

Citizen Science Month is Coming Up!

Since 2016, April has been the official month of [citizen science](#)! Not only is it a time to celebrate the contributions of citizen scientists across various disciplines, but it's a great time to explore and get involved in opportunities that support and advance all kinds of research and data collection efforts. As TNMCorps volunteers, you are considered citizen scientists. You collect, update, and verify data that goes onto the [US Topo maps](#) and [The National Map](#); trusted resources on which other agencies and the public rely.

So, to celebrate the upcoming Citizen Science Month, we want to send out a huge thank you to all our volunteers! We appreciate your hard work and dedication to our project and hope that you'll take the time in April (or whenever!) to encourage others to check out [The National Map Corps](#) or other citizen science projects. And if you happen to be stuck at home for a couple of weeks, editing structures data is a great way to pass some time and make a difference!

The logo for Citizen Science Month April 2020 is set against a dark blue background. At the top, there is a small orange graphic of three circles connected by lines. Below this, the words 'CITIZEN SCIENCE' are written in large, bold, white capital letters. Underneath that, the word 'MONTH' is written in white capital letters, followed by 'APRIL 2020' in white capital letters inside an orange rectangular box.

**CITIZEN
SCIENCE
MONTH** APRIL 2020

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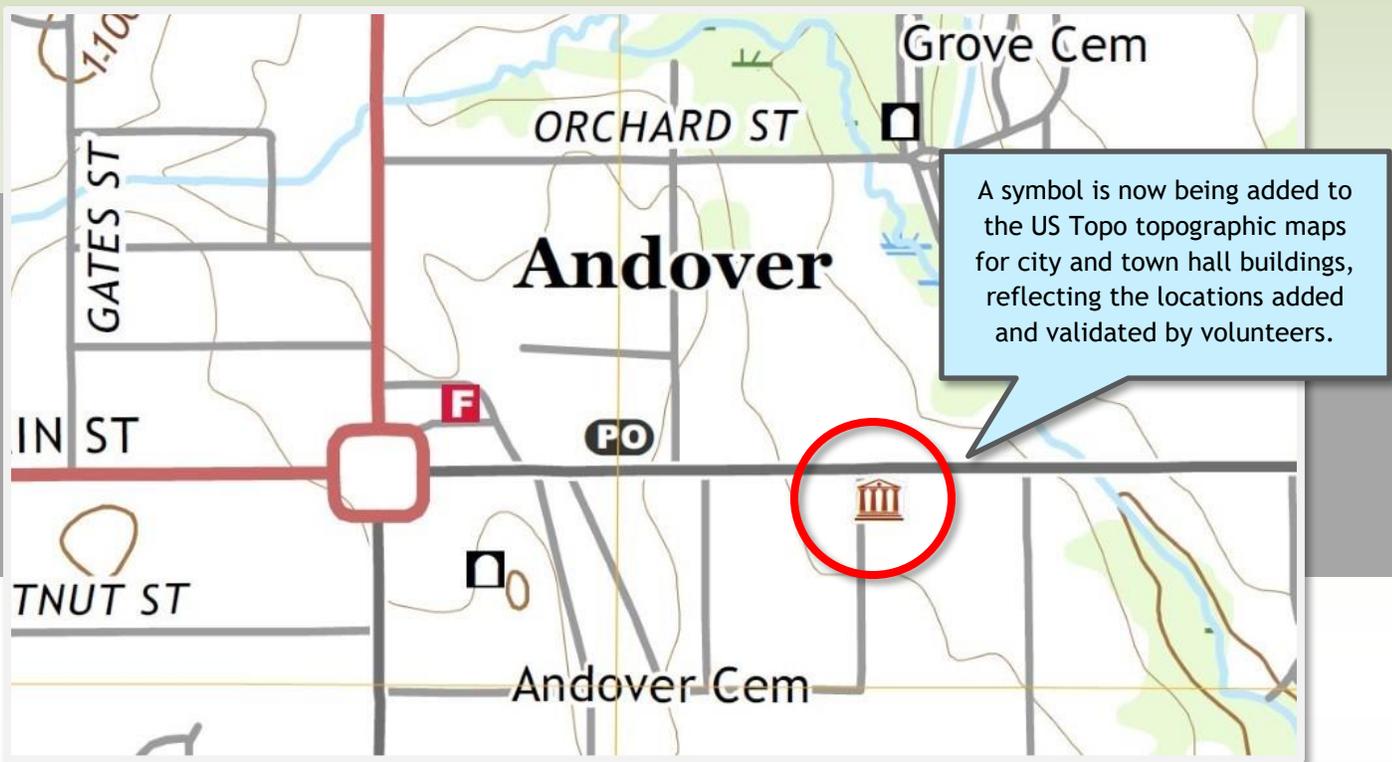
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Check out [scistarter.org](#) and [citizenscience.org](#) for more information on Citizen Science Month and some great volunteer opportunities! We've also highlighted [Citizen Science Month](#) and other [USGS sponsored citizen science projects](#) in past [newsletters](#). And for even more volunteer opportunities, check out [volunteer.gov](#) and [VolunteerMatch](#).

Thanks again and stay safe everyone!

City and Town Hall Collection Project Milestone

It seems like only yesterday we [announced](#) city and town halls as our new feature for data collection. And as always, our volunteers stepped up, jumping right in to update and add new points. We are very happy to report that we are over halfway done with this project! At the time of publication of this newsletter, we stand at 53% completed.



Each year, the USGS updates about a third of the US Topo maps (about 18,000 maps per year). TNMCorps volunteers play a vital role in that process by enriching our Structures dataset, which in turn enhances our mapping products, such as the [US Topo topographic maps](#) and other publicly available data.

We've made great progress, so keep going! We have new [mapping challenge areas](#) coming soon, including Georgia, South Carolina, and the Gulf states (Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida). Challenge areas are chosen based on the US Topo map production cycle, but remember, you can also edit anywhere in the country. Check out the "Mapping Challenges Updates" article on [page 3](#) for more information on recent and current mapping challenges.

We appreciate the contributions of all our volunteers towards meeting the goal of nationwide coverage for city and town halls, so thanks a bunch, and keep up the good work!



Mapping Challenges Updates

Our volunteers are superb and have been flying through mapping challenges! Since the beginning of 2019, our volunteers have completed **10 challenges** and have edited a combined total of **5,845 points!**

Here is a breakdown of all the challenges dating back to 2019:

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	LENGTH (DAYS)	# OF UNIQUE POINTS	# OF VOLUNTEERS
2020					
City / Town Halls	ID	1/30/20 - 2/12/20	13	142	3
City / Town Halls	WA / OR	1/9/20 - 2/12/20	34	388	9
2019					
City / Town Halls	UT, AZ, NM	12/12/19 - 1/23/20	42	276	5
City / Town Halls	MI	11/6/19 - 1/6/20	61	336	13
City / Town Halls	OH, WV	9/30/19 - 12/12/19	73	598	13
Cemeteries	MI	10/1/19 - 11/4/19	34	204	6
Schools	MI	9/5/19 - 10/24/19	49	560	6
City / Town Halls	NJ, NY, PA	5/14/19 - 9/26/19	135	2,786	21
City / Town Halls	CO	8/9/19 - 9/5/19	27	167	3
City / Town Halls	DC, DE, MD, VA	3/21/19 - 5/9/19	49	388	15

Now you know why we say our volunteers are amazing!



Why so many challenges for City / Town Halls?

As you may recall, we introduced city and town halls as a new feature back in [September 2018](#). TNMCORPS had very little seed-data for this feature type when it was launched, which initially resulted in some states having city and town hall data while others had none. With these features now being added to US Topo maps, TNMCORPS turned to our volunteers to help us prepare these states for production. We knew our volunteers were up for the challenge since they'd just demonstrated that they could collect a dataset of courthouses from scratch!

Current Challenges

Rest assured the fun isn't over yet! We currently have four challenges open, including some for schools. Check them out at <https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/ngp/tnm-corps> under the News and Mapping Challenges sections where status updates are posted weekly.



Volunteer Bios: Buz Hopper and trmosher

Back in January, volunteer **Buz Hopper** reached the 2,000 points edited milestone and earned the [Theodolite Assemblage](#) badge, placing him in one of our top [recognition](#) categories! Thanks for helping out The National Map Corps and keep up the good work Buz!



“I enjoy maps. So, doing volunteer work with The National Map Corps gives me a chance to do something I enjoy in my spare time. The people in the Corps that I have communicated with have been very helpful, friendly, and patient.

“I am a retired Navy Intelligence Specialist and have had some training in imaging. So, this gives me a chance to continue to use some of those skills. It has also been a great way to see the countryside with Google Maps™ and Street View™.”



Our latest volunteer to join the ranks of our highest badge, the [Squadron of Biplane Spectators](#), is trmosher! You might recognize him from our [September 2019 newsletter](#) when he reached the Theodolites Assemblage. Congratulations, and thanks for all your hard work, trmosher!

“Volunteering is a large part of who I am, having committed untold time to volunteer efforts over the decades to community theatre, food banks and more recently to The National Map Corps, National Park Service, and state parks. I retired in 2019 after 30 years working in the performing arts mostly as a stage manager and lighting designer, and 15 years working in real estate as a property manager and appraiser. I spent several months in my new phase of life volunteering in a state park and a national monument and plan to continue doing so going forward. With the coming of spring and summer, my quest to hike Colorado's 14ers will continue, adding to the ten I have already hiked over the years.



“In 2019/2020 I started looking for ways to volunteer online to help organizations virtually. This now includes transcribing historical documents for the National Park Service and The National Archives.

“But by far, most of my virtual volunteer efforts have been helping to edit The National Map for the The National Map Corps. Having started this effort in the spring of 2019, I am now approaching 7,000 edits in the spring of 2020. It has been fun watching the status maps of the National Map show the progress of edits by so many volunteer editors sweep across the nation! I like to use Google Maps to help verify most map edits at the street level. This also allows me to “see” so much of our nation that I likely will never visit.

“Having travelled to 54 nations over the years, I am always amazed when coming home, at the incredible nation we have in the USA and I am happy to be a part of an effort to explore and reveal its rich community through The National Map. Thanks so much!”

TNMCorps Puzzle: Scavenger Hunt

Use the [TNMCorps editor](#) to identify the features indicated by the following clues:

1) This point is located at these coordinates: 40.9033, -121.9399.

2) This fire department is located northeast of the first point in this puzzle at 41.2905, - 120.7816.

3) This fire department is located at 930 Seminary Street in Napa, CA.

4) This elementary school is in Pine Arizona.

5) This Florida post office is near a body of water and is located at these coordinates 28.8202, -81.7741.

6) Station 13 in Highland City, Florida.

7) This elementary school is just north of the Mississippi River in the city of Laplace, LA and has a GNIS ID of 1629327.

8) This post office is located at 3639 West 79th Street in Chicago, IL.

9) This city hall is located at 324 North Michigan Avenue in Ohio.

10) This New York Elementary school is just west of Billington Bay in Oneida Lake in Brewerton, NY.

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



New Recognition Category Members



Squadron of Biplane Spectators (6000-6999)

- trmosher



Family of Floating Photogrammetrists (3000-3999)

- LB2019gis
- Buz Hopper



Theodolite Assemblage (2000-2999)

- Vy Phan Tuong Le



Stadia Board Society (500-999)

- ScottMc
- J S Ellis



Ring of Reconnaissance Rocketeers (5000-5999)

- trmosher



Flock of Winged Witnesses (4000-4999)

- trmosher



Alidade Alliance (1000-1999)

- angmar100



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

- J S Ellis
- JB1301
- Kash
- doug_lane
- jkl789
- starsrunner135



Pedometer Posse (100-199)

- kkuhn7
- Kash
- djs5101
- doug_lane
- Solus
- jkl789
- billbrasky82
- Anton Guo



Society of the Steel Tape (50-99)

- PKCorp
- doug_lane
- semcgirt
- WinterHeart99
- Kash
- djs5101
- Solus
- jkl789
- billbrasky82
- stevieba
- gnolan01



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

- PKCorp
- Poesephus23
- doug_lane
- erpim
- aaroncolorado
- Kash
- Kathryn Boyles
- djs5101
- Solus
- Vannessawilson
- jkl789
- Woahjulian_
- esteckel
- Idrewabird
- billbrasky82
- Jmccoy
- Carat17

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.

