

Geography; The Adventure in Your community

Dates: November 13 to 19, 2011

Theme: Geography; The Adventure in Your Community

Description: It is part of our work to ensure that our nation's youth are Geo-literate—that they understand how Earth's interconnected human, ecological, and geophysical systems function, and have the ability to apply that understanding to decision-making and problem solving. ***This year's theme of "finding the adventure in your community" promotes geo-literacy and explores the idea that one can discover a nearly unlimited amount of new and amazing things, right in one's own backyard, just by using geographic skills and perspectives.***



Geography seeks to understand where things are found, why they are there, and how they develop and change over time; geography is all about what makes a *space a place*. ***The heart of this year's theme will revolve around a series of "missions" that encourage individuals or teams of students, families, or friends to explore their own communities through geographic eyes, and challenge them to look at things from a geographic perspective.*** By completing a varied series of missions, individuals or teams can earn "badges" in the four sub-theme categories: photography, storytelling, mapping and taking action. If they complete every badge, they are proving to the world that they are able to see their community and the rest of the world with deeper understanding.

NGEP is working with the up-and-coming UK based non-profit, **The GEOGRAPHY COLLECTIVE**, to design the missions that kids of all ages will be able to choose from to find the adventure in their own community. Missions are short, achievable by a variety of age ranges and skill levels, and often take a humorous slant (make a "smell map" of your neighborhood, take an "urban safari"...). All missions are grounded in the **National Geography Standards for US schools** (and have synergy with the UK standards), focus on the use of geographic skills, and address a variety of topics in geography.