



Press Information

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Reaching Out to the Community

LOJIC Sponsors GIS Day Celebration

Louisville, KY— LOJIC announces its plans to educate students during Geography Awareness Week (November 12 – 18). In coordination with the Jefferson County Public Schools, map displays and presentations will be conducted at the following schools: J. G. Brown School, Central High School, Doss High School, Jeffersontown High School, Kennedy Elementary School, and Waggener Traditional High School in observance of GIS Day, November 15. There will also be map displays at the Gheens Academy and Shawnee Public Library. Local Geographic Information Systems (GIS) professionals from LOJIC, University of Louisville Center for GIS (ULCGIS), Spatial Data Integrations (SDI), Gresham Smith and Partners (GS&P), and Fuller Mossbarger Scott & May (FMSM) are working together to provide JCPS students from Kindergarten to 12th grade the opportunity to learn firsthand how geographic information is used in our community everyday.

GIS Day 2000 is a global event that celebrates GIS, the exciting technology that uses geography to change the world. It is being held on November 15, the Wednesday of Geography Awareness Week, and is principally sponsored by the National Geographic Society, the Association of American Geographers, the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Library of Congress, and ESRI.

GIS is a computer-based tool for mapping and analyzing geographic objects and events. It combines the power of a database with the visualization capabilities offered by maps. GIS technology is used throughout the world and right here in Louisville to solve problems in such areas as environmental protection, health care, land use, business efficiency, education, and much more. GIS helps the police make our neighborhoods safer by mapping crimes just like on the new TV show, “The District” and health officials target areas for lead screening. Most people are unaware of it, but they are probably benefiting from GIS technology when they use an automated teller machine, pull a map off the Internet, receive an overnight delivery, or stop at a fast food restaurant.

Audwin Helton, President of Spatial Data Integrations, spoke for all in the GIS community when he stated, “Those of us in the Louisville area who are involved with GIS are extremely excited about GIS, and through Geography Awareness Week wish to share our enthusiasm with the community.”

GIS Day serves to make people aware of GIS technology and the important contributions it is making in the fields of science, technology, information, and the humanities. It is a day for GIS professionals to teach individuals and organizations how to exploit geographic information and reap the amazing benefits of GIS technology. GIS Day is a grassroots event; it is a reflection of the enthusiasm and commitment of individual GIS users everywhere.

Schedule of Activities:

Map Displays from **November 6th to 20th** at J. G. Brown School, Central High School, Doss High School, Gheens Academy, Jeffersontown High School, Kennedy Elementary School, Shawnee Public Library, and Waggener Traditional High School.

Presentations

November 13 to 17

- At Kennedy by SDI
- At Shawnee Public Library by SDI

November 14

- At Waggener by LOJIC

November 15

- At Brown by LOJIC
- At SDI and ULCGIS for Doss

November 16

- At SDI for Jeffersontown
- “GIS as a Career” Panel Discussion at MSD for students from Jeffersontown, Waggener and Central by LOJIC, SDI, FMSM and ULCGIS. (12:PM to 1:30PM)
- GIS Career Pathway Planning Team meeting at Greater Louisville Inc. (3:15PM)

November 17

- At Central by GS&P

Last year’s GIS Day was an outstanding accomplishment. Nearly 2,000 organizations in 91 different countries sponsored GIS Day events, and 34 United States governors, as well as public officials in Canada and the Czech Republic, made GIS Day proclamations for their jurisdictions. With their help and enthusiasm—as well as that of other individuals, organizations, and government agencies—the original goal of educating one million people was far surpassed, as 2.4 million children and adults were taught about GIS technology and its extensive applications and benefits. This year’s GIS Day is expected to be an even greater success with a goal of showing 3 million children and adults the benefits and significance of GIS technology.

LOJIC (www.lojic.org) is a GIS partnership between the City of Louisville, Jefferson County, the Metropolitan Sewer District, the Property Valuation Administrator and the Louisville Water Company. ULCGIS (www.louisville.edu/a-s/geog/gis/) provides instruction, applications, and research in GIS technology. SDI (www.sdimaps.com) is a GIS digital production company. FMSM (www.fmsmengineers.com) and GS&P (www.gspnet.com) are engineering firms integrating the use of GIS in their services.

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