



## Van Shelhamer Memorial K-12 Education Grant

**Up to Two \$1,500 Grants Available**  
**Applications must be submitted by March 25, 2024**

The Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals (MAGIP) is accepting proposals to support the development and use of geographic location-based technologies, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), or Remote Sensing in K-12 classrooms. Eligible projects include curriculum development, training for teachers, and purchase of equipment or software that will enhance geographic instruction. The Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) is a provider of industry standard software and is committed to education. As such, they offer complementary software to schools and homeschoolers of Montana. Working with the organization to obtain a license and implementing the software at your institution may also be considered as part of a grant proposal.

Up to two grants will be awarded on a competitive basis by the MAGIP Education Committee. One of the primary missions of MAGIP is geospatial education, and the Association represents GIS professionals throughout Montana. Every year MAGIP hosts the Big Sky GeoCon, which has up to 400 professionals in attendance. As a grant recipient you, and/or your students will be asked to share your good work at our conference. You may give a presentation, or provide a poster. To support this, you (and your students) will be given complimentary registration and a \$150 if traveling 100 or more miles.

### **Eligible Proposals**

Anyone in Montana is eligible and encouraged to apply. We strongly encourage teachers, retired educators or students, with sponsored and involved teacher participation, to submit a proposal. **We also encourage leaders of after-school activities or school-based clubs to apply.**

We are particularly interested in funding an applicant to review and compile previously sponsored projects and create a portfolio, and searchable database of lessons or projects that can be readily accessed and adapted by others.

## **The proposed use must fit within the following scope**

The proposed educational application must contribute to furthering the use of GIS in the K-12 classroom. Appropriate proposals may include, but are not limited to, curriculum development, tools for location-based applications, or geographic training opportunities that will enhance the applicant's ability to deliver quality training to K-12 students, or other applications of GIS to enhance STEM-based curricula.

An advisory committee will be appointed by the MAGIP Education Committee to assist the successful grantees and review progress. This committee can direct the grantee to GIS resources such as GIS professionals in their community who can offer assistance.

## **Evaluation Process**

Funding for the MAGIP Van Shelhamer Memorial Educational Grants is competitive. The MAGIP Educational Grant Subcommittee will evaluate the proposals and select the finalists. The subcommittee will consider the following evaluation factors:

1. Completeness and clarity of the project proposal
2. Relevance of the proposal to the objectives defined in the call for proposals
3. Knowledge and technical experience of the project leader(s) in their ability to carry out the project
4. Quality of proposed project and probability of success
5. Efficiency and cost effectiveness

The selected proposals will be contacted before April 12, 2024, and announced at our luncheon during the Big Sky GeonCon, 2024 in Bozeman, MT. The grantees have one year from their award to complete the project. The grant funds will be distributed according to the grant activities. The Education Committee will confer with the grantee to review progress, and, if necessary, provide the recipient with geospatial assistance. Accredited teachers may choose to use a portion of the funds to cover tuition costs if the primary purpose of the credits is directed toward completion of the project.

The successful grantees will be asked to provide a project report one year after the grant was awarded. This will be used to showcase successful statewide GIS projects and make them visible to other educators. The awardee will also be required to present their project at the annual Big Sky GeoCon hosted by MAGIP every spring. Additional funding for travel may be available at that time.

## Grant Application Format

Please limit proposal to 5 pages or less

**Introduction:** Please provide a brief overview of the proposed project. In your description please include the overall scope and objectives of the proposal.

**Justification:** Please explain how you became aware of the grant opportunity, and why you are interested in receiving the grant and working on the proposed project.

**Objectives:** Please provide a clear description of the expected project results, and how you expect to obtain them.

**Procedure:** Please discuss the methods that will be used to achieve the stated objectives of the project. Additionally, please describe the location of the work, facilities, and necessary and available resources.

**Timeline (between May 1, 2024 and April 1, 2025):** Please indicate the expected start and end dates of the project, and define appropriate milestones.

**Personnel:** Please identify the primary individual(s) proposed to complete the project. A short description of their qualifications would be appropriate. Also, identify the primary contact person for the project, and provide complete contact information for this individual.

**Cooperation and Resources:** Please provide a statement listing any other individuals, institutions or agencies expected to cooperate formally or informally on the project. We often find that GIS support can be helpful, and if needed we can help find members willing to volunteer for projects.

**Budget:** Proposed budgets should detail costs and include the following categories when applicable: salaries, equipment, supplies, travel, communications, and contractual arrangements. Awarded projects will receive complimentary conference registration for the 2024 Big Sky GeoCon, so that your work can be shared in a presentation.

**Please submit your electronic application to:** <https://forms.gle/EuphWzvSigETaHaX7>

The site will present you with a fillable form and opportunity to upload your project proposal and supporting documentation in either \*.pdf or \*.docs format.