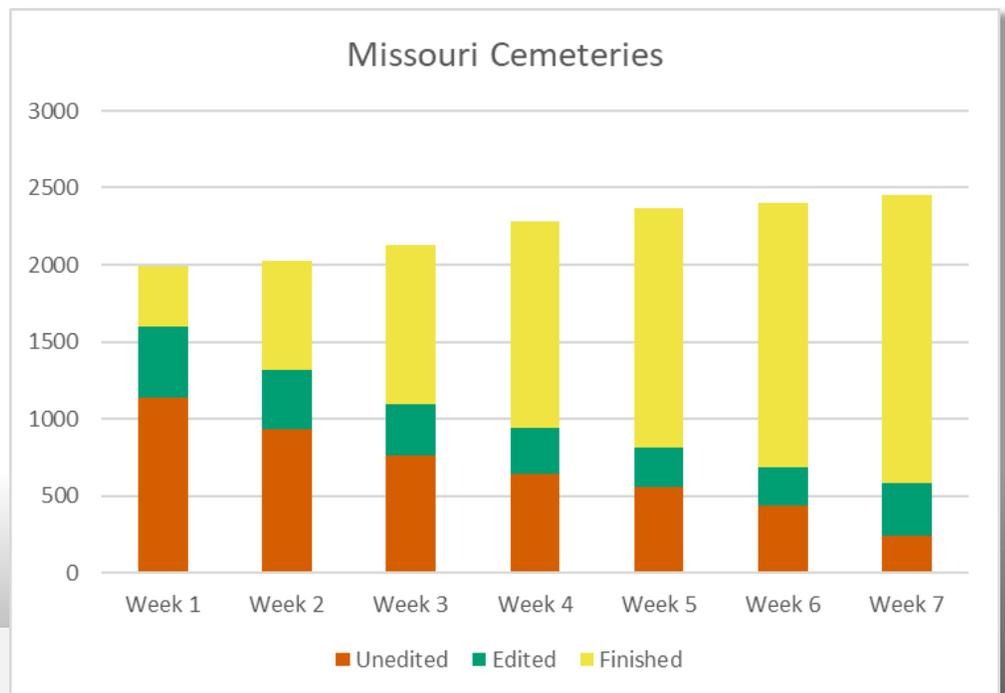
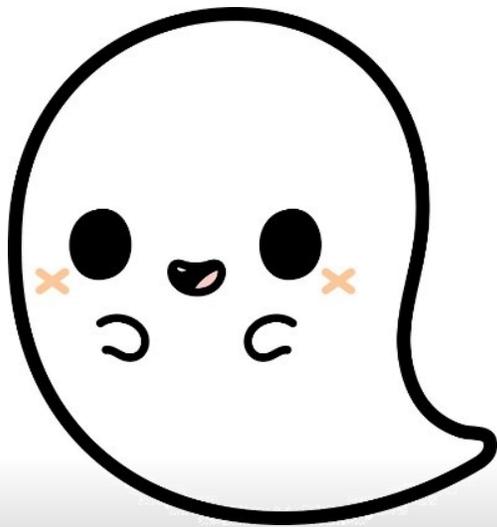




## Mapping Challenges Updates

Back-to-school season has passed, and the holidays are upon us. To kick off the holiday season, we launched a cemeteries challenge in time for Halloween and our volunteers have been doing a fa-BOO-lous job contributing! The graph below shows how fast unedited (red) points have decreased while finished (yellow) points have steadily increased. What really lifted our spirits is that over the course of this challenge, volunteers added almost 500 new points that were not yet on the map - thank you!



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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- 8 [TNMCorps Puzzle: Word Scramble](#)
- 9 [Recognition](#)

*Weekly Point Counts for Missouri Cemeteries*





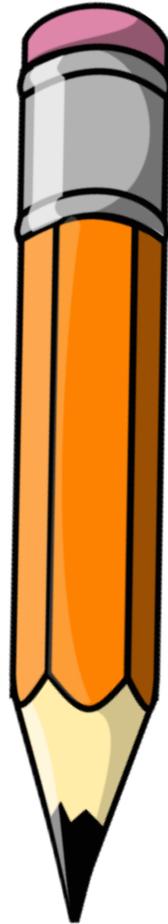
## School Icon Review (Continued)

What should you look for



### NAME

If you're editing a school point, one of the most obvious indicators of which icon it should be assigned is the name. If the name contains "Elementary", it's a safe bet that the school should be represented with an *Elementary School* icon. If the name contains "High School" or "Middle School", then the schools can be represented with a *High School* and *Middle School* icon, respectively. If the name indicates that a combination of grades are served, such as "Junior / Senior High School", then a *General School* icon can be used. It gets a bit trickier when dealing with charter, private, or parochial schools which often serve students in unconventional grade ranges, such as PreK-8, or K-12. Typically, these points should be labeled with a *General School* icon.



### GRADE LEVELS SERVED

If the name of a school doesn't give away how it should be labeled, you'll need to do a little research to find out which grade levels the school serves. We always recommend starting with an [official school or district website](#). The [National Center for Education Statistics](#) is also a good resource for figuring out grade levels. Then work through the [school type decision tree](#) to determine which icon to assign the school.



**Reminder!**

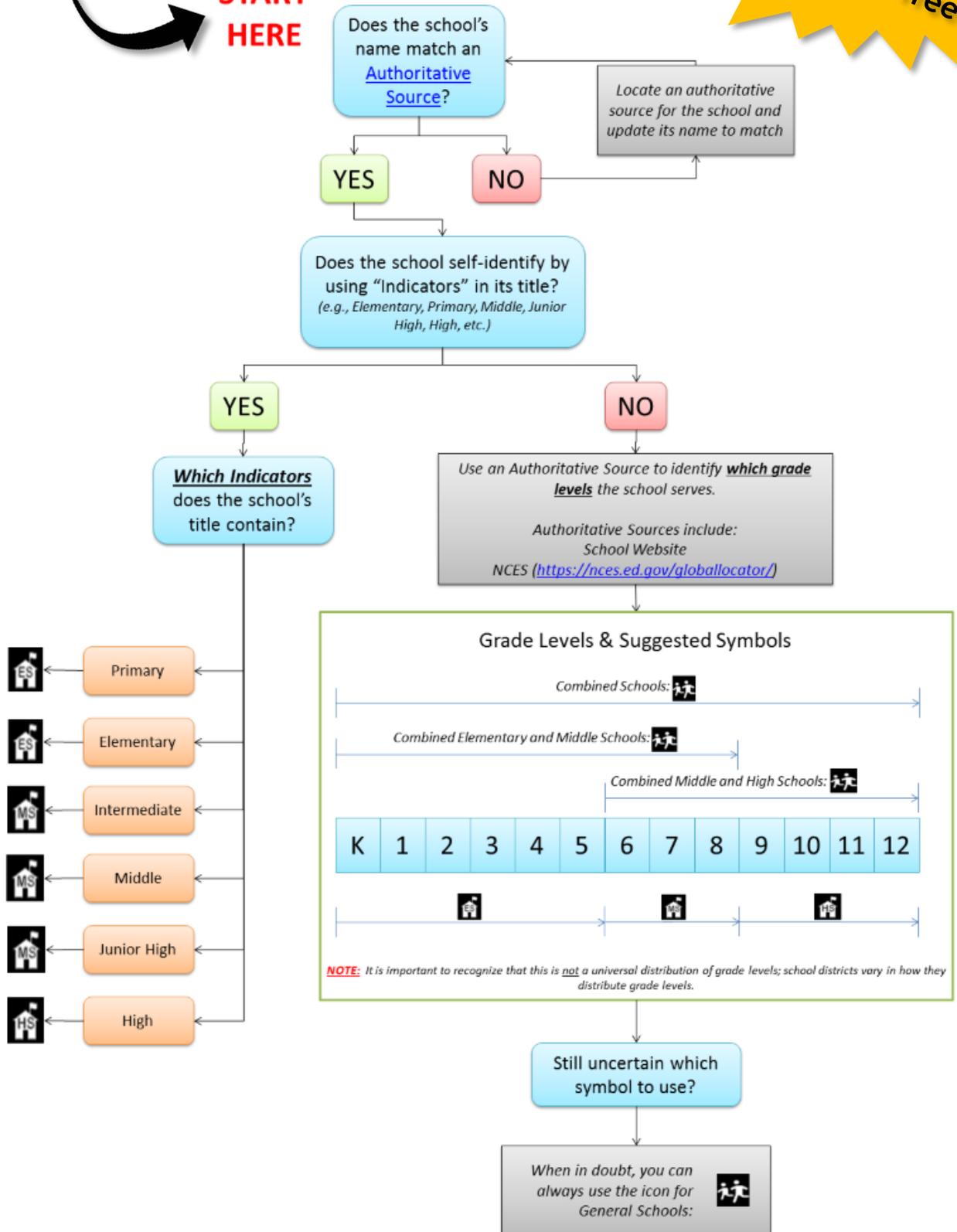
*We are not collecting preschools, kindergarten facilities, or day care centers. If you encounter any of these features while editing, please delete them.*

It is OK to collect a school that serves students in preschool or kindergarten as long as the school *also* serves students in at least one grade beyond kindergarten. For example, a PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade school can be collected and labeled as an *Elementary School*.

# School Icon Review (Continued)



**START HERE**



## School Icon Review (Continued)

**Changing Icons:** If you encounter a school that isn't accurately labeled, you should change the icon to represent the type of school it is.

For example, [Bell Creek Academy](#) was labeled with a Middle School icon, but their [website](#) notes that they serve students in grades 6-12.

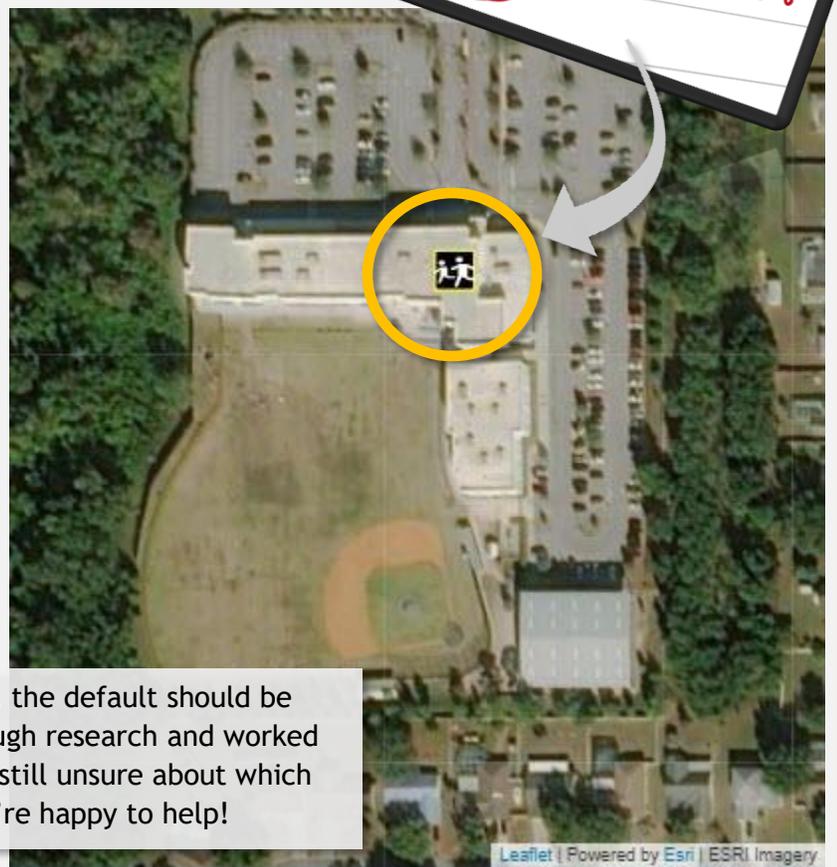
Grades 6-12: 8:30AM - 3:30PM  
[info@bellcreekacademy.com](mailto:info@bellcreekacademy.com)



Because this is a combined middle and high school, it should be labeled with a General School icon.

Click here (in the editing window) to change the icon to a General School.

**(A+) excellent!**



In situations where the grade levels aren't clear, the default should be the *General School* icon. And if you've done thorough research and worked through the school type decision tree, and you're still unsure about which icon to assign a school, [reach out to us!](#) We're happy to help!

## Blast from the Past Part 3: Past Newsletter Articles

Every now and then we highlight past newsletter articles, especially for our newer TNMCorps volunteers who may have not yet browsed through our vast collection of information. This month we're highlighting both [Q&A posts](#) and articles from [past newsletters](#) to help with upcoming fire station mapping challenges! See the [Blast from the Past Part 2: Past Newsletter Articles](#) for tips on editing schools, city/town halls, and cemeteries.

The first post for each mapping challenge also contains tips and tricks for editing that specific feature type:

The first post for each challenge is typically marked with a *NEW!!* stamp surrounded by stars



Date published: NOVEMBER 10, 2020

### NEW TNMCorps Mapping Challenge for Schools in MO!

TNMCorps Mapping Challenges shift to the Midwest with a new challenge for schools in Missouri! Features participating in this challenge include General Schools, Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, and High Schools.

Attribution: Core Science Systems, Science Support, National Geospatial Program

## Fire Station Resources

December 2014: [Fun with Fire Stations](#)

March 2017: [Tricky Points and Deep Research](#) (applies to rural fire stations, too!)

September 2017: [More Tips and Tricks](#)

January 2018: [Aerial Photo Interpretation Part 3: Fire Stations/EMS](#)

January 2018: [Making the Call](#)

July 2020: [Social Media as an Authoritative Source](#)

Articles  
Newsletter



Q&A Posts

[Fire Stations on Military Bases](#)

[State Forest Fire Departments](#)

[Factory and Airport Based Fire Stations](#)

[Rural Fire Stations](#)

[Training Academies](#)

[When a fire station is temporarily closed](#)

[Different Fire Stations that share the same building](#)

## Volunteer Bio: HGeisler

*HGeisler has been a dedicated long-term volunteer (17 years!) whose participation we've greatly appreciated! He earned our highest recognition badge, [Squadron of Biplane Spectators](#), all the way back in [April 2016](#), and has continued making high-quality contributions to The National Map Corps. Read on to learn more about his background and what motivates him to keep volunteering!*

“Little did I know way back in 2003 when I signed up for the [USGS Earth Science Corps](#), that I would still be editing USGS maps in 2020. Somehow (not sure exactly how) I saw something that led me to the program. Back then, volunteers were assigned a Quad to field check and the sheet covering my neighborhood was available for checking. Shortly after signing up I received a thick packet in the mail containing several copies of my assigned Quad along with my volunteer badge, a data collection and formatting guide, and a dashboard placard for my car. That was a “check everything on the sheet and add what is not” assignment and a lot of weekend time was spent getting mud on my shoes and a bunch of miles on the car. About the time I completed checking and annotating two adjacent Quads (over a year of work) and moving to a different city and state, the program transitioned to identifying landmark structures in the field and recording the coordinates. I was a bit disappointed that I could not do the complete field check on the Quad that covered a portion of my new hometown but at least I was able to participate in the new project with just an Excel spreadsheet and my handheld GPS. As I recall that program did not last long and was replaced with what we do today. No more getting caught in the rain or trying to explain to police officers and passersby what I was doing!!

“When people hear what I have been up to all these years they ask me: “With your degree in geography, and having spent your career as an urban planner, why do you want to spend your free time volunteering to do what seems to be related to what you have been doing for a living?” I have asked myself that question and the answer is quite simple - I love maps and I enjoy the opportunity to participate in improving a document that has been a tool I use in my day job and is used by many others for a broad range of purposes. The structures program has, in particular, really captured me because of my professional specialty. For quite a few years now I have, after leaving municipal employment, been in private practice preparing facility master plans and building location studies for city, county and state governments. Having served clients in 30 states over a lot of years, I have been in, and seen, more public buildings than I can count but I really enjoy seeing many more from the “air” as I edit. It is particularly satisfying when I find a structure where I can honestly say that I am an “Authoritative Source” because the building is included in one of the plans I have prepared or is one in which I have participated in its design.

“With all of that said, as long as the structures program is around, and I can click a mouse, my username will continue to appear in the edit history of many points.”




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***We are truly impressed, grateful, and so honored to have an expert as a longtime contributor! Thanks, HGeisler!***

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*We really love hearing from our volunteers, so if you'd like to be featured in a future newsletter, [send us a bio and/or a picture you'd like to share!](#) We'd also love hearing about any interesting structures or stories you've encountered while editing, so feel free to send those our way as well!*



## 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)



## New Recognition Category Members



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



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

- Afaf Assaf



**Theodolite Assemblage**  
(2000-2999)

- Afaf Assaf



**Stadia Board Society**  
(500-999)

- Afaf Assaf



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

- ktomansager
- genovt



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

- Buz Hopper
- JoanMCameron



**Alidade Alliance**  
(1000-1999)

- LabradorSky
- NorthwoodsGal
- Afaf Assaf



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

- azko1support2
- DylanM@USGS
- Afaf Assaf
- ShaneM@USGS



**Pedometer Posse (100-199)**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ShaneM@USGS</li> <li>Afaf Assaf</li> <li>cez824</li> <li>kelliemallen</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DylanM@USGS</li> <li>Kenny5056</li> <li>Captain Toasted</li> <li>Jonah O</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EKebert03</li> <li>dinbo1996</li> <li>sam_and_eggs</li> <li>vchris30</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|



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

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kit-Kat</li> <li>Mulehead Jackson</li> <li>Afaf Assaf</li> <li>Captain Toasted</li> <li>Juan</li> <li>Jonah O</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rick09</li> <li>cez824</li> <li>dinbo1996</li> <li>kelliemallen</li> <li>EKebert03</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kenny5056</li> <li>caitgar</li> <li>christina_miw</li> <li>sam_and_eggs</li> <li>vchris30</li> <li>riley.radosavich</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|



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

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mulehead Jackson</li> <li>Ry_Keg</li> <li>jordanek</li> <li>karl6109</li> <li>Afaf Assaf</li> <li>Jonah O</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Captain Toasted</li> <li>EKebert03</li> <li>dinbo1996</li> <li>Agro</li> <li>Rick09</li> <li>Mules21'</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bigkerm1</li> <li>cez824</li> <li>kelliemallen</li> <li>kaciehang</li> <li>Kenny5056</li> <li>riley.radosavich</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Linda@humana</li> <li>ThatMattPerson</li> <li>caitgar</li> <li>christina_miw</li> <li>sam_and_eggs</li> <li>vchris30</li> </ul> |
|---|---|--|--|

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.

