

# Discovery Lab Students Experience the Power of Geospatial Technologies



GUES students working on maps are from left to right: Mia Jackson, Cameron King, Ambriasia Calvin, Chandler Tyler, Callie Smith, and James Haley.

On October 15, selected GUES students joined millions of young people across the nation to become scientists for a day during the sixth annual 4-H National Youth Science Day (NYSD). This annual event seeks to spark an early youth interest in science and future science careers, and to reclaim the nation's position of leadership in scientific exploration. As part of 4-H NYSD, students participated in 4-H Maps & Apps: the 2013 National Science Experiment.

Designed by Colorado State University Extension, this year's experiment demonstrated that by utilizing geographic information systems (GIS) and global positioning systems (GPS) youth can have a positive impact on their communities.

Students applied basic GIS principles and became geospatial thinkers as they designed and mapped their ideal park,

used GIS mapping to solve community problems, and contributed data about their community to the United States Geological Survey.

"Our nation is falling behind other countries in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math," stated Melody Shaw, Discovery Lab Director. "However, participation in high-quality positive youth development programs like 4-H NYSD offers youth and adults the opportunity to engage in scientific exploration and work together to build the next generation of our nation's scientists, engineers, and mathematicians."

Shaw added, "Our participation in the 4-H NYSD would not be possible without Jan Walton, our local Grenada County 4-H agent. Jan works for the Mississippi State University Extension Service and each year she obtains the kits



This photo is of the group of students whose map was selected as the best design of the day! From left to right: Tyler King, Lexie Draper, Anthony Woodall, Kate Blankenship, Ellie Welsh, Lauren Brogan, and Eli Black.

for the students to use on this day."

To combat a national shortage of young people pursuing science college majors and occupations and to enhance the nation's contribution to the sciences, 4-H National Youth Science Day demonstrates that science, engineering, math, and technology are fun and attainable options for college degrees and future careers. Currently, more than six million young people across the nation participate in 4-H science, engineering, technology, and applied math year-long programming.

Research has shown that participation in 4-H programs like 4-H NYSD makes a positive difference in the lives of youth. 4-H's robust, university research-based science curriculum, combined with new initiatives like 4-H National Youth Science Day, arms young people with the necessary technical skills to help America maintain its competitive edge in the global marketplace.

## Tru-Lite Glass Honors Teachers of Year

For the last six years, Tru-Lite Glass of Grenada has created and donated a set of four beveled mirror placemats for each Teacher of the Year at every school in Grenada. Phillis Stinson, Tru-Lite Administrative Assistant, organizes the Teacher Recognition Luncheon each year. She also serves as President of the Grenada Area Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, the sponsor of the Teacher Recognition Luncheon.



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