Celebrating 10 Years of Geographic Education in Arizona
Provided by the Arizona Geographic Alliance
1993-2003

Background

Founded in 1992, the Arizona Geographic Alliance (AzGA) is a member of the national network of state geography alliances initiated by the National Geographic Society in 1986. Since AzGA’s inception, the Alliance has grown from a handful of dedicated teachers to an active society of over 2500 members.

Purpose

Strengthen geography education in Arizona.

Goals

- Support a network of educators who foster geography education
- Provide continued professional growth by organizing a wide assortment of educational opportunities for K-12 teachers
- Disseminate geographic information and innovative classroom methods and materials for the teaching of geography
- Partner with other associations including the social studies disciplines, mathematics, science, and language arts

To Reach These Goals

Since 1993, AzGA has trained 174 Teacher Consultants through Summer Geography Institutes. This leadership cadre function as:

- organizers of events
- presenters of in-services
- specialists in the area of geography education
- innovators in teaching methodology
- grant writers and managers
- educational leaders in their schools and districts
- leadership positions in the Arizona Geographic Alliance
- models for other educators

The Result of the Alliance’s Efforts

The Arizona Geographic Alliance impacts thousands of Arizona educators and over 50,000 Arizona schoolchildren each year.
Arizona Geographic Alliance Achievements

Awards

- 19 Arizona teachers of geography have received the Distinguished Teaching Award from the National Council for Geographic Education.
- 8 Teacher Consultants of the Alliance have won Great Moments in Teaching Social Studies Awards from the Arizona Council for the Social Studies.
- 3 Teacher Consultants have won a George F. Cram Company cash award for innovative teaching ideas.
- 2 Teacher Consultants have earned the Isadore Starr Award for dedication to the field of social studies teaching.
- 2 Co-coordinators have received the Wilbur Murra Award for their efforts in creating the Alliance from the Arizona Council for the Social Studies.
- 1 Teacher Consultant has received the Advanced Professional Certificate from the National Council for Geographic Education.
- 1 Co-coordinator has been honored with a Distinguished Teaching Award, university level, from the National Council on Geographic Education.
- Various Teacher Consultants have been named Teacher of the Year for their schools, districts or cities.
- Various Teacher Consultants have been named in Who’s Who in American Education.
- 1 Teacher Consultant has received an award for research in geography education from the National Council on Geographic Education.

Travel Abroad

Teacher Consultants participated in Fulbright travel programs in Syria, Turkey, Morocco, Cuba, China, Malaysia, and Japan and have participated in other teacher exchange programs to Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Russia, Canada, and China. The Alliance sponsored an Advanced Summer Geography Institute to central Europe.

Grant Recipients

The Arizona Geographic Alliance has received three Grosvenor Grants from the National Geographic Society Education Foundation. These grants, titled GeoLiteracy and GeoMath, integrate standards-based lessons with geography content with skills and concepts from language arts or mathematics. The third grant is to provide GeoLiteracy training in Arizona’s underserved schools and districts with no charge workshops.

In addition, Teacher Consultants have also been awarded grants from sources that include:

- Arizona Environmental Education Agency
- Arizona State Land Department
- Arizona Teacher Venture
- Fred Meyer
- Health Resources Services Administration
- Intel
- Michael Jordan Foundation
- National Geographic Society Education Foundation
- Rubbermaid Corporation
- Salt River Project
- U. S. West
- Wells Fargo
Projects Sponsored or Supported by the Arizona Geographic Alliance

- Alliance Website
  http://alliance.la.asu.edu/azga/
- Advanced Placement Geography
  Training for Teacher Consultants
- ArgWorld and ARGUS with American Association of Geographers
- ASSET-KAET
- ASU Friends for Geography
- AtoZ Newsletter
- AuThenTiCity with City of Phoenix
- Arizona Department of Education Social Studies Standards Committee
- Arizona Tax Credits to aid school geography outreach
- Arizona Teacher Proficiency Test Committee
- Advanced Summer Geography Institute: Borderlands
- Advanced Summer Geography Institute: Europe
- Advanced Summer Geography Institute: Technology
- Alliance Institutes, other:
  - Canada Alliance Summer Institute
  - California: Workshop on Water
  - Four Corners Institute
  - Nevada Summer Institute
  - Tennessee Migration Institute
  - Tennessee Population Institute
  - Utah Summer Institute
  - Wyoming Yellowstone Institute
- Conferences
- Arizona Council of the Social Studies
- Arizona Gifted and Talented
- National Council for Geographic Education
- National Council for the Social Studies
- Rocky Mountain Regional
- District Curriculum Committees
- District Workshops around Arizona
- Earth Science Day with ASU Department of Geology
- Earth2U Trunk
- Eruditio, partnering with Arizona State University and U.S. West
- Family Geography Challenge
- Finding A Way Workshop
- 40 New Geography Lessons, an ASU summer session class
- Geography Awareness Week and Geography Action with National Geographic Society
- GeoDay Trips
  - Cemeteries
  - Superstition Mountains
  - Russia and Ukraine
  - Urban Geography
  - Tempe Town Lake
  - Rock Art Center
  - Mining in Arizona
  - Verde Valley
  - Japanese Internment Camp
- GEOFEST
- GeoForum with ASU Department of Geography
- Grosvenor Grant: GeoLiteracy
- Grosvenor Grant: GeoLiteracy Workshops
- Grosvenor Grant: GeoMath
- GeoNomics with Arizona Council on Economic Education
- Harvard Media Program
- High School Geography Survey
- History Day
- International Leadership Institute
- Internet Standards Class
- JASON Project
- Library of Congress Memory Program
- Marco Polo
- NAEP Development and Testing
- NASA Mission Geography
- National Diffusion Network (NDN)
- National Geographic Bee
- Standards Symposium I and II
- Summer Geography Institute
- TC Communiqué
- Study Canada, University of Washington
- Taxes and Technology Workshop
- University of Arizona Sherrill Scholars Program
- Yale Pier Program
Publications

- Outline Map Atlas for Arizona Classrooms (1996)
- 30 Geography Based Lesson Plans for K-12 Classrooms (1997)
- TC Communiqué (since 1994)
- AtoZ Newsletter (since 1993)

Arizona Geographic Alliance Partnerships

Principal Partnerships
- National Geographic Society Education Foundation
- Arizona State University Department of Geography
- Arizona State Department of Education

Other Partnerships
- Arizona State University
- College of Education
- Eruditio, an ASU-US West partnership
- Arizona Bar Foundation
- Arizona Council on Economic Education (ACEE)
- Arizona Council for the Social Studies (ACSS)
- Arizona Association of Mathematics Teachers (AAMT)
- National Board Certified Teachers
- National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE)
- National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)
- University of Arizona Sherrill Scholars Program
- Qwest

Second grade students of Sandy Martinez, Tucson, mapping from Yo-Ho, Yo-Ho, A Pirate's Map For Me

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Visit our website:
http://alliance.la.asu.edu/azga/to join
to see our calendar of events
to sample a GeoLiteracy lesson
to get outline map masters
to get lessons to teach geography