

Contributions to the Profession: Planning & Tracking Workbook



A practical guide for emerging GIS professionals

Section 1: My Goals & Motivation

Why do I want to give back to the GIS profession?

(Examples: build community, learn from others, strengthen my resume, contribute to open data, share what I know.)

My long-term goal:

(Example: Earn my GISP® within 3 years; present at a conference next year; volunteer with a GIS group.)

Section 2: Personal Inventory

Current GIS skills or interests:

(List software, data types, workflows, or topics you enjoy—e.g., QGIS, StoryMaps, remote sensing, orthoimagery.)

Groups or communities I can connect with:

(Local GIS user groups, state associations, university departments, non-profits, etc.)

Time I can realistically give:

(Example: 2 hours/month, 1 evening per quarter, 1 project per year.)



Section 3: My Contribution Idea Bank

#	Idea / Opportunity	Category (I-VIII)	Who to Contact	Estimated Time	Potential Points	Notes
1	Volunteer to map community garden plots for local non-profit	VII – Volunteer Efforts	Jane Doe, City Outreach	3 hrs.	1	Contacted October 2025
2						
3						
4						

(Tip: Start small – even one or two active contributions per year will keep you on track.)

Section 4: Contribution Activity Log

Date	Activity Name	Category	Role	Description of Contribution	Documentation / Proof	Points Earned

(Attach files, certificates, screenshots, or emails as proof where possible.)



Section 5: Reflection

What did I learn from this contribution?

How did this benefit others or the GIS community?

What will I do next?

Section 6: Progress Tracker

Year	Target Points	Points Earned	Remaining	Notes
Year 1	2			
Year 2	2			
Year 3	2			
Year 4	2			
Total	8+			

Section 7: Helpful Resources

- [GISCI Contributions to the Profession Page](#)
- [GISCI Portfolio Overview](#)
- [GIS Day](#)
- Volunteer Platforms: URISA GISCorps, local government mapping initiatives, or local non-profit groups.
- Professional Networks: LinkedIn GIS groups, state/regional GIS associations (e.g., MAGIC, URISA Chapters).

