



(<http://egis3.lacounty.gov/eGIS/gisday/>)

About GIS Day

According to Esri, **GIS Day** is the global, annual “salute to geospatial technology and its power to transform and better our lives” (<http://www.gisday.com/>).

In its 16th year, GIS Day “provides an international forum for users of geographic information systems (GIS) technology to demonstrate real-world applications that are making a difference in our society” (<http://www.gisday.com/about.html>).

Jack Dangermond reports that Ralph Nader inspired its creation, “a good initiative for people to learn about geography and the uses of GIS. [Ralph Nader] wanted GIS Day to be a grassroots effort and open to everyone to participate” (<http://www.gisday.com/about.html>). Y’all know who Ralph Nader is, right? And Jack Dangermond? (*hint: he’s kind o’ a big deal in the GIS world!*)

Assignment (Find, Register, Attend, Report)

1. **Find** a local event from the myriad listed here - <http://www.gisday.com/gis-day-events-map.html> or attend one of the two I’ve mentioned in class, on my Weebly site, and below*.



2. **Register** for one (or more!) of the events (Ventura College offers a free lunch, LA County has training workshops):

*Recommended Events:

Ventura College GIS Day Event Info (Fri 11/21/14):

<http://academic.venturacollege.edu/spalladino/geosci/GISDay/GISday2014.html>

Los Angeles County GIS Day Event (Wed 11/19/14):

<http://egis3.lacounty.gov/eGIS/gisday/>

3. Attend one or multiple GIS Day events. The event hosted by LA County has free training seminars (and cake); the Ventura College event offers a free lunch! Photos and last year's schedule posted online will give you an idea as to what you should expect from these events.

4. Report what you learned in type-written form (be sure to include at least one **photo** of yourself at the event; it is **required!**). How would I recommend you approach the day?

For the County event -

- Print the important documents/links from the LA County GIS Day page to "map out" your day.
- Perhaps you'll have a chance to attend Jack Dangermond's talk. Check out the booths, tour the assessor mapping facility, and attend one or multiple talks or training events.
- Take notes, collect business cards, handouts, swag. Talk to people!
- *Before* you arrive, prepare a list of questions for which you will be seeking answers.
- You're exploring. No one will have any expectation that because you are attending you claim to be a GIS expert. You are just beginning your foray into this field. Please don't feel any pressure or discomfort. The people at the event will be thrilled if you talk to them (it can get pretty boring sitting at a booth if no one speaks to you!). They are thrilled to have new people interested in the field. They are excited about it and want to get others hooked as well!

For the Ventura College event – My advice is not much different...

- Visit the website ahead of time. Research the sponsors for the event. Who/what is *CIRGIS*? Make sure you know where you are going before you get there.
- Attend the opening session (called a plenary). You'll meet the hydrologist from the National Weather Service Office in Oxnard (the office that serves Los Angeles and surrounding counties!). He'll be talking about "Story Maps".
- Take notes, photos (including one of yourself at the event – proof of your attendance!). College swag, business cards, pamphlets.
- *Before* you arrive, have a list of questions you'd like to answer at the event. And, as I said above, I can't emphasize enough –
- You're exploring. No one will have any expectation that because you are attending you claim to be a GIS expert. You are just beginning your foray into this field. Please don't feel any pressure or discomfort. The people at the event will be thrilled if you talk to them (it can get pretty boring sitting at a booth if no one speaks to you!). They are thrilled to have new people interested in the field. They are excited about it and want to get others hooked as well!

CLASS DOES NOT MEET WEDNESDAY, 11/19/14**

** (in anticipation of your attendance at one or multiple of the myriad GIS Day events around the Southland - <http://www.gisday.com/gis-day-events-map.html>).

For additional context: GIS Day occurs during Geography Awareness Week (additional information is available online -<http://geographyawarenessweek.wordpress.com/> or http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/programs/geographyawarenessweek/?ar_a=1).