

GISCI Awards Program Overview

Purpose and Objectives

The GISCI Awards Program recognizes excellence in the geospatial profession by celebrating individuals and organizations whose accomplishments reflect the highest standards of service, innovation, and leadership in advancing the goals of the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI). The primary objectives of this program are to:

- Recognize notable achievements related to GISP certification and GISCI's mission.
- Inspire professionals to contribute meaningfully to issues of access, privacy, geospatial ethics, policies, and practices.
- Promote public awareness of GISCI's impact and celebrate the accomplishments of award recipients.

Award Categories

GISCI offers the following award categories:

1. **GISP of the Year** (*Primary Individual Award*)
2. **GISP Organization of the Year** (*Primary Organizational Award*)
3. **Map Contest Winners** (*Existing process in place*)

Note: Awards are merit-based and may not be granted annually. Only exceptional contributions should be recognized.

Program Oversight

The GISCI Board of Directors supports the program through an Awards Committee with recognition determined by an appointed Panel of Judges. The decisions of the committee and judging panel are final; all deliberations shall remain confidential.

Award: GISP of the Year

Description

This is GISCI's highest individual honor, recognizing distinguished and sustained contributions to the geospatial profession and the public interest, particularly in areas such as access to information, individual privacy, and ethical GIS practices.

Recognition

A certificate, plaque, medal, or other appropriate item will be presented to the recipient as a symbol of recognition and appreciation.

Criteria

- Must be a GISP with at least one recertification
- Member of at least one professional geospatial organization (multiple memberships preferred)
- Active contributor to a geospatial conference in the past year (e.g., speaker, planner, organizer)
- Engaged professional presence on LinkedIn, including participation in the GISP LinkedIn Group
- Recognized as a leader in the field, whether in industry, government, or academia
- Demonstrated leadership or key contribution to a high-impact initiative within their organization or jurisdiction that effectively showcased the value of geospatial technology to a broad, non-GIS audience.
- Additional credentials or certifications in related fields may strengthen the nomination

Nomination Process

- Nominations should be submitted to the GISCI Awards Committee
- Each nomination must include a detailed summary of the candidate's achievements, describing how their work represents sustained and meaningful public service aligned with GISCI's mission
- A three-member judging panel, appointed by the Board of Directors (with possible recommendations from the Awards Committee), will review submissions
- The panel reserves the right to withhold the award in any given year if no nominees meet the required standard

Award: GISP Organization of the Year

Description

This award recognizes any organization that demonstrates exceptional support for GISP certification and embodies GISCI's values, including a commitment to ethical practices, professional development, and the public good.

Recognition

A certificate, plaque, medal, or other suitable recognition will be awarded to the selected organization.

Criteria

- Actively promotes and supports the employment or professional development of GISPs
- Maintains a salary structure or incentive program to reward GISP certification
- Demonstrates commitment to open data, privacy protection, and public participation in governance

Nomination Process

- Nominations should be submitted to the GISCI Awards Committee
- Each nomination must include a description of the organization's relevant policies, programs, and sustained efforts supporting GISPs and the broader public interest
- A three-member judging panel, appointed by the Board of Directors (with input from the Awards Committee), will review all nominations
- The panel may choose not to grant the award in any year if no submissions meet the criteria

Closing Note

The GISCI Awards Program aims not only to honor excellence but also to elevate the entire geospatial profession. By recognizing those who lead by example, we foster a culture of growth, service, and integrity within the GIS community.

Procedures / Schedule

- GISCI will announce awards on July 1 of each year
- Accept nominations through September 30 of each year
- Review submissions through November 30 of each year
- Announce award winners on December 1 of each year