



# National Surveyors Week Volunteer Kit

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WHO. WHAT. WHEN. WHERE. WHY.

# HOW!

It's all about the HOW.

It's not breaking news that the annual number of retiring surveyors far exceeds the number of those entering the surveying profession. It's up to us to reverse this trend. One of the best ways to do that is to introduce the newest generation to the surveying profession. Show them how interesting your job is and how it relates to their local community.

## SECTION 1

### How to request a proclamation.

An easy way to bring public recognition to the profession is by obtaining proclamations from local, state, and national governments to recognize the contributions of surveyors.

Contact the state and local government offices from which you would like to request a proclamation to determine the process for each. Most state and local governments need at least 3–4 weeks to complete the request. Sample proclamations are available on the National Surveyors Week website, which can be accessed through the NSPS website at [www.nspis.us.com](http://www.nspis.us.com). Make sure you follow up to confirm receipt of your request and to find out how long it will take to complete it, how you will be notified, and if you can schedule a signing ceremony.

If you are able to schedule a signing ceremony,

- Arrange to have several surveyors present
- Promote the day and time of the ceremony on community calendars and in local news publications
- Make sure a photographer will be present at the event so that you can include a photo with any news releases and post them on your website

## SECTION 2

### How do I talk to kids about surveying?

#### HOW do I start?

Identify potential groups within your local community. Your list should include local elementary and middle schools, after-school care programs, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, Boys and Girls Clubs, and other area youth groups.

#### HOW do I set up a visit?

Look at your list and see if you have a personal connection to any of the groups. Do you have a daughter who is a Girl Scout? Is your neighbor an elementary school teacher?

Once you've identified a group to work with,

- Reach out to them and explain that you are interested in visiting the group and leading a hands-on activity related to surveying
- Answer any questions they may have
- Ask if they have a volunteer policy
- Schedule and confirm a date and time for the visit

## SECTION 2

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### HOW do I explain surveying to kids?

Hands-on activities are the best way to engage the group and illustrate basic surveying principles. You can also bring some of your equipment and demonstrate how and why you use it.

### HOW do I get kids excited about the profession?

Use phrases like making a difference and problem solving. Avoid phrases and terms that make it sound difficult to become a surveyor. Ask them about their interests, and see if any of them relate to the profession. Do they like to work with computers? If so, tell them how you use computers and other advanced technology in surveying. Are they interested in history? Tell them about the historical significance of the profession and boundaries. Demonstrate the technology you use every day.

### HOW do I prepare for my visit?

#### 7–10 days before the visit

Decide which of your favorite activities you'd like to share with the group, and gather the necessary materials. If you don't have a favorite activity or would like some new ideas, visit the National Surveyors Week website via [www.nsp.us.com](http://www.nsp.us.com) and download a free copy of GPS Adventures. This easy-to-follow guide provides sample GPS-related hands-on activities that are easily adapted to include basic surveying principles.

#### Day of visit

Make sure you wear something that you would typically wear to work. If you often work in the field, consider wearing your outdoor attire and gear. Students are usually quick to recognize a surveyor when he or she has on a hard hat and other outdoor gear. And remember, relax, smile, and have fun!

#### Day after visit

Follow up with the teacher or leaders of the group to thank them for the opportunity and to make sure they know where to find more information. Ask for feedback on the session and activity.

## SECTION 3

### GPS Day

#### HOW can I take part in GPS Day on March 25?

GPS Day takes place each year during National Surveyors Week. Sponsored by NSPS and often coordinated with the the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and Esri, it provides an opportunity for surveyors to reach out to the public and explain how they use GPS technology, its significance within the surveying profession, and how it ultimately affects the community.

Before starting, visit the NGS website at [ngs.noaa.gov](http://ngs.noaa.gov) and download DSWorld. This program is a GEOID12A accuracy map that shows the areas where the geoid model is the most challenged. Try to find an existing 1st- or 2nd-Order NAVD 88 benchmark that has not previously been “GPSed,” and submit it to NGS. When you’re done, visit the NGS website at [ngs.noaa.gov/OPUS](http://ngs.noaa.gov/OPUS) to publish your OPUS solutions for your GPS Day observations.

Taking part in GPS Day can be as simple or elaborate as you’d like to make it. Visit [www.gpsday.com](http://www.gpsday.com) to learn about the different ways you can participate. There you’ll find everything you need to plan a variety of GPS Day activities.

## SECTION 4

### Surveying Merit Badge

#### HOW can I help a Boy Scout earn the Surveying Merit Badge?

Helping a Boy Scout earn the surveying merit badge has never been easier. Start by visiting the Boy Scouts of America website ([www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)) to download the current badge requirements. Then visit the NSPS website ([www.nsps.us.com](http://www.nsps.us.com)) for step-by-step instructions on how to complete the requirements and tutorials.

After reviewing the requirements, identify local Boy Scout troop leaders in your community. Reach out to them and offer to help their scouts complete the badge requirements. Completing all of the requirements for the badge can take approximately 6–7 hours.

## SECTION 5

### Trig-Star

#### HOW can I get involved in the Trig-Star Competition?

Trig-Star is an annual competition for high school trigonometry students. It connects what students are learning in the classroom with a profession that requires those skills.

Volunteers are needed to assist in administering the exams and presenting information to the students about the surveying profession. Contact your state coordinator and let them know that you are interested in volunteering. Visit [www.trig-star.info](http://www.trig-star.info) for more information and for a list of state coordinators.