

# GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

## GEOGRAPHY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES FOR THE COLLEGE CAMPUS

*There are many ways for college students and professors to celebrate geography not only Geography Awareness Week but throughout the entire year — here are just a few ideas to get started! If you get inspired, use our How To guides on [GeographyAwarenessWeek.org](http://GeographyAwarenessWeek.org) to plan, publicize, and fundraise for your event.*

- 1. Go GeoCaching:** Participate in geocaching or organize a geocaching event on your campus. Check out <http://www.geocaching.com/> to get started.
- 2. Host a Salvage Sale:** Organize a yard sale or end-of-the-year salvage event to get rid of unwanted dorm furniture and other items. Consider ways to involve local non-profit organizations and small businesses so that they can acquire furniture and office supplies cheaper than they otherwise would be able to.
- 3. Hold a Contest:** Organize a poster, art, photo, or poetry contest on your campus that encourages students and others to celebrate geography in everyday life. Reach out to different departments to get students from all different disciplines involved.
- 4. Organize a Geography Trivia Night:** Host a geography quiz night in your student center or dormitory. You could make it a weekly or monthly event with clever themes for each quiz night, or simply host one just for Geography Awareness Week. See our guide to get started ([http://education.nationalgeographic.com/media/file/GAWeek-Quiz\\_Night\\_How\\_To\\_with\\_Questions.pdf](http://education.nationalgeographic.com/media/file/GAWeek-Quiz_Night_How_To_with_Questions.pdf)).
- 5. Volunteer for a Non-Profit Organization:** Volunteer with your friends or organize a campus-wide day of service during Geography Awareness Week. Some activities you could include are reading to children at a local elementary school or cleaning up a nearby park.
- 6. Host a Speaker Series:** Find someone who has done something related to geography that is interesting or inspiring, or even just plain cool, and get him or her to speak on your campus. If possible, consider putting together a speaker series or a panel of speakers.
- 7. Organize an Informal Meeting to Increase Geography Awareness:** Encourage friends and peers to discuss geography-related topics in the news. Informal settings such as brown-bag lunchtime discussion or geography-themed coffee breaks can provide an opportunity for students to connect.
- 8. Host a Film Screening:** Use an empty auditorium or conference space on your campus to host a film screening that relates to geography. Check out National Geographic Education's Geography film list for some ideas ([http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/news/geography-goes-movies/?ar\\_a=1](http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/news/geography-goes-movies/?ar_a=1)).
- 9. Organize a GIS Day Event:** GIS Day is the Wednesday of Geography Awareness Week. Organize your own GIS Day event to explain what GIS is and the importance of it. If you register your event at [GISDay.com](http://GISDay.com), you can even receive free promotional materials to give out at the event.
- 10. Organize an International Meal:** Use the Internet to find recipes for food from around the world. Organize a potluck dinner during Geography Awareness Week and encourage your friends, classmates, or dormmates to bring foods from their own ethnic or cultural heritage.

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11. **The College Sustainability Report Card:** How green is your school? Check out your college or university's "Green Report Card" (<http://www.greenreportcard.org/>) to see how your college or university stacks up against others. Then come up with action items to tackle the areas your school in which your school struggled.
12. **Recyclemania:** Learn about recycling in your college or university's state (<http://www.campaignforrecycling.org/states>) and organize an event to promote recycling on your campus. Get your school to participate in Recyclemania, a friendly 8-week competition among colleges across the United States and Canada. Visit the Recyclemania homepage to learn more (<http://recycle.oregonstate.edu/opportunities/recyclemania/about>).
13. **Partner with a Local K-12 School:** Consider pairing up with a classroom at a local school to participate in a service project, mapping or GIS activity, or to simply teach students the value of geography education.
14. **Create a Green Living Program:** Develop a "Green Living Program" at your college or university to promote sustainable living. Make it a competition or reward system that encourages behaviors like switching off lights, biking to class, and composting. Work with your college's residential life department to develop "Green Ambassadors" in every dormitory that help organize programs and get people excited about sustainability.
15. **Go Green When Back-to-School Shopping:** Outfit your dorm or school supplies drawer with eco-friendly, "green" dorm accessories and supplies. Most office supplies stores offer supplies made from recycled and/or sustainable materials.
16. **Travel Abroad:** College is the perfect time to travel or study abroad, be it for the summer, semester, or entire school year. Experience a new culture and natural surroundings, get out of your comfort zone, and learn from others. Catch the travel bug and see where you end up!
17. **Go WWOOF-ing:** Love to travel? Like volunteering? Why not do both? World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) connects volunteers with owners of farms all around the globe. You select your destination and volunteer on a farm in exchange for room and board for as long as your heart desires. Visit the WWOOF homepage to learn more (<http://www.wwoofinternational.org/how-it-works/>).
18. **Pursue a Career in Geography:** There are so many ways you can apply your geography skills post-college. Explore careers in geography and GIS to further your interest in the field. The Association for American Geographers (AAG) and ESRI both provide resources on their websites to get you started, but be creative and find something that truly interests you!