



THE GFT JOURNAL



New Partnerships | New Students | New Volunteers | New Programs

GFT @ GTI (Google Geo Teachers Institute)

In July 2016, GFT was given the opportunity to present about its work with youth to educators from across the world gathered at Google for the GTI. GFT looks forward to working with these teachers to start new chapters internationally.

GFT receives the Jefferson Award

In July 2016, the Jefferson Service Award Foundation awarded GFT for its work with San Jose youth. Look out for GFT's KPIX interview as part of the awards ceremony!

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren Commendation

In April 2016, CW Zoe Lofgren (CA D19) honored 10 GFT volunteers who have gone above and beyond with congressional commendations.



GeoDay 2016

On May 31, 2016, Geography for Tomorrow hosted its first annual GeoDay event at the Roosevelt Community Center in San Jose, calling youth and their families from the surrounding communities to enjoy an afternoon of learning and fun. We worked with some of our sponsors and set up several activities, including a Giant Traveling Map brought by the CA Geographic Alliance, a Cardboard VR Field Trip activity brought by Google Maps, a rocket-building activity, and a map application creation activity. The activities were well received by the guests, and all volunteers were able to receive T-Shirts sponsored by Google.

New Partnerships and Programs

GFT is excited to continue our partnership with Google Maps, which we started in late 2015. As part of this partnership, GFT will receive device kits to enhance technology-based geo education; these kits will include



Cardboard VR devices, Chromebooks, and Android phones that will be used to introduce novel, exciting activities into GFT

Volunteer Spotlight



Carlos Martinez

"My experience at GFT revolves around love for geography. There is a sense of yearning to increase one's knowledge, and with something as important as geography, it's really important that the community is provided with it."

Tharun Shiju

"Designing the curriculum for the Space Geography Program was extremely fulfilling because I was able to delve further into a topic that I love while being able to spread my love and knowledge of the topic to others."

Samarth Girish

"Geography for Tomorrow has been a very enriching experience for me because I feel part of the community by interacting with youth and spreading geo-literacy. My knowledge of geography has also expanded, and I am eager to continue volunteering."

Andrew Song

"My experience as a student volunteer for GFT has been beyond amazing. It's gratifying to see kids wanting to extend class lessons to literally understand more about the natural and human world. I feel that GeoDay along with other GFT-organized events really empower young students as well."

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classes (the VR field trip activity and online map application building activity, to name a few). In addition, GFT looks forward to organizing field trips for students and volunteers to Google Maps's headquarters, allowing them to learn about Google's work in the pioneering field of mapping and geo-technologies. GFT is also collaborating with Google on application development, including rolling out NewsView, a cross-platform app displaying news on an interactive map to teach youth about current events.

National Geographic Bee

In February 2016, GFT held the first-ever Geography Bee competition at Clyde Fischer Middle School, after receiving a fee waiver from our partners at National Geographic (picture below). The Bee was a great success-over 50 students participated in the initial classroom round, where they answered questions from the Geo Bee booklet. The top 10 highest scorers were chosen to participate in the school final round, an exciting event held in front of the entire school. A winner was crowned and subsequently took the qualifying test for the state geography bee. Overall, it was a great experience, both for the students and volunteers, full of learning in a competitive yet fun atmosphere.

Future Plans, Expansion, and Website

GFT's new website is up! Check it out at dev.geofortomorrow.org. Feel free to submit feedback/suggestions. GFT looks forward to continuing its programs and starting new ones this school year, as well as starting new chapters in Alameda, San Francisco, and abroad in New Zealand. Stay tuned for more exciting news!

