



# TNMCorps News

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THE NATIONAL MAP CORPS

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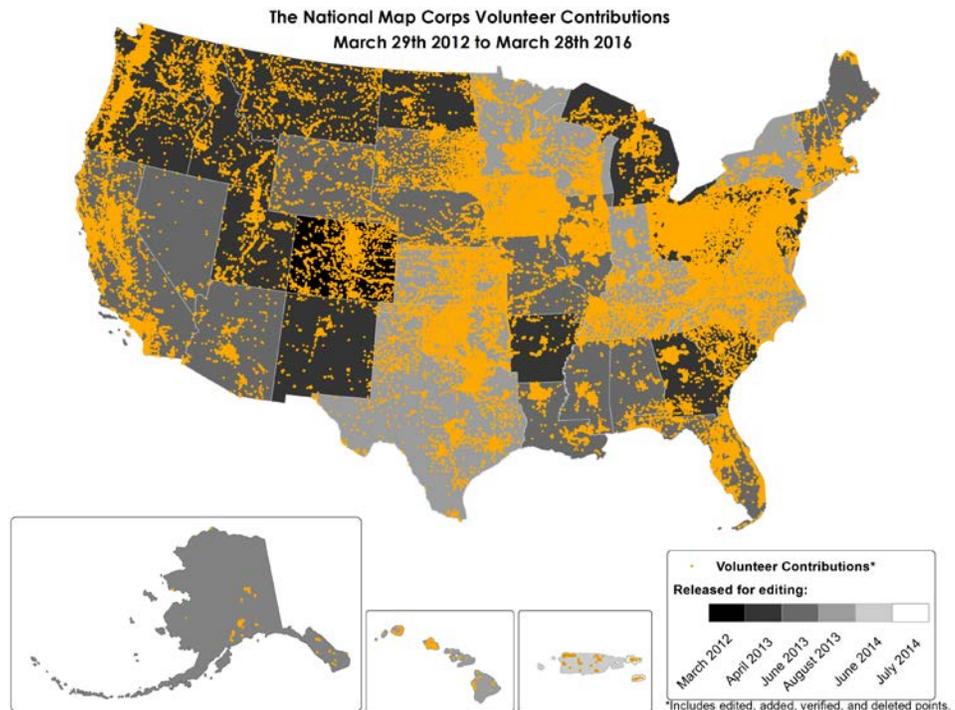
## Welcome!

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](mailto:nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov).

## We did it! 200K Volunteer Contributions!

Thanks to all of your hard work, [The National Map Corps](#), has reached another major milestone. A little over a year after reaching 100,000 "points", you have DOUBLED the number of points collected in support of The National Map. TNMCorps volunteer map editors are making significant additions to the USGS' ability to provide accurate mapping information to the public through [The National Map](#) and [US Topo maps](#). THANK YOU!!!

In the last 2 years you've grown the project from ~36,000 to over 200,000 contributions!



## The Peer Review Role: Uses, Benefits, and Purpose

When you begin editing with The National Map Corps project, you learn that there are multiple editing roles available. At first glance, this may be confusing. Why do we need separate editing roles? What is the purpose of this editing structure? Today, we will delve into the purpose of peer review in The National Map Corps Project. The National Map Corps uses [peer review](#) to verify the attribute information and location of structures that are added to our dataset. After editing at least 25 points, volunteers have the option to add and edit points through the Standard Editor, or review other volunteers' edits through the Peer Review Editor. By peer reviewing other volunteers' edits, you are helping us ensure and maintain data accuracy, which is a vital part of the project! Currently points must be checked by a peer reviewer (or an advanced editor) before they can be updated in The National Map (TNM). There are many benefits to editing in the Peer Review role, including the opportunity to learn editing techniques and formatting from other volunteers, as well as getting data into TNM faster. We hope that you consider making peer review a part of your National Map Corps experience!

*By peer reviewing other volunteers' edits, you are helping us ensure and maintain data accuracy, which is a vital part of the project!*

*Did you know there are only two cemeteries within the city limits of San Francisco?*



Burial area at San Francisco National Cemetery.

From:  
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sanfrancisco.asp>

## Fun Fact: Cemeteries (or lack thereof) in San Francisco

Thanks to an email from volunteer Mole Trapper we learned some interesting and odd facts about cemeteries in San Francisco. The city of San Francisco voted to stop burials within city limits in 1900. Almost all of the graves were dug up and moved out of the city between the 1900s and 1940s. There are only two cemeteries remaining within the city. Mole Trapper says, "A large number were buried in mass locations with no markers but records were kept as to who is buried in the cemetery but not where. Just a bit of interesting information."

Check out this [article](#) for more information.

## “Why I Do What I Do”, by queenofthedead, a new member of the Squadron of Biplane Spectators

My grandparents sent me out on a genealogical quest when I was in college. One of them wanted to know if she was related to the first Governor of Kentucky (yes, but distantly). The other watched grainy black and white films of sheep in Scotland and wanted to know where his family was from. Four generations of cousins had been researching other Scottish family ties and I was the recipient of all their files.

Cemeteries and genealogy go hand in hand. You learn a lot about who is buried next to whom, who is rich enough to afford headstones, and where there are only unmarked graves at the corner of a field. You learn how much store folks placed in religion and which flavor--whether it was more important to be buried in hallowed ground consecrated by a priest, or at the closest point to the heavens overlooking offspring's land in a river valley. You also learn a lot about how people migrated from one place to another. Many of my relatives moved west as Native Americans ceded more and more land. They moved into "coves" along the Cumberland River in western Virginia, huge land grants along the Cumberland River in Tennessee after the Revolutionary War, small holdings on poor land after the War of 1812 in New England, and onwards to the Pacific.

Knowing exactly where cemeteries are can help family history research, and the USGS National Map is one of the best permanent repositories for the coordinate data and names of cemeteries. Other databases like FindaGrave and BillionGraves and county-specific USGenWeb volunteer data are amazing resources, but what distinguishes TNM from those is that it will always be there.

I do have to put in a plug for cemetery georeferencing. It is quite clear that decisions were made in the past about allocation of scarce USGS resources and exactly what would be transferred from printed Topos to TNM, and cemeteries clearly lost out as a result of those decisions. Many named and georeferenced cemeteries from old topos were NOT incorporated into the National Geospatial dataset despite perfect information from the topos. Many of the unnamed cemeteries have been identified in county historical and genealogy society records but those identifications have not been matched up with cemeteries mapped on the old topos. And, huge numbers of cemeteries are lacking both old topo references and new TNM identifiers despite being clearly visible on satellite images.

So here's my plug. Take a county you care about. Maybe you've lived there all your life. Maybe you want to move there to retire (aerial images of private boat docks extending into deep blue water can be a side benefit of this work!). Get ahold of some documents listing all the cemeteries in that county (google). Load up TNM old topo maps at one corner and go through the process of scanning side to side and up and down and logging all the cemeteries you can find. Some will be really hard (take a left out of Princeville on Hwy 10 and go 2.8 miles to the bridge...). Some will be really easy (Mount Zion Cemetery on Routledge Rd). Keep track. There will be some cemeteries on the topo you won't have names for, and some cemeteries in the historical records you can't find.



Scotland...after the clearances.

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*Congrats to queenofthedead for achieving the top recognition badge, the Squadron of Biplane Spectators, with over 6,000 points edited!*

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Old cabin originally from the 1840s from the area ancestors settled after arriving from Scotland.

### Note from USGS:

Make sure to always verify that cemeteries still exist using [additional resources](#) before adding points to the map. Check out our [December 2014 newsletter](#) for some important information about the history and editing of cemeteries.

# The National Map Corps Explorer

Have you ever wanted to focus your efforts on a particular type of structure or a particular problem? Well, help is here! Explore The National Map Corps Explorer (TNMC Explorer) by clicking on the TNMC Explorer link in the Editor.

**TNMC Explorer**  
<https://nmc.onthemap.net>

1. Click on the link
2. Click "Proceed"

**MAIN PAGE**

Search on specific structure types by State!

Click, then choose from the dropdown menus:

## Edit Points – Get the Patch!!

As many of you have heard, we started an [editing campaign](#) in November 2015: “In celebration of these common passions and in honor of [GIS Day](#) and [International Map Year](#), TNMCorps is encouraging volunteers to edit 2,016 features between GIS Day 2015 and GIS Day 2016. Each of those submitted edits are worth a point. Volunteers who contribute 2,016 edits and thus earning 2,016 points between November 18, 2015 and November 16, 2016 will be awarded with a special edition collectable embroidered patch.”

Many of you have accepted [the challenge](#) and a few of you have already REACHED the goal!!

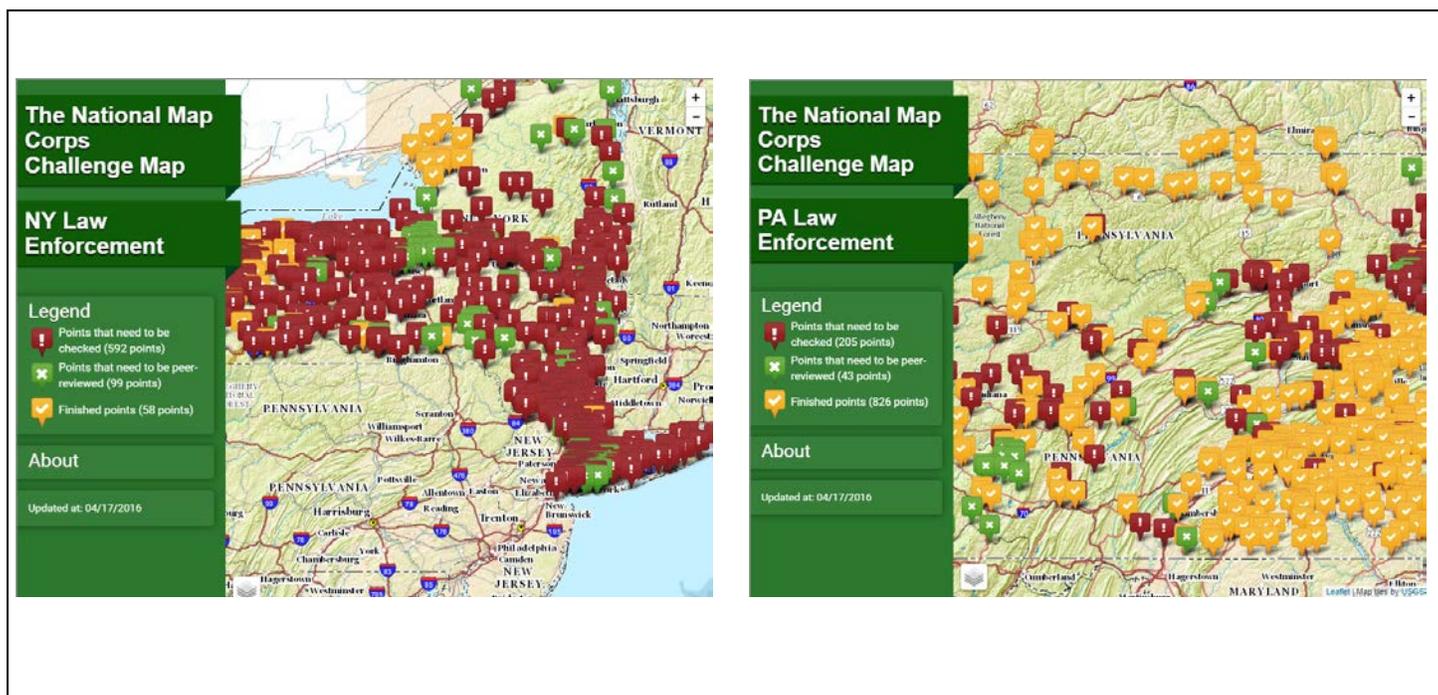
We are pleased to unveil the final patch design, seen to the right.

Check out the [recognition page](#) to see the newly unveiled [leaderboard](#) and find out who has reached the goal of 2,016 points edited and where you currently stand in the rankings.



## We want YOU (to take the Mapping Challenge)

We release [Mapping Challenges](#) when we need certain features types in certain areas edited as soon as possible. Currently we are trying to get all [Law Enforcement](#) points in Pennsylvania and New York updated in [The National Map](#) before those states' [US Topo](#) maps are updated later this year. Find out more information on the [Mapping Challenges page](#) and help us get this data ready for US Topo production! Check out the two [status maps](#) to see what still needs to be done.



## Recent inductee to the Squadron of Biplane Spectators (6,000+ points edited), HGeisler!

As a geography major in college I focused on urban geography, air photo interpretation and cartography. That established the base for a subsequent career as an urban planner that, after some years employment as a long-range planner with first a county and then a city, saw me specialize as a consultant developing facility needs and capital improvement plans for governments of all sizes ranging from Federal agencies to small cities. During the ensuing 40 years practicing that specialty I had the opportunity to work with government jurisdictions throughout the United States. From that, and the fact that I have lived in five states and nine cities, I developed an on-the-ground familiarity with the geography and functioning of a large number of cities and counties as well as the characteristics of the broad spectrum of structures that house government operations. Throughout my career, USGS maps and aerial imagery have been basic tools in my work. Working with TNM Corps, thus, became a natural opportunity to make a contribution using my knowledge and experiences and my love for maps. Participating in TNM Corps has also brought me full circle with my career. My first position after college was as an air photo interpreter with a firm contracted to prepare a topographic map series of Afghanistan. My specific assignment was identifying and annotating structures, drainage and transportation routes (mostly trails) on air photos that served as the base for the maps. This was, of course, before satellites so we worked with black and white stereo pair photos under a stereoscope. So here I am, once again, annotating aerial images but using a mouse and a keyboard rather than prismacolor pencils and rapidograph pens.



HGeisler, contemplating the making of the map

### Have a story or photo you'd like to share?

We want them! This could be anything from a photo of you verifying a structure or an interesting story that you discovered while editing. 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](mailto:nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov).

## Goodbye and Thank You to a Few Wonderful Student Contractors

A lot of change has been happening around the USGS offices, and our TNMCorps team is no exception. Unfortunately we have to say goodbye to our three terrific student contractors: Ricardo, Somayeh, and Lily. Ricardo who did the redesign of our recognition badges and set up new and improved web maps took a full time job in the private sector. Somayeh and Lily, who many of you are familiar with through quality monitoring emails and recognition, were both offered Pathways positions in different sections in our office. We are sad to see them leave our team, but are so thrilled they will still be at the USGS. Congratulations to all three on their exciting new positions! We wish you the best of luck! You'll be seeing emails from our new student contractor, Rachel. Get to know her below, at TNMCorps Team Corner! Welcome Rachel!



and

*Good Luck!*

## TNMCorps Team Corner

Get to know the TNMCorps Team members!



My name is Rachel Stevenson, I am a graduate student at UC Denver, I am obtaining a Master of Arts in applied geography and geospatial science. My interests in Geography and geospatial science, primarily focuses on: interactive web maps, cartography, free open source software and mapping social justice issues and events. I am excited to be a part of The National Map team here at the USGS. Thank you.

## New Recognition Category Members



### Squadron of Biplane Spectators (6000-6999)

- HGeisler
- KentRobert
- queenofthedead



### Ring of Reconnaissance Rocketeers (5000-5999)

- 



### Flock of Winged Witnesses (4000-4999)

- msean21



### Family of Floating Photogrammetrists (3000-3999)

- 



### Theodolite Assemblage (2000-2999)

- 



### Alidade Alliance (1000-1999)

- geo163



### Stadia Board Society (500-999)

- mprgal
- PorkChop



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

- PorkChop
- Sdgenweb
- dgertzjr
- superlemur
- UUDreams
- hbrockus
- Nexus6



### Pedometer Posse (100-199)

- knedlog
- Fernwolf
- Sdgenweb
- Yashraj Rajeshirke
- PorkChop
- hbrockus
- UUDreams
- aestiltner
- GamerGenius64
- superlemur



### Society of the Steel Tape (50-99)

- Lilitleet
- mappal
- aestiltner
- PorkChop
- Sdgenweb
- DAC
- CourtneyRose
- Karst1
- UUDreams
- MotherEarth
- Clemenas
- hbrockus
- Twigs
- superlemur
- DoeringSA\_AICP



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

- DAC
- PorkChop
- Sdgenweb
- Jabo911
- Quinnicow12
- Karst1
- Mandyleh
- roadgeek99
- notedexponent
- RaiderIV
- Chris
- Medic922
- glauserk
- Twigs
- UUDreams
- dwarvenaxe777
- bcclong
- Cepedapr
- Clemenas
- hbrockus
- DoeringSA\_AICP
- kmac25
- superlemur
- Justin
- Canaryyellowbubble
- mdmapper

CONTACT US AT: [nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov](mailto: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

