

MAGIP GIS Mentoring

Peer-to-Peer or Career



**Montana Association of Geographic
Information Professionals (MAGIP)**

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Welcome!

The Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals (MAGIP) is a non-profit, professional GIS association that works to identify and support the strengths of individual members, find solutions to individual and collective problems, and address the needs of the Montana GIS community as a whole.

As another benefit of your MAGIP membership, the MAGIP GIS Mentoring program was developed to help meet the mission of the organization.

During this session we'll explore the MAGIP GIS Mentoring program and its resources.

MAGIP GIS Mentoring

Mentoring helps fulfill MAGIP's purpose

MAGIP Constitution

Article II, Section 1. Education:

- a. provide an objective educational forum
- b. foster the exchange of ideas and studies
- c. aid the advancement of its members



The MAGIP GIS Mentoring program is a concrete example of MAGIP fulfilling one of its stated purposes: Education. The MAGIP conferences and its online seminars also serve this education purpose. Before we continue, it's important to differentiate the MAGIP GIS Mentoring program from other programs involving GIS and mentoring.

ESRI has a mentoring program with the purpose of educating primary and secondary school teachers.

The GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) also has a mentoring program. It offers those already certified as a GISP an opportunity to earn points toward their re-certification if s/he mentors GIS students or those just entering the field of GIS.

The MAGIP GIS Mentoring program was created to assist anyone who uses GIS in any field or endeavor, whether s/he is new to GIS or a long-time user. The program was created to support peer-to-peer problem solving as well as more traditional career mentoring. The only requirement to participate in the program is MAGIP membership.

MAGIP GIS Mentoring

Mentoring resources:

- **Self-service content online**
 - Additional linked resources
 - MT GIS Community topics
 - Training opportunities
- Our **MAGIP** members who make themselves available as **mentors**
- **Online directory** of MAGIP mentors including:
 - Mentor profiles with skills list
 - Mentor search capability



The MAGIP GIS Mentoring program provides online resources serving as a kind of “virtual mentor” as well as a seamless way for any member, across the state, to seek assistance or guidance from another member when its needed.

The program resources developed include:

* Online, self-service, “virtual mentor” content covering topics specific to practicing GIS in Montana as well as regional and/or online training opportunities.

* Our MAGIP members who have offered their time as mentors, some with over 20 years of experience with GIS

* The MAGIP member directory, which permits searching for mentors (as peers or as classic mentors) who can help troubleshoot a task, an entire project, or offer guidance with career development.

MAGIP GIS Mentoring

Resources > Mentoring

The screenshot shows the MAGIP GIS Mentoring website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Resources > Mentoring'. Below this is the MAGIP logo and a login section. The main content area is titled 'MAGIP GIS Mentoring' and contains several sections: 'Mentoring Resources' with links for 'For Mentors', 'For Mentees', 'Getting Started', 'Mentoring Topics', 'Mentoring Code of Ethics', and 'Mentoring Disclaimer'; 'Other Links' with links for 'MAGIP Membership', 'MAGIP User Groups', 'Local Government SIG', 'GISCA GISP Mentoring program', and 'MAGIP Mentoring Subcommittee'. A 'Mentoring Disclaimer' pop-up window is visible on the right side of the page, containing the text: 'MAGIP Mentoring Disclaimer. You are solely responsible for your interactions with other MAGIP members. You understand that MAGIP does not in any way screen its members, nor does MAGIP inquire into the backgrounds of its members or attempt to verify the statements of its members. MAGIP makes no representations or warranties as to the conduct of members. In no event shall MAGIP be liable for any damages whatsoever, whether direct, indirect, general, special, compensatory, consequential, and/or incidental, arising out of or relating to the conduct of you or anyone else in connection with the use of the MAGIP GIS Mentoring program, including without limitation, bodily injury, emotional distress, and/or any other damages resulting from communications or meetings with other members. You agree to take reasonable precautions in all interactions with other members, particularly if you decide to meet offline or in person.' Below the disclaimer are two buttons: 'I Accept' and 'I Do Not Accept'. The left navigation menu is circled in orange, highlighting the 'Mentoring' link.

Mentoring home <http://www.magip.org/Mentoring>

Once on the MAGIP home page, you gain access to the Mentoring program by expanding the Resources menu and choosing Mentoring.

When you first visit any Mentoring page, you'll be presented with a Disclaimer. Please read this information. You must accept this disclaimer to gain access to the resources of the MAGIP GIS Mentoring program. You'll only see this disclaimer once, unless you empty your browser history or if you restrict browser cookies.

Once on the Mentoring home page you can learn more about the program, including using the six links in the left menu under Mentoring.

MAGIP GIS Mentoring

The screenshot displays the MAGIP GIS Mentoring website interface. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: HOME, JOIN MAGIP, ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, ABOUT MAGIP, COMMITTEES, CALENDAR, FAQ'S, EVENTS, COMMUNICATION, and RESOURCES. The RESOURCES menu is expanded, showing sub-items: Mentoring (circled in orange), For Mentors, For Mentees, Getting started, Mentoring Topics, Mentoring Code of Ethics, Mentoring Disclaimer, Seminar Series, Best Practices and Standards, Training Resources, Map Gallery, Member Generated Resources, Organization Links, Did You Know?, Linked in, MSOI, and GISP. To the right of the menu, there are two links: 'For Mentors: <http://www.magip.org/ForMentors>' and 'For Mentees: <http://www.magip.org/ForMentees>'. Below these links is a 'Mentoring Resources' box containing a list of links: Mentoring Code of Ethics, Getting Started, Mentoring Topics, MAGIP FAQs, MAGIPs GoToMeeting virtual meeting account, Join Me (free screen sharing), Skype (free video calling and conference calls), GISP Mentoring Program, Thoughts on Hiring Recent Grads with GIS Coursework, and Competencies: Ideal Student Outcomes from an Intro to GIS or Remote Sensing Course. The last two links in this list are circled in orange.

Take a moment and explore one or both of the pages dedicated to guiding MAGIP members interested in mentoring. If you want to make yourself available to consult on topics you've mastered, explore the "For Mentors" page. If you are looking for guidance, whether peer-to-peer or more traditional career mentoring, launch the "For Mentees" page.

Again, these resources were developed just as much for peers seeking assistance as they were for those new to GIS or members looking for long-term career guidance.

We'll cover the majority of the "virtual mentor" content next; however, please notice that there is additional information provided via links from the bottom of both the "For Mentors" and the "For Mentees" pages ("Mentoring Resources"). Particularly helpful may be the two links discussing the skills that managers would like entry-level job candidates to have.

MAGIP GIS Mentoring

The screenshot shows the MAGIP website's GIS Mentoring page. On the left, a vertical navigation menu lists various site sections. The 'Mentoring Topics' link is highlighted with an orange circle. The main content area features the MAGIP logo and a list of mentoring topics, including links to best practices, training resources, and data infrastructure information.

If you are new to our state or new to the field of GIS, spend time exploring the Mentoring Topics page. It has foundational information about practicing GIS in Montana—it's one of the two primary “virtual mentor” pages (along with the Training Resources page which is covered next). If you are offering your time as a mentor, please be very familiar with this information and pass it along as needed.

MAGIP GIS Mentoring

The screenshot displays the MAGIP GIS Mentoring website. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: HOME, JOIN MAGIP, ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, ABOUT MAGIP, COMMITTEES, CALENDAR, FAQ'S, EVENTS, COMMUNICATION, RESOURCES, Publications, Mentoring (with sub-items: For Mentors, For Mentees, Getting Started, Mentoring Topics, Mentoring Code of Ethics, Mentoring Disclaimer, Seminar Series), Best Practices and Standards, Training Resources (highlighted with an orange circle), Member Generated Resources, Organization Links, Did You Know?, Linked in, MSOI, GISP, and SPECIAL INTEREST COALITION. The main content area features the MAGIP logo (Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals) and a login form. Below the logo is a section titled 'GIS Training Resources' with sub-links: Help On Your Own, Personal Assistance, Instructor-Led Training, and Ongoing Learning. The 'Help On Your Own' section lists several resources:

- ArcGIS Help System - Launch from your desktop ArcGIS software
- Notes and lab materials from GIS coursework
- Bigfork Schools GIS <http://bigfork.smeeky.com>
- FREE Trade Magazine Subscriptions and Technical Documents <http://gisresources.mdeqweb.com/>
- New York GIS "Helpdesk" <http://helpdesk-gis.ny.gov/>
- Idaho State University's GIS "FAQ Help" <http://giscenter.isu.edu/help/index.htm>
- GIS training books available from the Montana State Library http://www.mtlib.org/Resources/Documents/MTStateLibrary_GISTraining.pdf
- National Academic Press <http://www.nap.edu/about.html>
- URISA Books and Resources <http://www.urisa.org/books>
- Codecademy Python Training <http://www.codecademy.com/tracks/python>
- GIS Education Search Tool

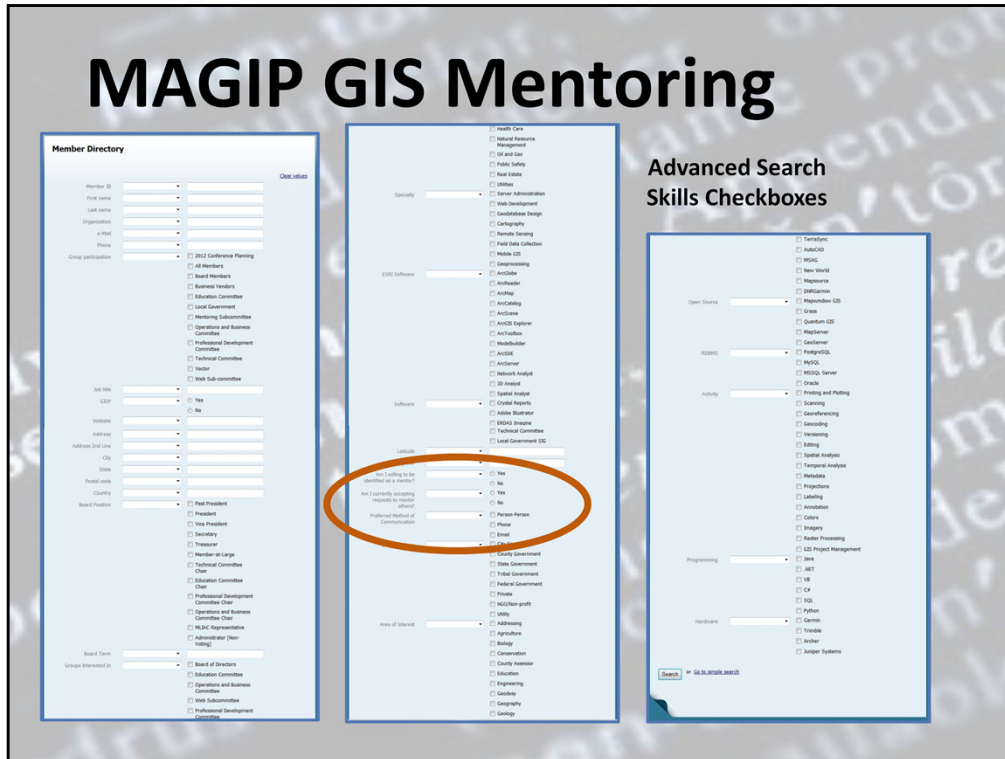
The second of the two “virtual mentor” pages developed as part of the MAGIP GIS Mentoring program is the Training Resources page. The links on this page are grouped depending upon the situation you’re in. Sometimes, finding Help On Your Own solves the problem at hand. Other times, a complex task or problem may benefit from a discussion with another GIS practitioner—or a mentor. You’ll find those resources under Personal Assistance. In addition, there are Instructor Led Training entries and other ways to keep up with the field of GIS via Ongoing Learning.

MAGIP GIS Mentoring

The screenshot displays the MAGIP website interface. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: HOME, JOIN MAGIP, ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, ABOUT MAGIP, COMMITTEES, CALENDAR, FAQ'S, EVENTS, COMMUNICATION, RESOURCES, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, REQUEST MAGIP ASSISTANCE, and a circled 'MEMBER-ONLY' section containing Member Directory, Policies and Procedures, MAGIP Profile Settings, Search Instructions, Member Map, Interactive Map, Resumes, and Seminar Archive. Below these are GRANTS and SCHOLARSHIPS. The main content area is titled 'Basic Name Search (result shown) and Advanced Search'. It features the MAGIP logo and a search interface with an 'Advanced search...' link and a search box containing 'Papineau'. The search results show one member: 'Papineau, Dana', with details for Organization and Title (Montana State Library GIS Programmer/Analyst), City (Helena), and Mentor status (Yes). A table below the results indicates 'Associate Member C (incl 11-15 members)'. The top right of the page includes links for 'Switch to admin view', 'Logout', 'View profile', 'Change password', and another 'Logout' button.

If you're seeking personal assistance (for something brief or via a more long-term mentor), log in to the MAGIP website and search for a member who can help. Once MAGIP members log in, an exclusive section of the MAGIP website becomes available via a MEMBER-ONLY menu. Once logged in, choose Member Directory and either browse the list of members displayed or search for a member by last name with the Search text box (if you know the member's name and just need contact information). If you need to search for a member you have yet to meet based on the work they do or where they live, you can use the Advance Search, which we'll cover next.

MAGIP GIS Mentoring



When you use the Advanced Search, you are presented with an extensive list of search-narrowing options, all of which are shown here. Begin by setting the “Yes” checkbox next to “Am I willing to be identified as a mentor.” This setting will narrow the search results to just those members who have volunteered to be available as mentors. If you execute the search now, you’ll see a list of all members who are mentors.

However, you can further limit the search results by setting other checkboxes. For example, if you are looking for someone who can answer a question related to GIS use with local government, also set an “Employer Type” checkbox that most closely matches your needs (city government, tribal government, etc.). If you are looking for a mentor with Python programming skills there is a checkbox for that as well as many other skills populating this list.

Just a reminder: MAGIP membership is required to gain access to this part of the MAGIP website and learn about other members through their MAGIP member profiles.

MAGIP GIS Mentoring

Advanced Search: Search Results

Switch to admin view | Logout
View profile
Change password
Logout

MAGIP
Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals

HOME
JOIN MAGIP
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
ABOUT MAGIP
COMMITTEES
CALENDAR
FAQ'S
EVENTS
COMMUNICATION
RESOURCES
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS
REQUEST MAGIP ASSISTANCE
MEMBER-ONLY
MEMBER DIRECTORY
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
MAGIP PROFILE SETTINGS
SEARCH INSTRUCTIONS
MEMBER MAP
INTERACTIVE MAP
RESUMES
SEMINAR ARCHIVE
GRANTS
SCHOLARSHIPS

HOME
JOIN MAGIP
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
ABOUT MAGIP
COMMITTEES
CALENDAR
FAQ'S
EVENTS
COMMUNICATION
RESOURCES
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS
REQUEST MAGIP ASSISTANCE
CONTACT US

Member Directory

Board Position: any of selected "Secretary, Professional Development Committee Chair"

Edit search Clear search

Search: Found: 2

Name	Organization and Title	City	Mentor
Burns, Meghan	TREC, Inc. GIS Specialist		Yes
Full Member			
Zolman, Leslie	Montana State Department of Commerce GIS Coordinator	Helena	Yes
Full Member			

The example shown here is the search result for a member who is either the Secretary of MAGIP or its Professional Development Committee chair, each of whom have identified themselves as being available to mentor (and each gave permission to be used in this presentation). If you want to see the profile of a member in a search result list, click on the member's name. Their profile displays.

MAGIP GIS Mentoring

Member Profile Skills List

Skills	
Am I willing to be identified as a mentor?	Yes
Am I currently accepting requests to mentor others?	Yes
Preferred Method of Communication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Person-Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email
Employer Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Government
Specialty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geodatabase Design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cartography <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geoprocessing
ESRI Software	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcMap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcCatalog <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcToolbox <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcSDE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcServer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spatial Analyst
Software	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mapsource
RDBMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MSSQL Server
Activity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Georeferencing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spatial Analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metadata <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Projections <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Labeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Imagery
Programming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SQL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Python

Skills	
Am I willing to be identified as a mentor?	Yes
Am I currently accepting requests to mentor others?	Yes
Preferred Method of Communication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Person-Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email
Employer Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Government
Area of Interest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Addressing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities
Specialty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geodatabase Design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field Data Collection
ESRI Software	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcReader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcMap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcCatalog <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcToolbox <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Modelbuilder <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Network Analyst
Software	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crystal Reports <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adobe Illustrator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TerraSync <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AutoCAD
RDBMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MySQL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MSSQL Server
Activity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Printing and Plotting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scanning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Georeferencing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Editing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annotation
Programming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SQL
Hardware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trimble

Skills	
Am I willing to be identified as a mentor?	Yes
Am I currently accepting requests to mentor others?	Yes
Preferred Method of Communication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Person-Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email
Employer Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Government
Area of Interest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geography
Specialty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cartography <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geoprocessing
ESRI Software	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcMap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcCatalog <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcGIS Explorer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spatial Analyst
Software	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adobe Illustrator
Activity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Printing and Plotting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scanning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Georeferencing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Editing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spatial Analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metadata <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Labeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Imagery

Skills	
Am I willing to be identified as a mentor?	Yes
Am I currently accepting requests to mentor others?	Yes
Preferred Method of Communication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Person-Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email
Employer Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Government
ESRI Software	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcMap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcCatalog <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcToolbox <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcSDE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcServer
Software	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TerraSync
RDBMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MSSQL Server
Activity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geocoding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Versioning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Editing

There are portions of four MAGIP member profiles shown here. Though the search-narrowing options you just saw include an extensive list of checkboxes, the member profiles show only those characteristics that members set to describe the kind of work they do and the tools with which they are proficient.

All mentor profiles include the member's preferred method of communication (as shown) and their contact information (not shown).

MAGIP GIS Mentoring

The screenshot shows the MAGIP GIS Mentoring website. On the left is a navigation menu with the following items: HOME, JOIN MAGIP, ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, ABOUT MAGIP, COMMITTEES, CALENDAR, FAQ'S, EVENTS, COMMUNICATION, and RESOURCES. Under RESOURCES, there is a sub-menu: Publications, Mentoring, For Mentors, and Getting Started (which is circled in orange). Other items in the RESOURCES menu include Mentoring Code of Ethics, Mentoring Disclaimer, Seminar Series, Best Practices and Standards, Training Resources, Map Gallery, Member Generated Resources, Organization Links, Did You Know?, Linked in, MSOI, and GISP.

The main content area features the MAGIP logo (Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals) and a login form with fields for Email, Password, and Remember me, along with Login and Forgot password buttons. Below the logo is a secondary navigation menu identical to the one on the left. The main heading is 'MAGIP GIS Mentoring' and the sub-heading is 'Getting Started'. The content includes a list of questions for mentors:

- **Introductions:**
 - Who is your employer and what GIS work do you do for them?
 - How much GIS experience and training do you have?
 - Where do you live?
- **What is the mentoring goal:** Accomplishing a specific task? Acquire a certain skill? Broad career guidance? All of the above?
- **What type of communication does each person prefer:** face-to-face, email, live chat, or GoToMeeting type conferencing?
- **How long will it take to accomplish the goal?** Does everyone agree that the goal might be achieved by the target date?
- **How frequently will you meet or talk?**
- **How much time does the mentor have to help achieve the goal?**
- **What else do you expect of each other?**

So, you've found a MAGIP member who is identified as a mentor and can probably help you. Now what?

Contact that member (or even more than one!). Introduce yourself and the issue you're trying to resolve. If you seek more long-term career guidance, you may find the information on the Getting Started page helpful.

Best of luck!

MAGIP GIS Mentoring Subcommittee

MAGIP GIS Mentoring

Peer-to-Peer or Career



magip.mt+mentor@gmail.com

If you would like to reach the MAGIP Mentoring subcommittee directly with questions or feedback, please email the address shown on the screen.