



surveyor says!

THE NSPS BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2026

WHAT'S INSIDE

01.

WELCOME MESSAGE

02.

RECENT NEWS

03.

ADVOCACY

04.

EVENTS

05.

CONTACT & SUPPORT



NSPS

WELCOME

Hey Surveyors,

September is the month the year starts to close in on itself. The fall meeting is one month away, the last training dates of 2026 are on the calendar, and the work that state associations and local colleges started over the summer is beginning to show results.

There is a lot in this edition: news, training tips, a school district in Texas building a surveying program from scratch, a chapter meeting in New Hampshire that got technology into people's hands, and new articles.

Here's your round-up of what you need to know this month.

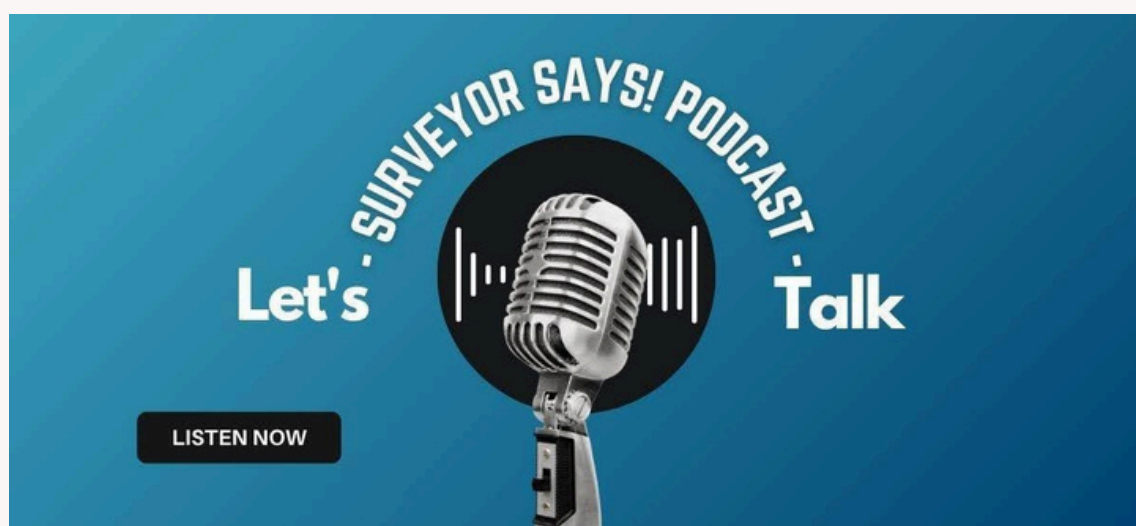
Surveyor Says! The NSPS Podcast

Catch our latest episode featuring a Sponsor Spotlight with Diamond Sponsor Control Point Associates, with Principal Ken Stigner.

Tim sits down with Ken to talk through CPA's history, its growth to over 250 employees across 13 offices, and its focus on technology and mentoring the next generation.

Every episode is available on Podbean and Spotify.

Got a topic or guest you'd like to hear? Email info@nsps.us.com.



RECENT NEWS

The rising demand for certified survey technicians

If you're looking to grow your survey services toolkit, check out our article on Certified Survey Technician credential.

The surveying workforce is aging, infrastructure and land development work keeps moving, and qualified technicians are getting harder to find. This article breaks down how the nationally recognized CST credential works, the four levels across its field and office tracks, and where the credential can take a career, whether you're early on or leading a crew and thinking about succession.

There is also a practical guide to getting started at whichever level matches your experience today. The program runs year-round with exams proctored locally.

[Read the article →](#)

[Learn more about the CST program →](#)

Honoring Veterans: A New Video from PLSO

The Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon (PLSO) just released a new video honoring veterans in the surveying profession, produced for their NW Surveyor brand through an NCEES grant. It's a great watch and a reminder of the many veterans who bring their skills and discipline to our profession.

[Watch the full video here.](#)

New Hampshire young surveyors put mobile scanning to work

Earlier this year, the New Hampshire Land Surveyors Association Young Surveyors Committee drew 32 attendees to a meeting in Portsmouth hosted by James Verra and Associates.

Ryan Fowler and Emilee Woodman presented NavVis mobile scanning technology, including the wearable VLX and handheld MLX, covering capabilities, best-fit applications, and real-world advantages and limitations from projects in New Hampshire and Kentucky. JVA then brought two VLX units and an MLX for attendees to try hands-on.

Real technology, an honest assessment, and time to put the equipment to work. That's a strong chapter meeting.

[Learn more about the Young Surveyors Network here →](#)

RECENT NEWS

**A surveying program takes root in Texas**

Garland Independent School District (TX) has approved a Land Surveying curriculum, and the local survey community is already helping lay the groundwork.

In August, Chris Bentle, Marcos Madrid, and colleagues led an Introduction to Land Surveying session for fifteen District engineering teachers at the Gilbreath Reed Career and Technical Center, covering survey history, tools, technology, and workforce data.

Affiliated courses start this fall, with survey-specific coursework launching in fall 2027 and more school events are already on the calendar.

This is what building a pipeline looks like, one classroom at a time.



RECENT NEWS

Women's Surveying Summit

This year's Women Surveyors Summit in San Diego brought together a record 220 women from across the surveying profession for several days of learning, networking, and inspiration.

With a strong focus on mentorship, workforce development, and emerging technology, the Summit provided valuable opportunities to share experiences, build connections, and support the next generation of surveyors, and NSPS's own Cara Tryling was there.

Having attended four Summits, Cara continues to find the event both professionally rewarding and personally inspiring, thanks to the diversity of attendees and the strong sense of community it fosters. Read on for a look back at this year's event highlights and a preview of the 2027 Women Surveyors Summit in Indiana.

[Read more](#)

NGS Beta Program

As we move closer to the full implementation of the NSRS Modernization Program by our partners at NGS, the beta version of the new Coordinate Conversation and Transformation Tool (NCAT) was made available to the general public for use and evaluation. Our own NSRS Modernization subcommittee continues to be busy with creation of content and publications to help practitioners on all surveying levels with tips and tricks for implementing these new datums into their normal project workflow. Watch for more NSPS communication on helping you prepare for making the switch to a modern coordinate system designed to make your work products even better.

NGS Coordinate Conversion and Transformation Tool (NCAT)

Help Review and Improve the NSRS Tools

Welcome to the beta release of the Modernized NSRS tools. These preliminary products are available for public testing and evaluation and are not yet final or official.

We need your feedback to ensure these tools are accurate, reliable, and ready for operational use. Please test them with your own data and workflows and let us know about any issues you encounter, including file or syntax errors, unexpected computational results, API failures, usability concerns, or other observations. Every report helps us improve the final release.

Send your feedback to ngs.feedback@noaa.gov.

[Submit Feedback](#)

Single Point Conversion | Multipoint Conversion | Downloads | Tutorial & FAQs | About NCAT

Convert/Transform from: ☒ Horizontal ☐ Horizontal+height ☐ XYZ (Cartesian geocentric)

Select the type of horizontal coordinate: ☒ Geodetic lat-long ☐ SPC (State Plane Coordinate) ☐ UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) ☐ USNG (US National Grid)

Enter lat lon in decimal degrees

Lat: Lon:

or degrees-minutes-seconds

Lat: Lon:

or drag map marker to a location of interest

Input datum: Output datum:

SPC zone:

[Submit](#)

Last Updated: Sep 23 2020

RECENT NEWS

GeoSummit, Alaska

NSPS recently attended the 2026 Alaska GeoSummit in Girdwood at the Alyeska Resort as part of a panel discussion on the NSRS Modernization. As part of the various sessions and conversations regarding GeoAI and geospatial data, the panel highlighted the efforts by NGS in implementing the modernization program. The session was well attended with many questions by the audience with discussions spilling over into the rest of the conference.



2026 Alaska GeoSummit Panel (l-r): Nathan Wardell – JOA Surveys, Derald Dudley – USDOT, Erik Oppedgard – Alaska CORS Network, Galen Scott – NGS Constituent Manager, Tim Burch – NSPS Executive Director

A unique portion of the conference was held during a glacier cruise in Prince William Sound as speakers provided fascinating sessions about Alaska terrain and status of its vast coastline. This afternoon event also allowed for more networking and making new connections throughout the geospatial community.

Being in Alaska also provided NSPS with the opportunity to meet with the Alaska Society of Professional Land Surveyors (ASPLS). A big thanks for NSPS Alaska Director Jon Roder for coordinating this great evening of networking and fellowship.



ASPLS / NGS / NSPS Meetup (l-r): Laura Rear-McLaughlin – Deputy Director, NGS, Lindsey Vaughn – ASPLS President, Tim Burch – NSPS Executive Director, Rachael Dempsey – Deputy Assistant Director, NOAA

RECENT NEWS

Surveying Monopoly

We're excited to share a new initiative helping put surveying in front of the next generation in a completely different way: Surveying Monopoly. Created by Get Kids into Survey (GKiS), Surveying Monopoly has been designed to introduce children and families to the world of surveying through something familiar, accessible and fun: gameplay.



We are proud to say that **NSPS is a Platinum Sponsor** of this project!

Across the board, players will discover the careers, technology, equipment, projects and places that make surveying such a varied profession.

From mapping and measurement to modern surveying technology, the game creates an opportunity for families to discover just how much surveyors contribute to the world around us.

At the heart of the project is a simple idea:

Young people cannot aspire to a career they have never seen or heard of.

Surveying Monopoly brings that career visibility into homes, schools, outreach activities and events, helping start conversations about the profession at an early age.

NSPS joins 25 organizations from across the surveying and geospatial community that have come together to bring the board to life, representing different disciplines, technologies and career opportunities from across the profession. Surveying Monopoly is now available to **pre-order**.



RECENT NEWS

Survey and GIS, working as one: A chat with Esri and NSPS

NSPS and our sponsor Esri hosted a live webinar on September 9th, "Streamlined Workflows: Connecting Survey and GIS through TBC", with Trimble joining to explore how the two platforms work together.

The session covered building a live connection to a system of record rather than importing and exporting static files, integrating survey deliverables into GIS so projects become more widely accessible, and drawing GIS insights directly from survey data.

If you missed it, [catch up via the recording here](#) →

Small surveying programs need active protection, wherever they are

As public university funding tightens, small surveying and geomatics departments face growing pressure to justify their place on campus, and it's not unique to any one country.

Writing in GIM International, Australian academic Craig Roberts argues program heads can no longer rely on strong teaching alone; protecting these programs takes active marketing, close industry partnerships, and educating university leadership on why surveyors matter.

One example: a university that partnered with an industry consortium to co-fund a faculty position in exchange for closer ties through careers events and curriculum input, a model that could translate well to US programs facing similar pressures.

His broader point holds regardless of geography: sustaining the next generation of surveyors means the profession has to actively show up for its academic programs.

[Read the full story](#) →

To find out how to start supporting young surveyors in your area visit the [NSPS Young Surveyors Network](#).

ADVOCACY

Surveying Profession Well Represented at NGAC Meeting

On August 12th and 13th, Dr. Davey Edwards of Texas and Ryan Johnson of Idaho, both members of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee ([NGAC](#)) representing the surveying profession, attended the NGAC meeting held at the Department of Interior (DOI) Headquarters in Washington, DC. This meeting focused on AI, USGS 3DEP, the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), and a panel on the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS).

[Click here](#) for the meeting agenda and documents.



NSPS Attends Congressional Field Hearing in California on Workforce Development

On September 4, NSPS Director for California Armand Marois attended the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee [hearing](#) held in Santa Clarita, California. This bipartisan hearing was orchestrated by Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA), the Chairman of the Subcommittee, perhaps the most powerful Appropriations subcommittee. Also attending were Reps. Ed Case (D-HI) and David Valadao (R-CA). Pictured here with Chairman Calvert, Armand Marois provided packets of information on the surveying profession's view on workforce development as well as draft legislation addressing the issue via the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Pilot for the annual defense bill and the annual defense appropriations bill to the Members of Congress and their staff. NSPS worked closely with the California Land Surveyors Association on coordinating logistics and attendance.



ADVOCACY

NSPS Continues Leadership on USGS 3DEP

On August 7, NSPS helped co-lead the 3DEP Coalition virtual meeting with the budget examiner/analyst for USGS in the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) as to promote robust USGS funding for 3DNTM-3DEP-3DHP in FY2028.

The 3DEP Coalition will soon meet in person with USGS Program Leadership in Washington, DC.



Changes Proposed for Small Business Size Standards

On August 20, the U.S. SBA proposed two rules that will transform the small business program. The Revised Size Standards Methodology will update the methodology that SBA has historically used to calculate size standards.

The Small Business Size Standards will apply the new methodology to consolidate the number of industry-specific size standards and significantly raise size standard thresholds. The proposed changes will result in a net increase of about 114,541 businesses classified as small, an increase of nearly 37,002 unique firms with FY 2025 contracts as newly eligible small businesses, and a reduction from 995 size standards to 338 size standards. Comments on both proposed rules are due September 21, 2026.

EVENTS

Celebrate America 250 with NSPS at Mount Rushmore

The Black Hills have drawn surveyors for generations. This October, they draw us back for a special celebration.

Join NSPS for the 250th Celebration at Mount Rushmore on October 19th at The Lodge at Deadwood in South Dakota, as we celebrate 250 years of surveyors measuring America.

This is a great opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the country, and be part of a milestone year for the profession. Space is limited, so we encourage you to secure your spot early.

[Register here →](#)



Thank you to our event sponsors for helping make this possible: Juliano Associates, Diamondback Land Surveying, Frontier Precision, Banner Associates

Thank you to our meeting sponsors: NCEES, Juliano Associates, Dioptra, Gayle Burchard, Helms and Associates, Rick Engineering

A special thank you to our Diamond Sponsors: Trimble, Esri, Assurance Risk Managers, and Control Point Associates.

Final 2026 Session: Certified Floodplain Surveyor National Academy

October 10 to 13, 2026 | Idaho

Don't miss out.

[Find out more →](#)

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NEW EPISODES EACH WEEK
CLICK ON THE BANNER TO LISTEN!

