

Contribution Categories

The Contribution Point Schedule provided below is broken down into eight categories:

- **GIS Publications** (writing or reviewing certain GIS related materials). Theses and dissertations are included in the Education section under coursework credit and no additional credit will be given.
- **GIS Professional Association Involvement** (being a member of an organization with a focus on GIS activities or education)
- **GIS Conference Participation** (organizing a state, local, or national GIS conference)
- **GIS Workshop Instruction** (presenting a workshop at a state, local, or national event. Workshops that are presented on behalf of the applicant's employer are not applicable)
- **GIS Conference Presentation** (presenting at a state, local, or national GIS conference. This includes poster presentations)
- **GIS Awards Received** (awards for excellence in GIS proficiency that may be bestowed by a variety of sources)
- **GIS Volunteer Efforts** (Any form of uncompensated GIS-related work performed in agreement with a service-oriented organization)
- **Other GIS Contributions** (includes GIS Day type event organization or participation and various community contributions)

Points should be included for each instance that the renewal applicant has satisfied the listed contribution. If the applicant has satisfied a contribution category more than once, the applicant may receive duplicate points. There is no limit to how many times a category may be used or how many points may be accrued in that category. Not all categories need to be filled. If the candidate for example, has not published a book, they should move onto the next category.

Please keep in mind that the renewal applicant should only document contribution points they earned since receiving GISP certification. The goal of the GISP Renewal program is to obtain minimum level of 40 points. 10 points must come from contributions to the profession.

Contribution Categories

The following are definitions for each contribution category.

I. GIS Publications (writing or reviewing certain GIS related materials).

For any work to be considered published, for purposes of earning contribution points, it must be or have been publicly available in electronic or print form from an independent third party. "Publicly available" means that copies could be downloaded or acquired in hardcopy form. An "independent third party" is defined as a person or business, other than the author, who makes decisions regarding publication and/or content and who is not the author's employer or educator. There is no limitation regarding direct or indirect payment to produce the book, article, or map. Theses and dissertations are included in the Education section under coursework credit and no additional credit will be given.

Author/Co-Author

Authors and co-authors are the recognized writers of a publication. They are credited within the publication as originating or creating the material.

A. Book or Published Atlas Author/Editor

Book or Published Atlas Author

Writing, originating, and/or creating literary material for a publication.

Book or Published Atlas Editor

Organizing or assembling a literary work or publication.

B. Book Chapter or Refereed Paper Author

Writing, originating and/or creating a book chapter or paper that was peer-reviewed (as with academic or technical publications) prior to publication.

C. Published Maps (as author)

Published maps are printed in periodicals and books. A series of published maps within one publication counts as one published map. For an atlas or map to be considered as published, for purposes of earning contribution points, it must not have been produced as a result of a work or academic assignment.

D. Editorial Board

Serving on a Board for a serial or a publication that is peer-reviewed (as with academic or technical publications) prior to publication.

E. Magazine/Journal Article or Column

Writing, originating and/or creating an article or column that appear in a magazine or journal.

F. Paper in Conference Proceedings

Writing, originating and/or creating a paper that appears in an edited volume of conference proceedings. Presentation materials (e.g. PowerPoint presentations, slides) do not count as papers.

G. Magazine/Journal/Newsletter Column Editor

Organizing or assembling material for a magazine, journal, or newsletter column.

H. Newsletter Article or Review (Books, Software, Policy, etc.)

Writing, originating and/or creating an article for a newsletter. Performing a scholarly or technical review of various materials.

Note: Professional writing is credited as Experience. Publication of theses and dissertations is credited as Education.

Further Examples of What Constitutes a *Work-related Publication*

(1) An employee of a county GIS organization creates maps of zoning and future land use, then someone else in the county's IT department puts those maps on a county Web site for access by the public. This is **not** a contribution to the profession as the decision to publish was made by the author's employer.

(2) An employee of a city-planning department writes an article for the regional GIS user group's newsletter during normal working hours describing how a zoning map was produced. This is a contribution since the decision to publish was made by the newsletter editor.

(3) A consultant designs a new database for a client and then writes a magazine article describing the project and its results at the request of the firm's marketing department. The database design is **not** a contribution, but the magazine article is.

(4) A student does original research to produce a term paper, and then writes an article for the *URISA Journal* describing the work. The term paper is **not** a publication, but the *Journal* article is. The difference between the term paper and the published article, if any, is not relevant.

II. GIS Professional Association Involvement (being a member of an organization with a focus on GIS activities or education)

A Professional Association is characterized as an organization of persons having a common professional interest. An association can be local or national, dues paying or open, large or small. A professional association is not the same as one's place of employment. Membership should be voluntary and regular compensation from the association to the member for their involvement should not exist (i.e salary). An honorarium is acceptable. The association must have GIS or geospatial technology be either a primary or related focus. Organizations having special interest groups or membership categories related to GIS or geospatial technology are acceptable. The applicant must be affiliated for more than six continuous months to earn credit for a full year of membership. There are no points awarded for partial years (0.5 years, 0.25 years) of affiliation.

I. President or Board Chair

The chief officer of an organization usually entrusted with the direction and administration of its policies.

J. Board Membership

A member of a group of persons having managerial, supervisory, investigatory, or advisory powers for an organization.

K. Committee Chairperson

The presiding officer of a body delegated to consider, investigate, take action on, or report on some matter.

L. Committee Member

A representative to a body delegated to consider, investigate, take action on, or report on some matter.

M. Association/Organization Membership

A representative to an organization of persons having a common professional interest.

III. GIS Conference Participation (organizing a state, local, or national GIS conference)

Conferences are organized events featuring persons discussing common concerns related to GIS or geospatial technology. Conferences are typically more comprehensive than activities such as GIS Day or user group meetings. This category is similar to Association involvement and therefore should be documented in the same manner.

N. Conference Chairperson

The presiding officer of an organized event featuring persons discussing common concerns related to GIS.

O. Conference Committee Member

A representative to a body dedicated to planning an organized event featuring persons discussing common concerns related to GIS.

IV. GIS Workshop Instruction (presenting a workshop at a state, local, or national event. Workshops that are presented on behalf of the applicant's employer are not applicable)

Workshops are brief intensive educational programs for a group of people that focus on the transfer of techniques and skills in GIS or geospatial technology. Workshops do not include presentations at conferences. Workshops are longer in duration and deeper in scope.

P. Workshop Instruction

Serving as the primary or supporting teacher of the material covered by the workshop.

V. GIS Conference Presentation (presenting at a state, local, or national GIS conference. This includes poster presentations)

Q & R. Conference Presentation or Poster Display

Presenting experiences, work, or material at an organized event featuring persons discussing common concerns related to GIS.

Note: Credit is accrued separately for a conference presentation and publication of same in the conference proceedings (see item 1. GIS Publication).

VI. GIS Awards Received (awards for excellence in GIS proficiency that may be bestowed by a variety of sources)

S. National Award

Earning an award for excellence in GIS proficiency bestowed by an organization with a national or international focus.

T. Local/Regional/State Award

Earning an award for excellence in GIS proficiency bestowed by an organization with a local, regional, state or provincial focus.

Note: Awards issued by the applicant's employer do not count as a contribution to the profession.

VII. GIS Volunteer Efforts (Any form of uncompensated GIS-related work performed in agreement with a service-oriented organization such as GISCorps, clubs, organizations, schools, or other entities)

U. Volunteer Missions

Providing 72 or more consecutive hours of time, including time for food and rest, in active volunteer status.

V. Volunteer Work

Providing periodic volunteer work with a duration of less than 72 consecutive hours in active volunteer status.

Note: Do not claim credit for both Volunteer Work and Volunteer Missions for the same effort. The categories are either/or.

The volunteer effort must not be subsumed by or be additive to another contribution point category. For example, work done in support of a committee is already recognized in a separate point category and no additional credit will be given.

VIII. Other GIS Contributions (includes GIS Day type event organization or participation and various community contributions)

Intended to serve as the panacea for all volunteer activities that fall outside the other categories. A variety of GIS activities may be included as Other GIS Contributions including school presentations, community maps, organizing GIS Day, etc. Contributions cannot be mandatory job requirements.

W. Event Organizer

Helping plan an event featuring persons discussing issues related to GIS. These events are not as organized as a national or local conference. Typically, the transfer or demonstration of GIS knowledge is the primary activity.

X. Event Participation/Moderation

Participating in an event other than as an attendee. Conference/Event attendance should be documented on EDU-R. "Participation" involves contributing to the planning or execution of a meeting outside of a formal committee structure. Events feature persons discussing issues related to GIS. Typically, the transfer or demonstration of GIS knowledge is the primary activity.

Y. Related Community Contributions

Reserved for GIS contribution point claims that fall outside the other categories. These claims must benefit the applicant and the profession as a whole. GISCI makes the final determination on whether or not points will be awarded.