



Fall 2016 Steering Committee Meeting

Towson University

October 15, 2016

Alliance business

For anyone interested in attending these meetings who is not a steering committee member, meetings are held a few weeks prior to each reporting period for the Alliance. Reporting periods are October 31st and April 31st of each year.

Standards revision and assessment

- Since geography is not tested, schools tend to put their “weakest” teachers in charge of those courses
- There is no separate geography standard; geography is one of five strands in the state’s social studies standards
 - Other social studies strands: civics, peoples of the nation and world, economics, social studies skills and processes
- The state does not assess in geography
- There is no required geography course for graduation
- [Social studies standards in Maryland](#)

State level educational committees

- Currently, no alliance members participate
- *We have been looking for teachers who are a part of state-level educational committees, including standards revisions committee, textbook adoption committee, and others. If you are a part of any committees like these, please let us know.

Budgeting

The Alliance budgeting request for the 2017-2018 fiscal year must be submitted to National Geographic by April 30, 2017. National Geographic’s fiscal year lasts from November 1, 2017-October 31, 2018.

Budget proposal meetings

- Meetings will be held a few weeks before the budget submission deadline to allocate money for the following year

- Any member of the Maryland Geographic Alliance may submit a budget proposal. Proposals must adhere to the guidelines provided by the Alliance (coming soon).
- Budgeting suggestions from the steering committee:
 - Leadership development/conference grants
 - Reimbursement for substitutes and registration
 - Summer institutes for teachers
 - Professional development/travel fellowship
 - AP Human Geography class visits to different colleges around the state

Programming

We will continue to work with geography and educational organizations to offer programs to teachers and students. Our goal is to offer more programs and opportunities across many locations in Maryland.

Not-so-giant state map

- In cooperation with Towson University's Center for GIS, we will rent out "Not-so-giant" state maps to Maryland schools. The maps will be about 8'x10', and will include topography, important cities, and other map important map elements.
- Another "giant map" alternative: members of the steering committee suggested producing the Maryland map on a digital platform so teachers are able to turn off/on layers and print those map tiles out on 8.5"x11" pieces of paper

BioBlitz

- Because most schools are unable to hold field trips after April, more BioBlitz opportunities should be offered during the school year
- We will seek help from other organizations to coordinate BioBlitz events
- BioBlitz opportunities should also be offered during the summer at various summer camps/programs

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

- On April 8, 2017, the CBMM will host "Family Day"
- The event will feature National Geographic's Giant Map of Maryland
- The possibility of integrating geospatial technologies like GIS was discussed

Baltimore Green Map

- Be on the lookout for a meeting hosted by the Maryland Association on Environmental and Outdoor Education in early February

- Janet Felsten of Baltimore Green Map will present at the meeting

T3G Institute

- The institute which was originally held at Esri Headquarters in Redlands, CA will now be a virtual institute for teachers during the summer
- *If you are a Maryland educator and attended the T3G Institute in the past, please let us know

Maryland Geographic Bee

- The State Bee will be held on March 31, 2017 at Maryland Public Television Station in Owings Mills
 - [Register your school for the Bee](#)
- *If you would like to volunteer for the Maryland Geographic Bee, let us know and we will get you in contact with the Bee coordinator, Allison Ewing

MGA Geography Educator of the Year

Before our meeting in April, we would like to select a geography educator of the year. Applicants must encourage his or her students to think geospatially and integrate geography concepts into lessons. Educators of any grade level (K-12) will be considered. We will release an application for this opportunity in the next few months.