

4-H Youth Attend National Youth Summit on Geospatial Technologies

The 2013 National Youth Summit on Geospatial Technologies held at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center was an outstanding success. Over 100 local high school youth came together to learn about the Global Positioning System (GPS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Remote Sensing (RS). The latest U.S. Department of Labor statistics reported that there are currently more than 850,000 geospatial workers, with an additional 350,000 needed by 2018. Geospatial technologies is proving to be not only one of the most rapidly evolving fields of science, but also an in-demand, high growth industry.

The young scientists trekked and mapped wooded conference center grounds, and were challenged to plan a community-based GIS mapping project. Participants learned about different applications of geospatial technologies in agriculture; climate; defense; emergency preparedness; natural resources; navigation; parks and recreation; planning; and transportation. Geospatial organizations hosted tours and exhibits in Washington, DC, and youth increased their awareness of career opportunities and pathways in geospatial technologies. Many youth left the event prepared to facilitate the 2013 GIS *Maps and Apps* National Youth Science Day activities in their own communities.



Full scholarships, including lodging, meals, workshops, tours, and activities were awarded to participating youth. The National Youth Summit on Geospatial Technologies was held at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in suburban Washington DC (Chevy Chase, Maryland), September 25-29, 2013.

The Center for 4-H and Youth Development develops innovative programs that emphasize experiential learning opportunities for young people and their families. Through "hands-on" interactive programming, participants develop life skills, leadership abilities and an ethic of civic stewardship. The center offers the following programming to support and engage District youth. For more information contact Rebecca Bankhead, the District's Director and State Program Leader, 4-H and the Center for Youth Development, at rbankhead@udc.edu or visit www.4-H.org.

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