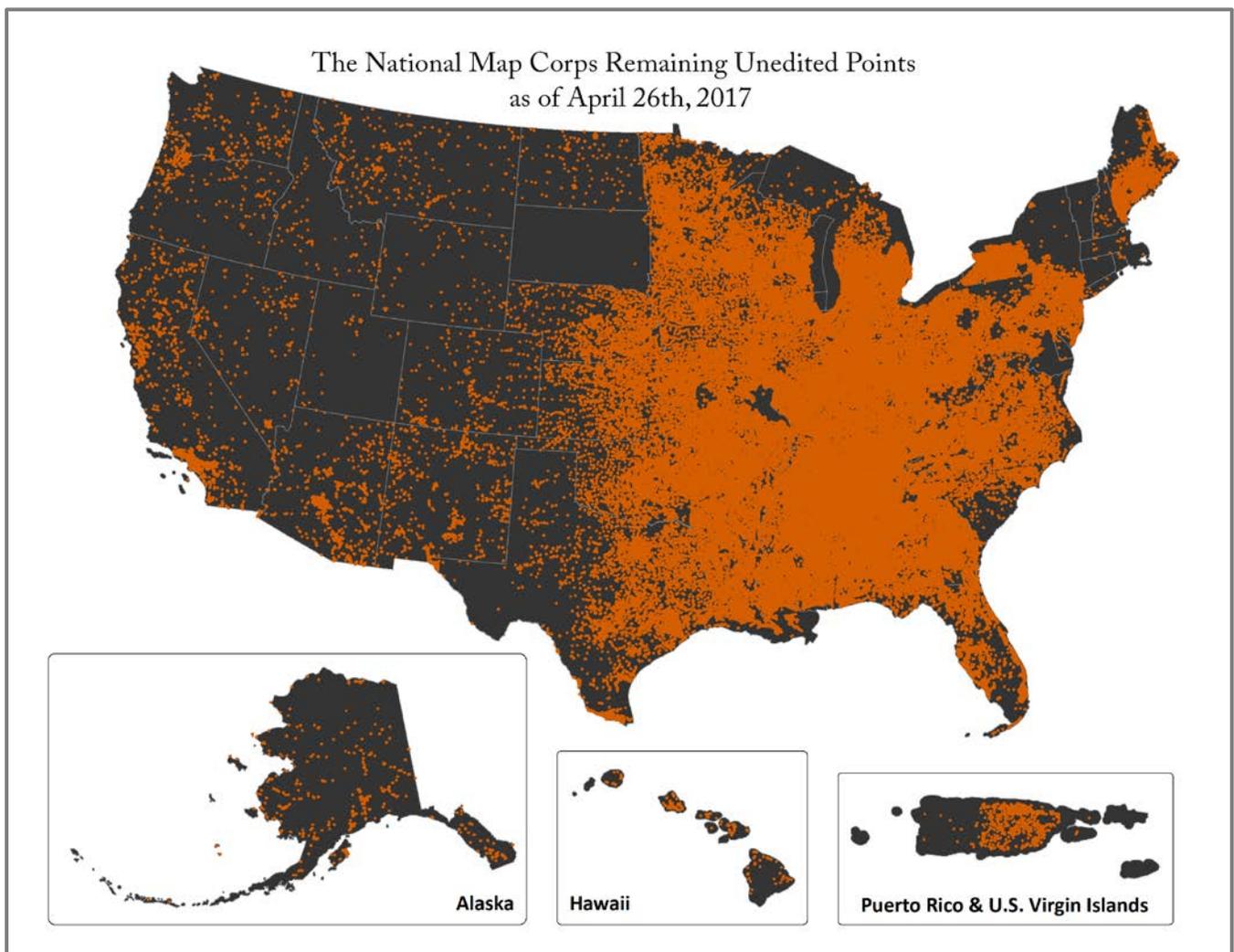
Finding Unedited Points (They're there!)

Now that our amazing TNMCorps volunteers have edited over 55% of the existing points, you may be having some trouble finding the remaining unedited points to edit. While we think this is a great problem to have, we want you to be able to find those points, and we certainly don't want to lose new editors because they can't find data to edit. In our [March newsletter](#) we gave you a few pointers on how to find unedited data in the editor (page 6).



Remember, unedited data points have
a red border 

We recommend you check out that article, but you can also check out the map below! It shows the remaining unedited points at a small scale to give you a general idea of areas that need editing.

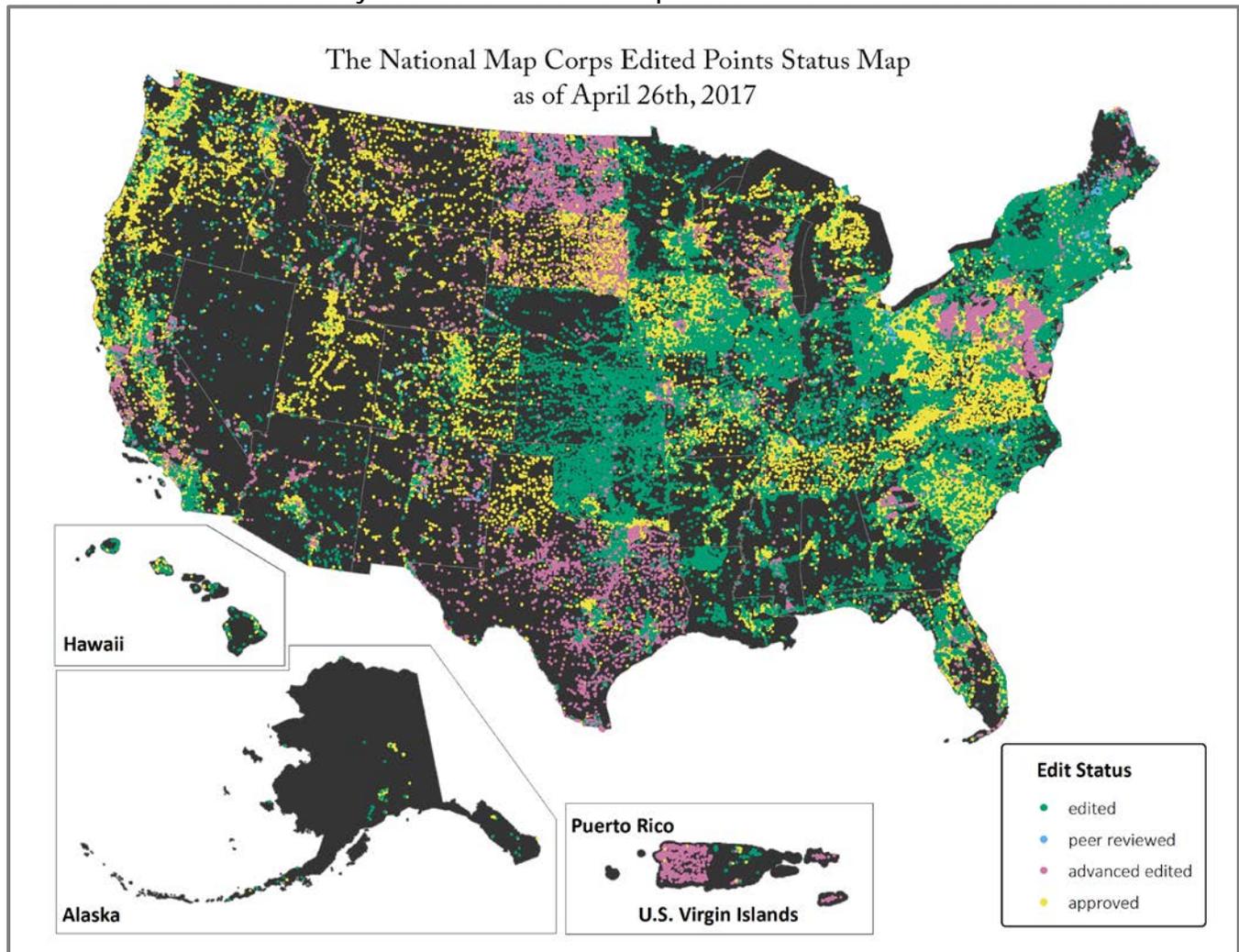


We are currently working on creating some additional ways to show the remaining unedited data, as well as the data that needs to be peer reviewed. This includes some improvements within the editor that will make it easier to find those red points. In addition, we are bringing back our [mapping challenges](#)! Through the mapping challenges we can direct volunteers to specific areas and structure types that need to be updated. Check out our latest challenge below!



Having trouble finding points to edit? Check out our **NEW MAPPING CHALLENGE!** We know you have been patiently waiting for a new mapping challenge since our new editor came online last August, and the wait is finally over! This time we'll be concentrating on post offices in Illinois. If you'd like to participate, check out the link above to learn more and get started!!

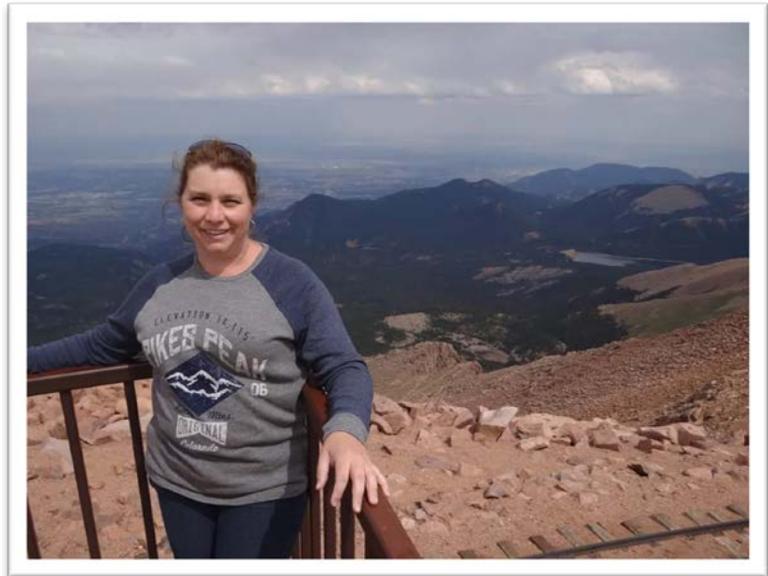
Curious to see what has already been done? Here is a map that shows all of the volunteer contributions:



A tremendous amount of work has been done by our volunteers to improve The National Map and U.S. Topo maps, but there are still over 180,000 unedited points that need to be checked. So log in and start editing those red points. We couldn't do it without you!

TNMCORPS Team Corner

Our family is growing!! In March, The National Map Corps picked up a new team member: Samantha Doering. Samantha recently relocated to Colorado from the Midwest and has been with USGS in Denver for almost a year now. She has a background in urban planning with almost 20 years of experience managing geographic data. Samantha also brings with her 10 years of experience performing GIS tasks for an engineering firm, where she served as a technical liaison. She was also responsible for coordinating GIS tasks among county agencies in pursuit of regulatory compliance reporting. Samantha will be providing technical services for the team as she returns to school to pursue a Masters in Natural Resources. In her free time, Sam enjoys hiking and landscape photography while exploring national parks and national monuments.



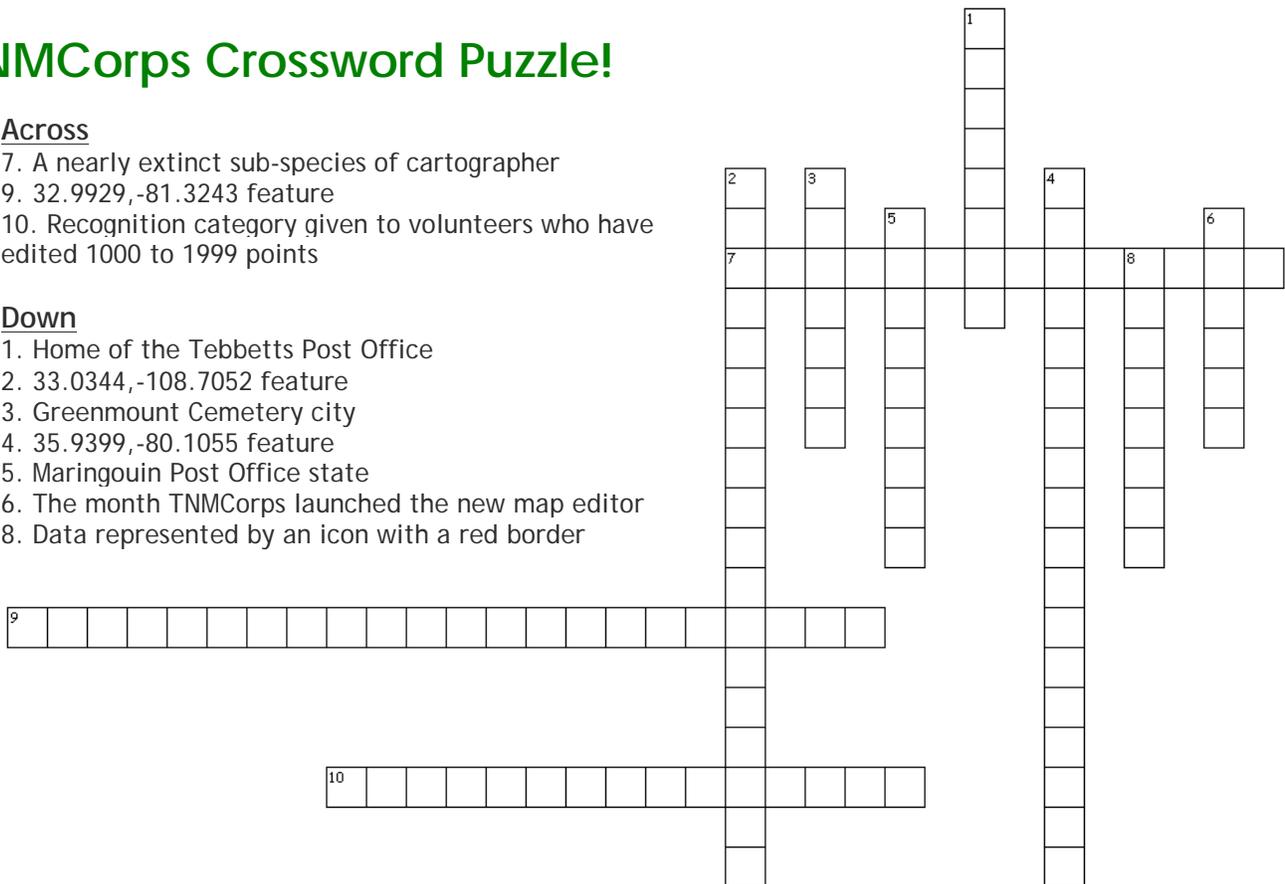
TNMCORPS Crossword Puzzle!

Across

- 7. A nearly extinct sub-species of cartographer
- 9. 32.9929, -81.3243 feature
- 10. Recognition category given to volunteers who have edited 1000 to 1999 points

Down

- 1. Home of the Tebbetts Post Office
- 2. 33.0344, -108.7052 feature
- 3. Greenmount Cemetery city
- 4. 35.9399, -80.1055 feature
- 5. Maringouin Post Office state
- 6. The month TNMCORPS launched the new map editor
- 8. Data represented by an icon with a red border



Have a story or photo you'd like to share?

We want them! This could be anything from a photo of you verifying a structure or an interesting story that you discovered while editing. Photos, graphics, and stories may be used in future news releases and social media posts. All materials submitted become part of the "public domain," and can be used by USGS in the future unless otherwise specified.

Please email them to nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov

Name that App!

We've been calling the new editor, "new editor" or "TNMCorps Map Editor". But we could really use some help in coming up with a creative name! If you have any suggestions for a name for our online editor, please email your suggestions to nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov.

New Recognition Category Members



Squadron of Biplane Spectators
(6000-6999)



Ring of Reconnaissance Rocketeers
(5000-5999)



Family of Floating Photogrammetrists
(3000-3999)



Flock of Winged Witnesses
(4000-4999)



Theodolite Assemblage (2000-2999)



Alidade Alliance (1000-1999)

- GeoND
- tmp21038



Stadia Board Society (500-999)

- tmp21038



Circle of the Surveyor's Compass (200-499)

- AndrewNguyen
- Lapunta8
- fendersh



Pedometer Posse (100-199)

- Lapunta8
- kensiestallings
- Peregrine
- fendersh



Society of the Steel Tape (50-99)

- Lapunta8
- hildebrand1944
- SJ9873
- kensiestallings
- K-Shenefiel
- Peregrine
- Rui L
- fendersh
- serallers



Order of the Surveyor's Chain (25-49)

- Lapunta8
- SJ9873
- rockymountainheidi
- Nelsonsel
- kensiestallings
- jordanskordahl
- AndrewMuniz
- K-Shenefiel
- LouisianaGirl
- Peregrine
- Rui L
- crimsondoves93
- f.iturrino
- fendersh
- keynola
- serallers
- Animainia

CONTACT US AT: nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov for suggestions, questions, additions to the next newsletter, or if you would like to be removed from the email list.

