



TNMCorps News

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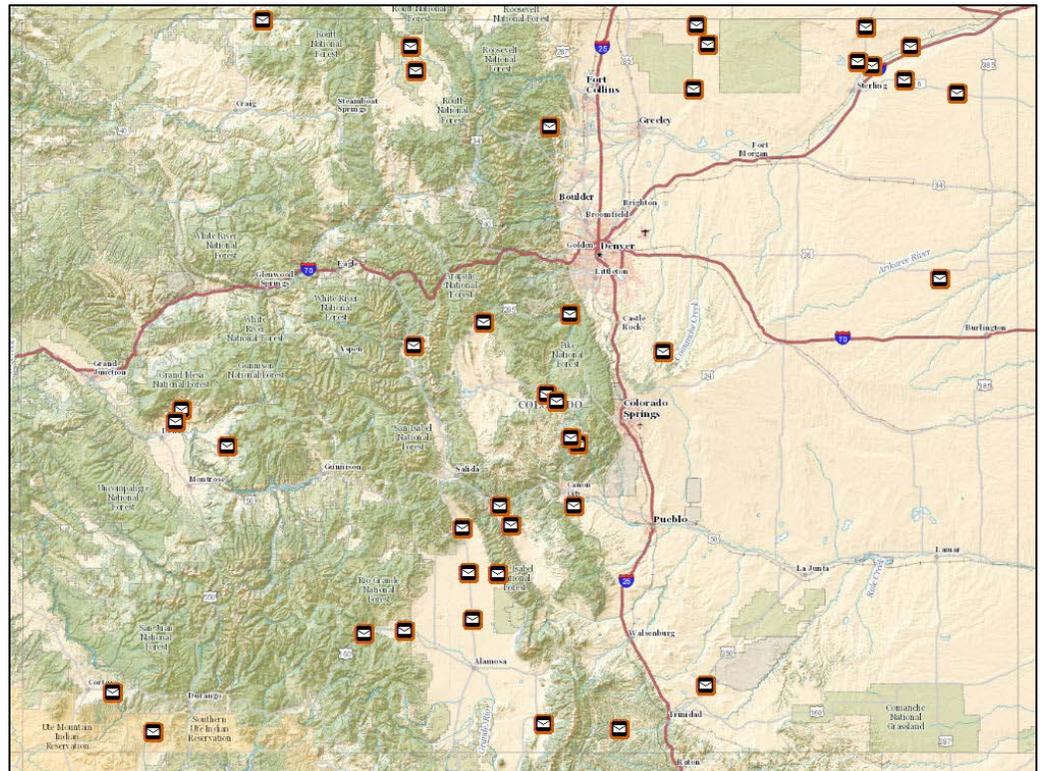
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Welcome!

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.

New Post Office Points in Colorado

As most of you know, Colorado has been “finished” since 2013 and we ask you to focus your editing elsewhere unless you know of a specific change to a structure that has happened recently. However, we recently loaded a bunch of new Post Office data into the editor, and that includes 39 new points in Colorado. We still would like you to focus elsewhere (for now!) with the exception of these Post Offices, so have at it!



Introducing TNMCorps Q&A!

Did you know that there is a place where you can ask questions and share your knowledge about the National Map Corps project? Introducing [The National Map Corps Q&A](#)! This website offers a platform where volunteers can post and reply to questions related to the editing process. For example, you find two structures that have the same name and are located in the same place, but one of them looks a bit off and you are not sure how to proceed; who can help you? The community can help you! Head over to the [Q&A](#) and post a question regarding your issue and the community will help you! The National Map Corps is only possible through our strong sense of community and helping each other; the Q&A is an extension of these ideals.

Get started at [National Map Corps Q&A](#) today!

Did you know that there is a place where you can ask questions and share your knowledge about the National Map Corps project?

Introducing [The National Map Corps Q&A](#)!

Updating Email Notification Settings on Q&A

Once you have checked out the new Q&A, you may want to set it up so that you are notified when a new question is posted.

This is a great way to improve your knowledge and also help other volunteers with their questions! To get started navigate to your user profile on the [Q&A](#) webpage and open the "User tools" tab; then navigate to "email notification settings." Here you can set-up your email notification preferences, including the option to get an email every time a new question is posted.

Back to Basics – Clarification on Prison / Correctional Facilities versus Jails

Recently there has been some confusion over [what to include as Prison/Correctional Facilities](#). While guidelines sometimes change, we have decided to simplify things and go back to our original definition.

- Jails do not need to be collected as either a police station or a prison.
- Prisons should be collected.

If you find a point called a "jail" but it seems to meet the criteria of a prison, the volunteer can collect it and code as a prison. If unsure whether a point such as this is a prison or a jail, don't collect it.

Making Phone Calls to Verify Structures

Occasionally the authoritative sources found online are not enough to confirm if a structure exists or not. In this situation, a phone call can often verify whether or not the structure exists. However, volunteers are **never required** to make phone calls when volunteering for TNMCorps. It is 100% up to you, the volunteer. If you don't feel comfortable making a call, you can either continue trying to verify the structure using online sources, ask us to make the call for you, or skip editing the structure. Please be aware, if you do decide to make phone calls to verify structures, the USGS is not responsible for any cost associated with making calls, and we ask that you are polite and courteous. Also, if you are asked to identify yourself, you should explain that you are a **volunteer** collecting data for a USGS mapping project. Please don't identify yourself simply as being "with the USGS."

Tip: If you are unable to find an authoritative source for a structure online and you call a number associated with the structure and get an out of service message, it is likely that the feature no longer exists and you may delete the point.

Your Volunteer Hours Can Count Towards a GISP Certification!

[The GIS Certification Institute \(GISCI\)](#) is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization that provides the geographic information systems (GIS) community with a complete certification program, leading to GISP® (Certified GIS Professional) recognition. GISCI offers participants around the world, from the first early years on the job, until retirement, a positive method of developing value for professionals and employers in the GIS profession.

Texas Cemeteries

Until recently we asked volunteers to hold off on editing cemeteries in Texas. We have now updated the cemetery data in Texas so go ahead and start editing those cemeteries!



*If you find a point called a "jail" but it seems to meet the criteria of a prison, you **can** collect it and code as a prison. If **unsure** whether a point such as this is a prison or a jail, **don't collect it**.*

*A phone call may help verify whether or not a structure exists, but is **never required** of volunteers.*



Post Office Naming Changes

In our [user guides](#), we ask you to use the [USPS Locator Tool](#) to verify and update the names of Post Office points. When Post Offices have parentheses in the name on the USPS site, we have asked you to name those a certain way, as seen below. Many Post Offices that used to be named this way appear to have recently changed on the USPS site. Please make sure when checking Post Offices that you are using the USPS site, and don't just pull this information from Google. If you find a point with "station" in the name, check to see if it needs to be updated using the [USPS Locator Tool](#).



If you find a Post Office point with "station" in the name, check to see if it needs to be updated.

| Post Offices | |
|---|---|
| Example | Preferred |
| Westminster (Harris Park) | Westminster Post Office Harris Park Station |
| Harris Park Station | Westminster Post Office Harris Park Station |
| U.S. Post Office, Sanford | Sanford Post Office |
| US Post Office | Not a valid name. It should be formatted with the location name (as found on USPS.com) + "Post Office" as seen in the Preferred examples above and below. |
| United States Post Office Rocky Ford CO | Rocky Ford Post Office |
| Shawnee PO | Shawnee Post Office |

Call for Volunteer Photos and Stories

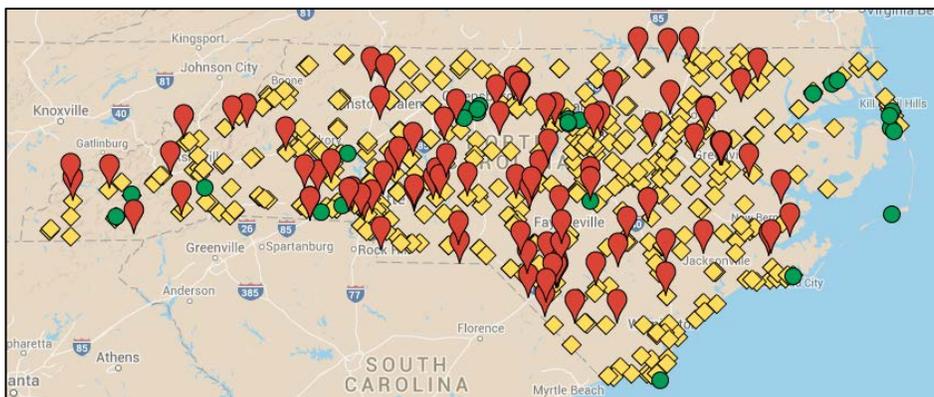
Do you have photos or stories about volunteering for The National Map Corps? We want them! This could be anything from a photo of you working from your computer to verifying a structure in the field. Photos, graphics, and stories may be used in future news releases and social media posts. All materials submitted become part of the "public domain," and can be used by USGS in the future unless otherwise specified.

Please email them to nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov.



Help Us Finish the Latest Mapping Challenge!

Have you checked out our [Mapping Challenges](#)? Help us by editing selected structures in selected areas to get the data ready before [US Topo](#) updates. The current challenge is to edit all of the Law Enforcement points in North Carolina. An amazing 450+ points have already been edited, added, verified, or deleted, but we need your help to finish up this challenge! Find out more [here](#).



TNMCORPS Team Corner

Get to know the TNMCORPS Team members!



Elizabeth is the Team Leader of The National Map Corps project and has been with the project for a little over two years. Before coming to work with TNMCORPS, she worked as a regional point of contact for the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD). The NHD is basically a national map of our surface waters. Growing up in the Northwest, Elizabeth was always an explorer, tagging along with her brothers as they hiked in the mountains of northern Idaho. She fell in love with maps at the age of 13 while helping navigate her family's move from Idaho to Virginia in the summer of 1976. Working for the USGS is a dream job for Elizabeth who loves working with people and helping to build maps.

New Recognition Category Members



Squadron of Biplane Spectators (6000-6999)

- Meyerkv
- Robwills77



Ring of Reconnaissance Rocketeers (5000-5999)

- robwills77



Flock of Winged Witnesses (4000-4999)

- HGeisler



Family of Floating Photogrammetrists (3000-3999)

- rjerrard



Theodolite Assemblage (2000-2999)

- billbrasky82
- KentRobert



Alidade Alliance (1000-1999)

- KentRobert
- ThatJenn
- patty21
- billbrasky82
- GatorGal
- Msean21



Stadia Board Society (500-999)

- GatorGal
- billbrasky82
- msean21



Circle of the Surveyor's Compass (200-499)

- eemich10
- Rockhound
- msean21
- billbrasky82
- Ricardo Oliveira
- Geo5492



Pedometer Posse (100-199)

- Rockhound
- eemich10
- Ricardo Oliveira
- Geo5492
- msean21
- billbrasky82
- Cricket
- Dgertzjr
- IEMap



Society of the Steel Tape (50-99)

- TeamWhiteWolf
- eemich10
- Ricardo Oliveira
- Ahlam A
- Bocan
- Geo5492
- msean21
- billbrasky82
- voyager
- Taihu
- TeamKevin
- Harris
- alenars
- ironingboard77
- rzweather
- dgertzjr
- Trailblazer
- IEMap
- Dhallam58



Order of the Surveyor's Chain (25-49)

- Nazzik
- Ricardo Oliveira
- Geo5492
- eemich10
- AuxArcs
- TeamKevin
- msean21
- billbrasky82
- voyager
- Ohthatdan
- Lolli532
- Mammathreetime
- Lilminimap
- Harris
- Alenars
- ironingboard77
- Amandaferr
- JordS
- rrrick8
- rzweather
- dgertzjr
- justing
- dhallam58
- Trailblazer
- Violey5
- Harris
- IEMap
- hodgegoblin

CONTACT US AT: nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov for suggestions, questions, additions to the next newsletter, or if you would like to be removed from the email list.

Or call Elizabeth McCartney at 573-308-3696

