



Mapping Challenges Updates

Since our [November newsletter](#) came out, city/town hall challenges have gone from Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wyoming now to the Pacific coast! You'd think we were tracing the steps of Lewis and Clark or the Oregon Trail, but no worries; there's [no risk of dysentery](#). However, instead of the northern Pacific coast where it rains most of the year, our destination is sunny California and Nevada. We've launched a new city/town halls challenge in these states, just in time to fend off those post-holiday winter blues! The table below shows challenges completed since our last newsletter was released, and new challenges launched.

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	LENGTH (DAYS)	# OF UNIQUE POINTS	# OF VOLUNTEERS
NEW!! City / Town Halls	CA / NV	1/7/21 – present	(See our original post from 1/7/21 for tips and tricks on this challenge)		
Schools	MO	11/10/20 – present	(See our original post from 11/10/20 for tips and tricks on this challenge)		
Schools	TX	11/24/20 – present	(See our original post from 11/24/20 for tips and tricks on this challenge)		
City / Town Halls	NE / WY	12/3/20 – 1/6/21	35	187	5
(November 2020 Newsletter)					
Cemeteries	MO	10/1/20 – 11/24/20	54	1,762	9
City / Town Halls	IL / MO	9/24/20 – 11/24/20	61	928	11

All challenge updates are listed on our [website](#) under Resources > Mapping Challenges.

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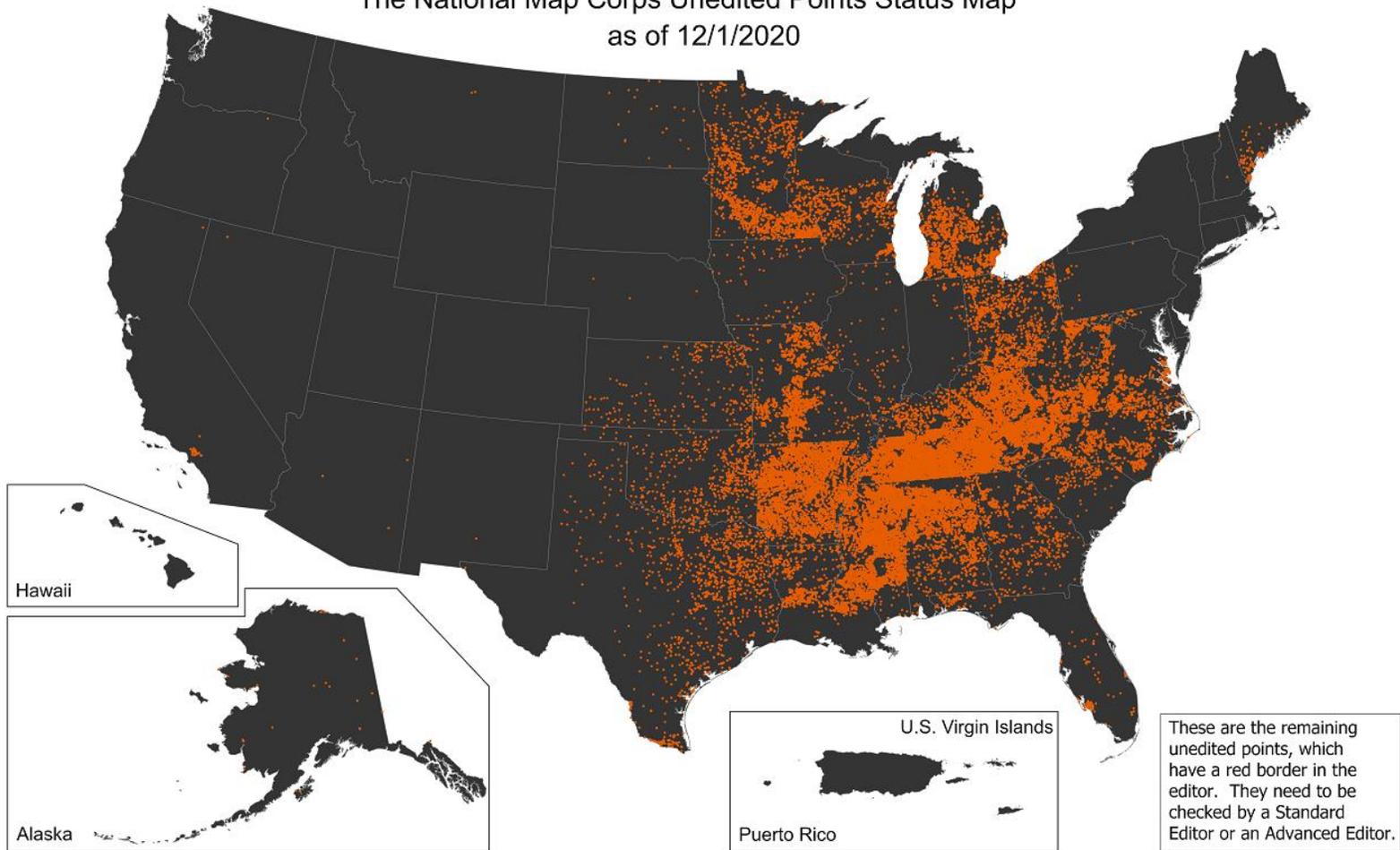
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A Closer Look at Status Maps: Before and After

TNMCorps maintains status maps for all the points that are unedited (red), edited (green), and finished (blue, purple, or yellow). We update these maps at the beginning of each month and post them on our [website](#) under *Volunteers > Volunteer Contributions* and on the [introduction page](#) of our [User Guide](#). These maps not only help volunteers see where they can find points to edit appropriate for their user role but are a good way to get an overall view of the progress of TNMCorps.

The National Map Corps Unedited Points Status Map
as of 12/1/2020

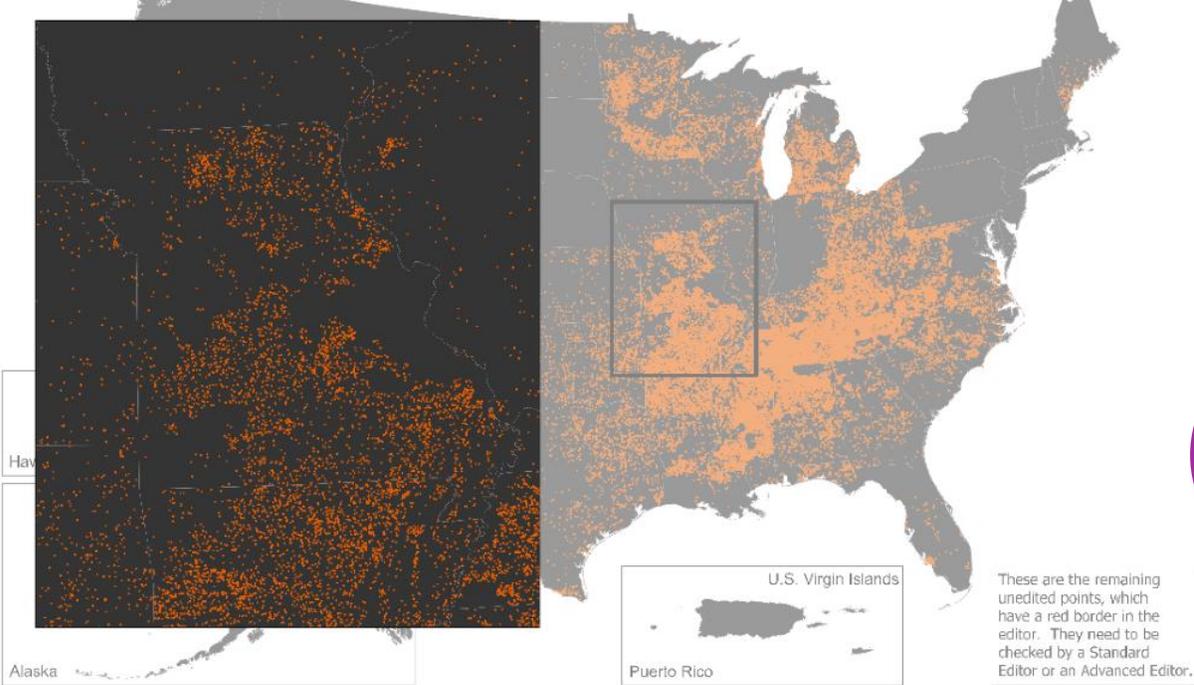


In fact, if you monitor these maps closely, you can see the impact our daily activities have on each dataset over time. For example, we held a challenge for cemeteries in southeastern Missouri. This challenge was launched in the beginning of October and wrapped up towards the end of November. The seed data for this challenge consisted of several unedited cemeteries (see the [original post from 10/1/2020](#)). On the next page, you can see the effects of this challenge by comparing the differences between [9/30/2020 \(before\)](#) and [12/01/2020 \(after\)](#).

A Closer Look at Status Maps: Before and After (Continued)

In this before image, the southern portion of Missouri is densely populated with unedited points:

The National Map Corps Unedited Points Status Map as of 9/30/2020



Before



Click [here for an interactive view](#) of this before-and-after with a slider bar.

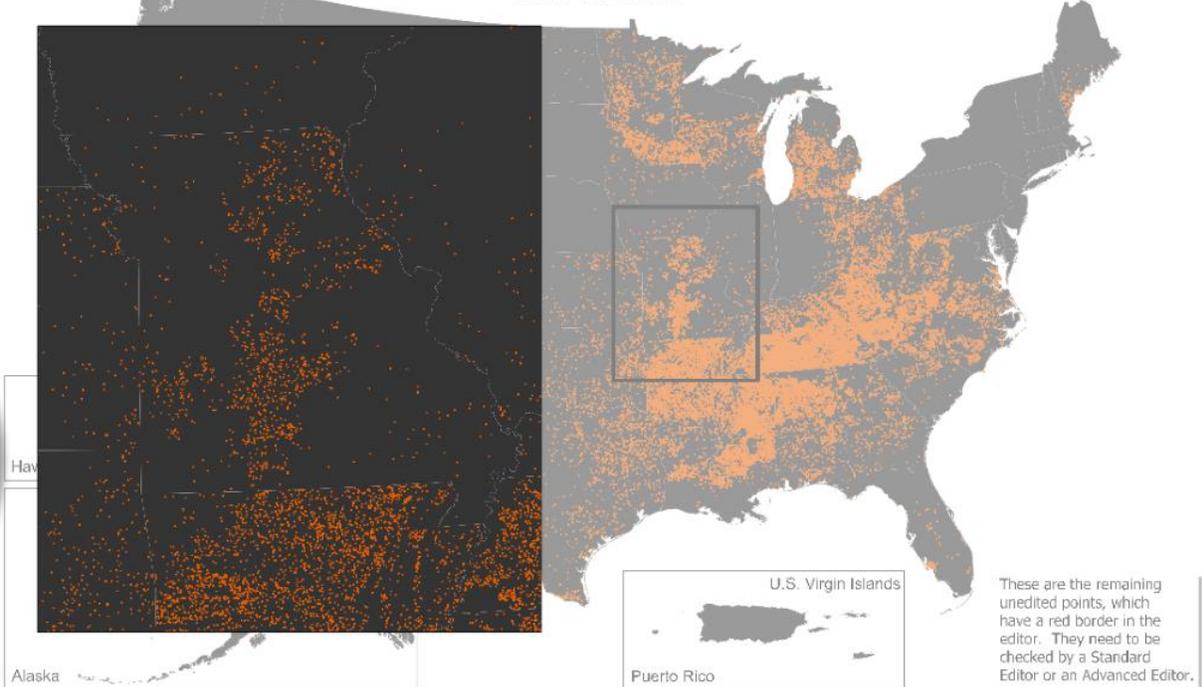
In this after image, the density of unedited points in southeast Missouri decreased enough to where you can start to make out the straight edge of the southern border and Missouri's “[bootheel](#)” along the Mississippi River:

After



Neat stuff! That also puts a visual on the impact our volunteers have and is yet another reason why our volunteers are so awesome!

The National Map Corps Unedited Points Status Map as of 12/1/2020



Cemeteries with Multiple Names: Which One to Use?

Editing cemeteries can be challenging but fun. They are scenic pieces of the landscape that contain stories about a community's culture and history. This is one of many reasons why cemeteries are a favorite feature type of many volunteers, as well as some of us at USGS.

Cemeteries can be tricky to confirm. They often don't have an exact physical address, so volunteers must rely on adjacent streets, nearby intersections, geographic coordinates, and aerial imagery to locate them. Many are also very small and located on private property or in densely vegetated areas, making them even more difficult to identify.

See the articles titled [Cemetery Research and Guidance](#) (September 2019) and [Aerial Photo Interpretation Part 1: Cemeteries](#) (September 2017) for more tips on locating cemeteries. This [Q&A post](#) also reviews how to enter an address for cemeteries.

Another challenge you might face while editing cemeteries is deciding which name to enter. It's not uncommon to encounter cemeteries with different official names or name variants. **So, what should you do when a cemetery has multiple names?** There's only one Name field in the editor, so volunteers can only enter one variant of a name. The best practice in these situations is to use the name used on roadside signage, as seen in online roadside imagery, or photographs of the cemetery. Roadside signage reflects how the cemetery is known in the surrounding community and is often the first to reflect any name changes due to change in ownership. A feature name that matches roadside signage is also how someone would know they've arrived at the correct cemetery if they were using data from The National Map to navigate to it. Therefore, when in doubt, use the name as it is presented on roadside signage. You can always add alternate names in the Comment field. If images of road signs aren't available or the cemetery doesn't have any roadside signage (which is often the case with smaller, family cemeteries), use any of the name variants presented on [authoritative sources](#) (e.g., Find A Grave, church websites, genealogy websites, etc.).

When in doubt, use the name as it is presented on roadside signage.

EXAMPLE: [Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Cemetery](#) is a cemetery in Washington that also goes by the name of *Jamestown Cemetery*. The cemetery is labeled as "Jamestown Cemetery" on [historical topographic maps](#), but images posted on [Find A Grave](#) present the cemetery as "Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Cemetery." Technically, both names are correct, but volunteers had to choose which variant to enter in the Name field. In this scenario, volunteers named [this cemetery](#) to match the signs shown in images posted on [Find A Grave](#) and noted the alternate name in the Comment field.

✓ Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Cemetery
Update

Perm ID: {1D0B1C88-6AD7-444A-A0E8-293AF9057283}

Edit Details: GeometryOther

Editor: Show All Editors

Edit Date: 01/04/2021 11:07:44 PM

Reason(s): Show Failures

✓ **Comment:** also known as Jamestown Cemetery. <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/76875/jamestown-cemetery>



Cemetery sign in an image posted on [Find A Grave](#)

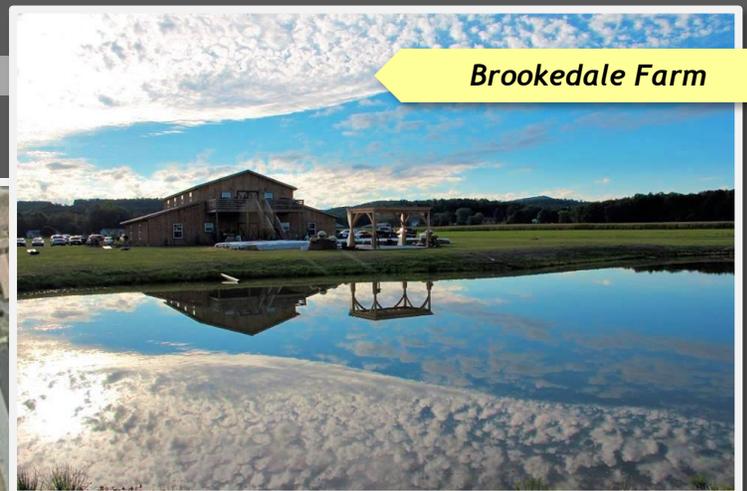
detour's Fun Find

While researching the [Van Meter Cemetery](#), TNMCorps volunteer “[detour](#)” came across this corn maze run by [Brookedale Farm](#) in Fort Ashby, West Virginia. At first, we were pretty excited to learn about a cemetery located in a skeleton shaped corn maze; it’s like a spooky Halloween dream come true! But alas, there are no gravesites located on the Brookedale Farm property.

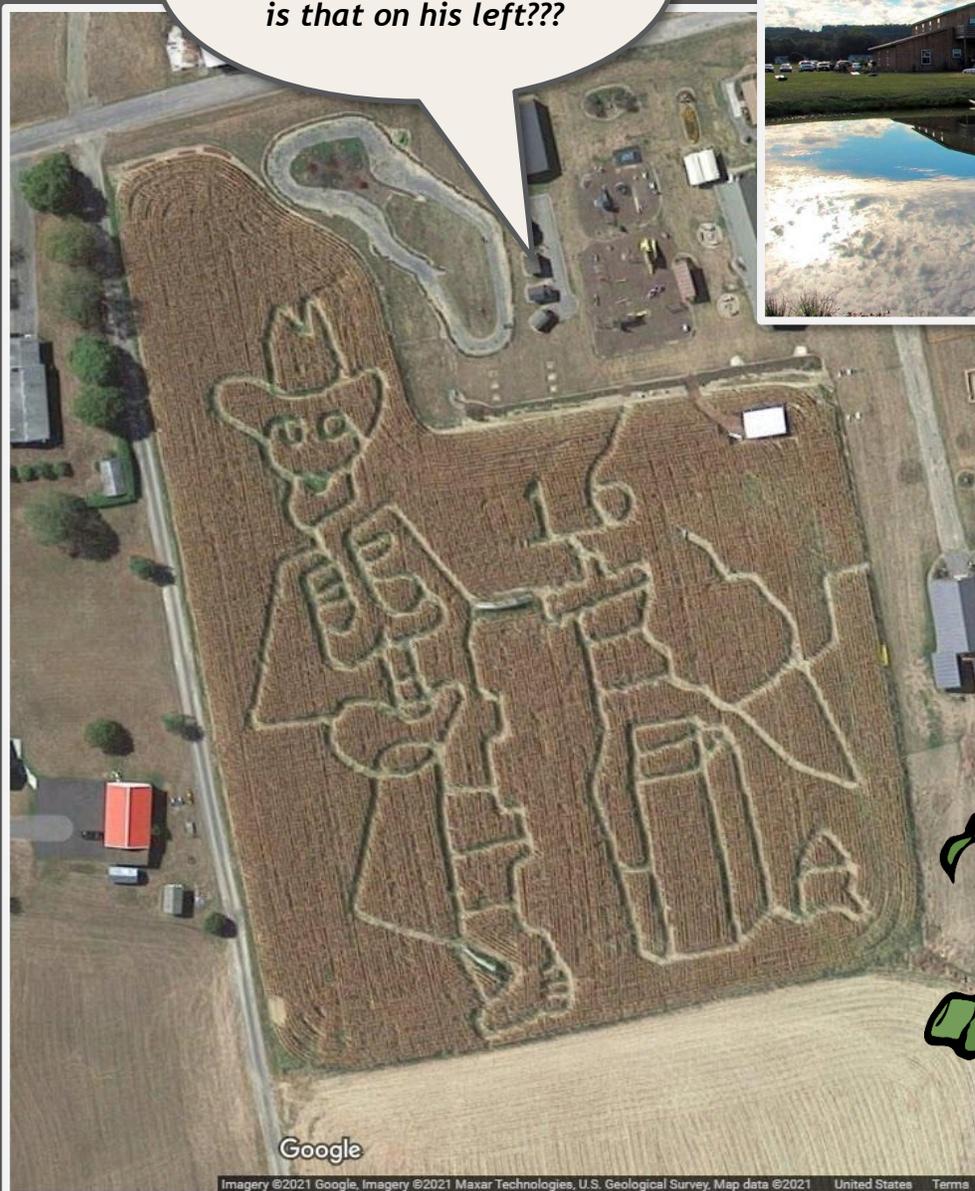
This turned out to be quite a tricky point to research, but after some digging, we decided to move the Van Meter Cemetery point to the [Old Fields Church Cemetery](#) grounds in a neighboring county and change its name.

Stay tuned for a deep dive into how we solved the Van Meter Cemetery mystery coming in March!

The skeleton cowboy can be clearly seen, but what is that on his left???



Brookedale Farm



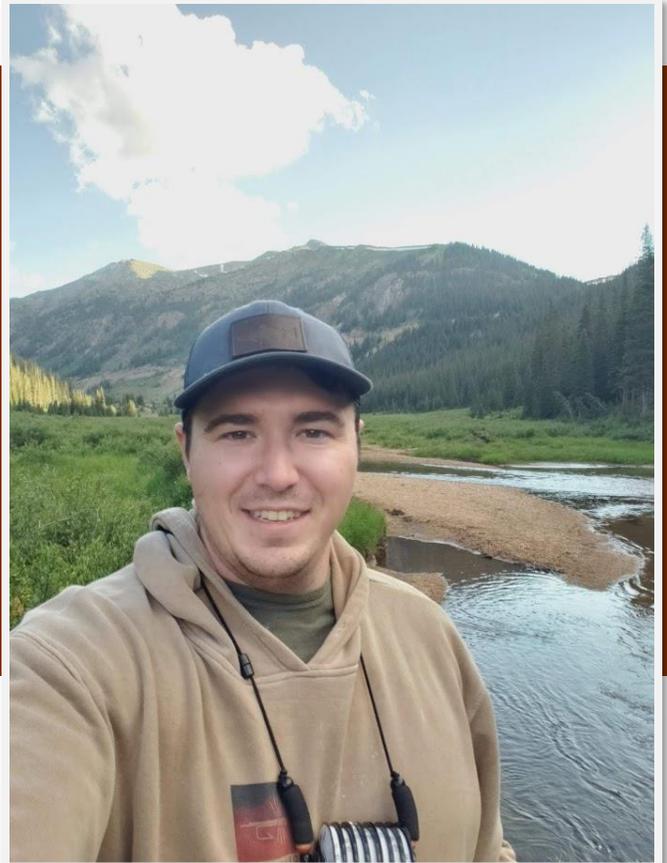
Thank you detour, for sending us this fun find, and bringing this mystery of a cemetery to our attention! If you’ve come across any fun finds while editing, [send them our way!](#) We’d love to hear from you.



TNMCORPS Team Corner: Taylor

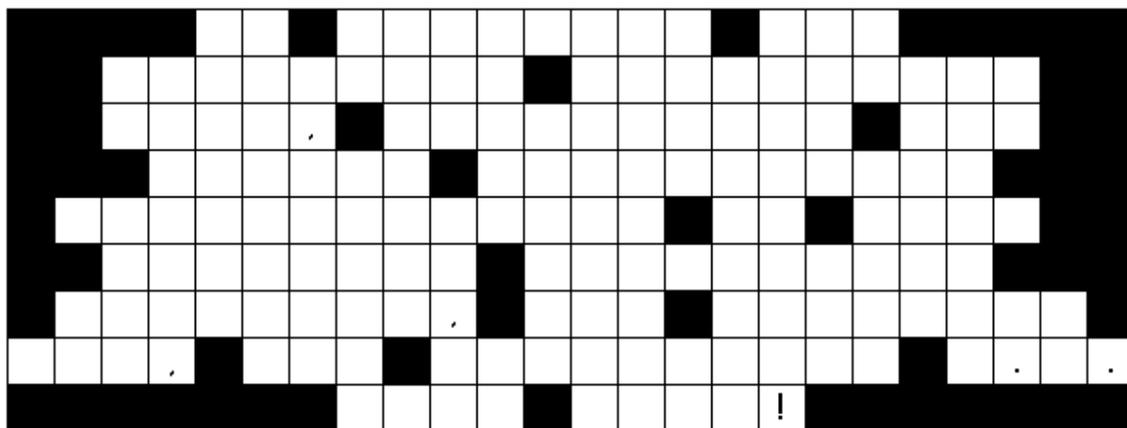
My name is Taylor Cunningham, it is a great pleasure to start working with everyone on The National Map Corps as a Pathways intern. I am a Senior at the University of Colorado-Boulder studying both Geography (GIS emphasis) as well as Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (Wildlife Biology is my focus).

Previously, I served nine years in the U.S. Navy working with remote sensing platforms on manned and unmanned aircraft. My hobbies include hiking, exploring, hockey, and fly-fishing. I am excited to work with the TNMCORPS team and am looking forward to the opportunities to come!



TNMCORPS Puzzle: Fallen Phrases

Why are TNMCORPS volunteers important? Unscramble each vertical column to complete the phrase and find out!



S T
 A S U N N C R
 T I N G L A I N R P T T S U R
 V E B Y N Y V T I T I E I N E T D A S
 P A A R F U E N L T G S E T C C I R E
 O M T I I T P P L U H T A U O T R O U E
 C A T A K O N I U O O M N R E I N A S G A
 D D A R B I D A O S S I M G S A L Y E T S L
 M A N N T A A B O D G T T A U F A U U N N S S

<http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/>

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)



Ring of Reconnaissance Rocketeers
(5000-5999)



Family of Floating Photogrammetrists
(3000-3999)



Flock of Winged Witnesses
(4000-4999)



Theodolite Assemblage
(2000-2999)

- virgilturmer



Alidade Alliance
(1000-1999)



Stadia Board Society
(500-999)

- KSG
- azko1support2
- cvare003



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

- dinbo1996
- KSG
- cvare003
- tcunningham



Pedometer Posse (100-199)

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| • jonny-cox | • MapsbyW | • Rick09 |
| • KSG | • cvare003 | • tcunningham |
| • LeslieDriskill | • Knower_Rower | • suzwh |
| | • Jason Paquette | |



Society of the Steel Tape (50-99)

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| • suzwh | • ThatMattPerson | • Daniel Haskins |
| • mbeavs | • mhward1337 | • Knower_Rower |
| • murphfrommaine | • KSG | • jonny-cox |
| • zoebear | • LeslieDriskill | • tcunningham |
| • cvare003 | • MapsbyW | • jdjii76 |
| • Jason Paquette | • lenorman | • zoomer |



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

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| • mmorehouse | • KSG | • Knower_Rower | • Jdsagona |
| • murphfrommaine | • LeslieDriskill | • LTAugusta | • mbeavs |
| • Hailey B. F. | • Steve01296 | • jonny-cox | • suzwh |
| • MapsbyW | • cvare003 | • klq9386 | • Jason Paquette |
| • Vipers26 | • tcunningham | • BillRistow | • Jessica |
| • harrisonha | • justindaining | • lenorman | • shelby.marincasiu |

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.

