



TNMCorps News

Welcome!

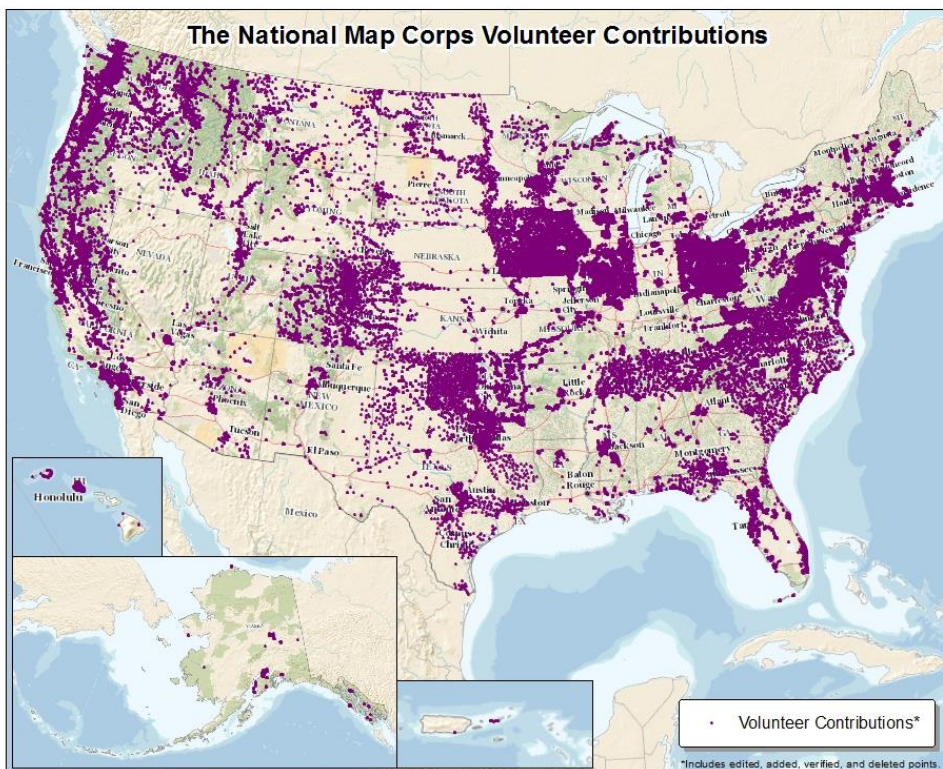
Welcome to our Newsletter! We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoy putting it together. Please feel free to email us with suggestions, pictures, or tips and tricks at nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 [Welcome](#)
- 1 [Over 100K points collected!](#)
- 2 [TN Law Enforcement Mapping Challenge Finished](#)
- 2 [New Mapping Challenge](#)
- 3 [Post Offices Temporarily Unavailable for Editing](#)
- 3 [New Imagery Layer](#)
- 3 [Cool New Volunteer-Created Web Application](#)
- 4 [Where Can I Find Authoritative Lists of Schools?](#)
- 4 [What about Alaska Schools?](#)
- 5 [Facebook Recognition for Volunteer fconley](#)
- 5 [New Recognition Category Members](#)

We Did It! Over 100,000 Points Collected!

In our [December newsletter](#) we asked you to help us reach 100,000 volunteer contributions, and within a week you did it! Congratulations, and as always, thank you for all of your hard work and dedication! We couldn't do it without you! Keep your eyes peeled for an upcoming news release about this accomplishment on USGS.gov.



"100,000 points contributed by volunteers!"

TN Law Enforcement Mapping Challenge Finished!

“All Law Enforcement points have been updated by volunteers and are ready to go into The National Map!”

This large and somewhat difficult challenge is finally finished! An amazing 440 points were added, verified, edited, or deleted, and all points were checked by either a Peer Reviewer or an Advanced Editor which means they are all ready to go into [The National Map](#)! Thank you for all of your hard work on this big challenge!!! Because of your contributions, the data available to the public is more current and complete.

A big thanks to [fconley](#), [HGeisler](#), [Cartograsaurus](#), [TheJ](#), [BCook2](#), [rjerrard](#), [Vindalou](#), [Jwo_rocks](#), [wesward](#), and [alherna4](#) for participating in this challenge!

NEW New Mapping Challenge

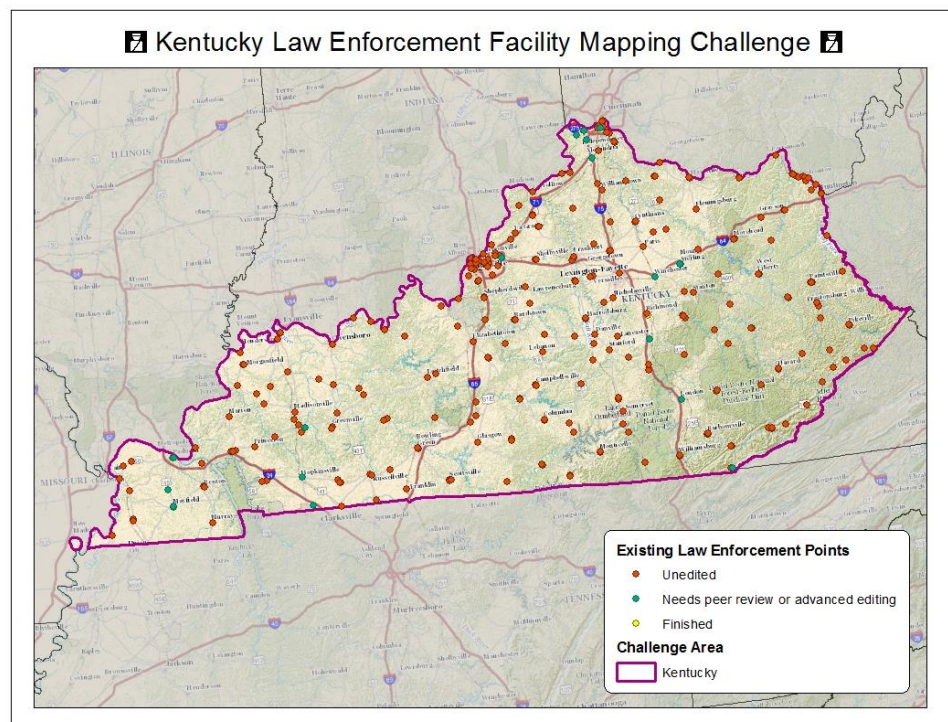
I posted a new [mapping challenge](#) (Kentucky Prison/Correctional Facilities) on Friday, but before I could finish up and send out the newsletter, the challenge had already been completed by one of our volunteers over the weekend!

Thanks to [fconley](#) for singlehandedly completing prisons and correctional facilities in Kentucky! For more information about this dedicated volunteer, check out the [section](#) in this newsletter about the recent [USGS facebook](#) post profiling him.

The [NEW new mapping challenge](#) is similar to the previous one. We would like you to help us map all **Law Enforcement points in Kentucky**. Similar to the Tennessee challenge, this is a bigger challenge, with 344 existing Law Enforcement points in KY. As usual, we are asking you to verify or update the existing points, add missing points, and remove obsolete points. Check out the [Mapping Challenge page](#) for additional information.

Similar to the previous challenge, we've created a handy [map of the existing Law Enforcement points](#) with links to jump straight to the points in the editor. Please be aware, this map is static so it may be slightly out-of-date. We will update it again once people are editing points.

“Help us by checking Law Enforcement Facility points in Kentucky.”



Post Office Changes – Temporarily Unavailable for Editing

You may have noticed that **Post Offices** are temporarily unavailable for editing. Our current set of post offices comes from the [Geographic Names Information System](#) (GNIS). We are moving to a more up-to-date dataset created by the Census Bureau using address information from the U.S. Postal Service. It sounds like a roundabout way to build a dataset especially when we all use the [Postal Locator](#) to help verify post office locations, but that is a story for another day. The question more important to you is probably, “what happens to all of the corrections I’ve made to existing post offices?” Your corrections are safe. Only features which are new to the editing interface or have not yet been edited by a volunteer will be uploaded. Existing edits will be applied to the Structures dataset as usual. Even though the new dataset will be more complete, point locations are based on street addresses and the icons will need to be moved from the street onto the actual post office building. We know this group will be up to the challenge!

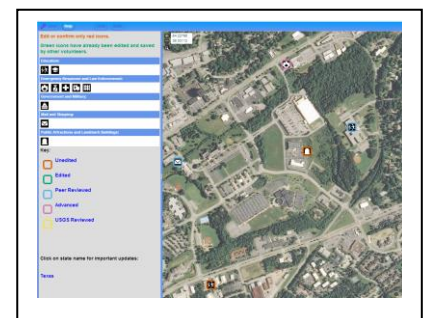
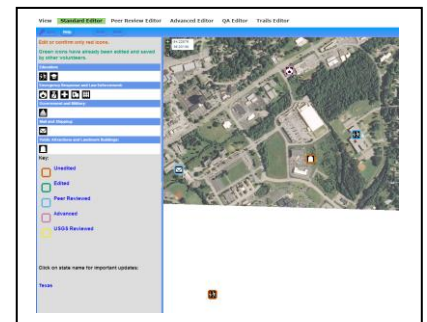


“Post Offices are temporarily unavailable for editing and you won’t see the icons in the editor. Please don’t add any Post Offices during this time.”

New Imagery Layer

A number of volunteers participating in the Tennessee Challenge have pointed out to us that when zooming in over Oak Ridge, TN the imagery was incomplete in some areas. Apparently the images we “pull” from The National Map Viewer (TNM Imagery) are a combination of NAIP ([National Agriculture Imagery Program](#)), and HRO ([High Resolution Orthoimagery](#)). Over some parts of the country, Oak Ridge, TN for instance, the HRO coverage is not complete. We have added NAIP imagery to your choices of backgrounds in the upper right corner of the web editor. Over urban areas, your best bet is probably to stick with TNM Imagery, but switch back and forth if you are having problems. You might not see the new NAIP layer until after your refresh your browser by hitting “Ctrl” “F5.” If that doesn’t work, try clearing out your browsing history under settings (in your browser).

Let us know if you run into problems: nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov

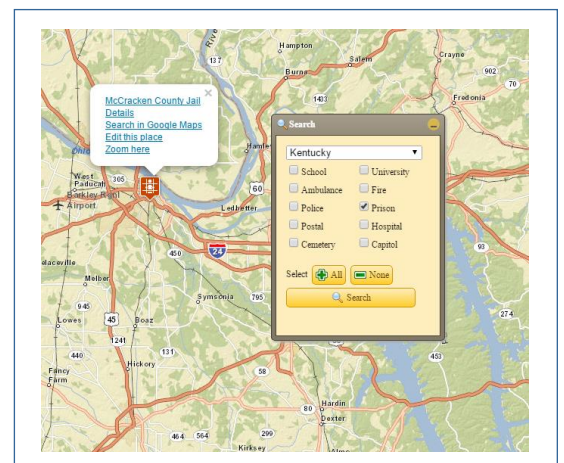


Cool New Web Application Developed by a Fellow Volunteer

Have you ever wanted to look for features to edit based on feature type or location? One of our TNMCorps volunteers, Eric, has created a really cool web application, <https://nmc.onthemap.net/>, that can do just that and oh so much more! Take it out for a test drive. Be sure to check out the multitude of base maps available on the right. In addition to the base maps, you can filter based on edit status, or problem. Once you find a likely candidate to edit you can easily jump over to the USGS Map Editor by simply clicking on the link. Let us know what you think!

Also, please be aware, at this time this map is not automatically updated as changes are made through the TNMCorps editor, so you might find that some things are slightly out-of-date.

Note: This is not a USGS website.



Where Can I Find Authoritative Lists of Schools?

Schools can be a hard structure type to research. Here is some information previously compiled by an experienced volunteer and summarized by us for this newsletter.

There are three types of schools: public, charter, and private. Public schools and charter schools are regulated by Department of Education and can usually be researched using the authoritative [National Center for Education Statistics](#) website. HOWEVER, much of the source data comes from this site, and it may be a few years old. Therefore finding individual school district or school websites is typically the **most** authoritative. The school district SHOULD have the most up-to-date information, but check to be sure the site is current.

Private schools are more difficult to sort out because there are no authoritative lists, and they tend to open and close more often than public schools. Here are some **non-authoritative** places you can look for private school information:

- [The National Center for Education Statistics](#) maintains a database of private schools. This database is a result of a voluntary survey that they send out every two years. Their website allows a search for private schools by city, county, or state. (**Note:** technically authoritative but may be incomplete or out-of-date).
- The [Great Schools](#) website has an online searchable database.
- The [National Association of Independent Schools](#) has an online searchable database.
- The [National Parochial Schools Association](#) lists parochial schools by State.

What about Alaska Schools?

According to one of our most experienced volunteers, Alaska is the hardest place he's ever edited, partially due to inconsistent imagery. In addition, there are many long distance and or correspondence classes that contract to local school districts. The business address may be hundreds of miles away from the "school."

USGS response: Alaska has been a challenge. Schools have a particular issue which is inherent in the base data we use. Much of our base data for schools comes from the NCES ([National Center for Education Statistics](#)). Remote schools are frequently addressed as the location where the school administration occurs, not the physical location of the actual school. NCES data is compiled from surveys submitted by schools and school districts and is apparently allowable for reporting purposes. Due to the vast distances and remoteness of Alaska, we expect this problem to be compounded. We do accept an address of the road name only, if available, and the village/town name. If no road name is available, the village name is important and sufficient. Point locations may be approximate, even in the center of the village if that is the best one can determine from the imagery and available road information.

"Individual school district or school websites are typically the most authoritative."

"Point locations may be approximate, even in the center of the village if that is the best one can determine from the imagery and available road information."



USGS Facebook recognition for TNMCORPS Volunteer fconley

Volunteer fconley has been recognized on the [USGS facebook page](#) for reaching the top [recognition category](#), the [Squadron of Biplane Spectators](#).

Thank you fconley for your dedication and important contribution to The National Map Corps!



U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

7 hrs · 🌐

fconley Soars: The USGS crowdsourcing project called The National Map Corps uses citizen scientists to validate or edit structures to improve topographic maps. To reward and recognize those volunteers, TNMCORPS assigns points to the submissions which lead to virtual badges. One of the most active data providers to reach the new top award, the Squadron of Biplane Spectators, goes by the handle of "fconley". His story: "I am retired from an unrelated field, but I have loved maps and travel all my life," says the intrepid contributor. "When I saw that USGS was looking for volunteers I immediately joined, first of all working with paper maps and quads. As digital mapping, satellite imagery, and GPS became more available I was enthralled. With the imagery now accessible it is almost like being able to travel sitting at my desk. At times, locating structures seems similar to solving puzzles or detective work. This whole project is not only enjoyable but it makes me feel that I am making a lasting and useful contribution. I am thankful for the opportunity to be involved in this fascinating endeavor." You can assist FConley along with hundreds of others and contribute to The National Map. Join The National Corps and begin editing points today! <http://bit.ly/11e0VLu>



New Recognition Category Members This Month



Flock of Winged Witnesses
4000-4999 points

- meyerkv



Family of Floating Photogrammetrists
3000-3999 points

- robwills77



Theodolite Assemblage
2000-2999 points

- robwills77
- PercMastaFTW



Alidade Alliance
1000-1999 points

- PercMastaFTW



Stadia Board Society
500-999 points

- Veronica Tangiri



Pedometer Posse
100-199 points

- cmc486



Society of the Steel Tape
50-99 points

- Mapper22
- Wesward
- notmyrealname2112



Order of the Surveyor's Chain
25-49 points

- Mapping 4 Future
- kingstonshore
- CC Pjoral Dahl
- trevbex
- swebinger
- notmyrealname2112
- anjbe
- JasonRing
- patty21
- Calvin
- Cricket

CONTACT US AT: nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov for suggestions, questions, or additions to the next newsletter.

Or call Elizabeth McCartney at 573-308-3696