



Kentucky Geographic Alliance Newsletter

March 2016

KGA Seeking Educators to Attend 2017 National Geographic Summer Institute

The Kentucky Geographic Alliance at WKU is seeking two middle school educators to attend the annual National Geographic Summer Institute in Washington, D.C. The Institute will begin on the afternoon of **June 24** and continue through the end of the day on **June 28**.

Attendees must fulfill the following requirements to be selected:

1. Both educators **MUST** be from the same school
2. Both educators **MUST** teach middle grades (6-8)
3. 1 teacher **MUST** be science/social studies and 1 teacher **MUST** be a library, media, or technology specialist
4. Both teachers **MUST** agree to a 1-year commitment with National Geographic, which will consist of completing NatGeo educator certification, completing a project with the school and submitting deliverables, and assisting with professional development based on this project in 2018

Attendees will receive a stipend from National Geographic for their 1-year commitment.

Hotel accommodations, travel, and meal expenses will be provided for by the KGA and National Geographic.

[Click here](#) for a one-page overview, which outlines the requirements of participants, expectations of Alliances, and a timeline.

This opportunity is an incredible professional development experience with the National Geographic Society! Please contact the KGA at kga@wku.edu or by phone at 270-645-5978 if you have questions or are interested in attending the Institute.

You Decide: Presidential Decisions

Check out [You Decide: Presidential Decisions](#), an interactive experience in which students take on the role of the President of the United States and make complex decisions based on real situations faced by President Gerald R. Ford during his 1974-1977 presidency: the signing of the Helsinki Accords, the condemnation of South African apartheid, and Operation Babylift.

The interactive experience also includes an [educator guide](#) to engage students in grades 6-12 with the interactive both in and out of the classroom. The guide includes information about the role of the facilitator, as well as game play setup for independent play, small group play, and whole class play. Activity ideas and discussion questions are organized into before, during, and after play.

You Decide: Presidential Decisions is an excellent companion to the social studies classroom, particularly any study of the Cold War era. It also highlights the importance of human rights to President Ford, and can lead to discussions about these rights and how presidents can advocate for issues that are important to them. The focus on decision-making in this interactive offers a way to introduce a powerful process that can be used in students' own decision-making, or in analyzing decisions they may read about in historical context or in current events.

Summer 2017 Study Abroad in Scotland

This summer, Western Kentucky University is offering course credit of GEOG 452 for undergraduates and EDU 507/GEOS 507 for graduate level students for a study abroad opportunity in Scotland, including Edinburgh, Glasgow, and the Scottish Highlands. The course description is as follows:

- designed to accommodate undergraduate geography and social studies majors; P-12 teachers and geographers in the Master's Level program
- using the "City as Text" model, you will explore Glasgow and Edinburgh, two exciting cities celebrated as urban rivals
- through mapping, observing, listening, you will see first-hand how Scotland's mixture of rich history and culture lend to fascinating traditions within a geographic context
- through field trips, discussions, and reflections you will gain a knowledge and application base for research related to the teaching of geography
- through field journals, you will use geographic tools to organize and analyze information and develop field research skills through individually designed projects

For more information, contact Kay Gandy at 270.745.2991 or kay.gandy@wku.edu

Hog Island Audubon Camp

Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week

July 16-21, 2017

Join environmental educators from around the country for a dynamic and fun-filled residential program on Audubon's famed Hog Island, in the scenic mid-coast area of Maine. Designed for both science and non-science educators, this session will generate exciting ideas for creating and incorporating environmental education activities into your curriculum and teaching. Our inspiring and experienced instructors will share their favorite approaches, methods, and activities for engaging you - and your students - with nature.

Check out the extensive website at <http://hogisland.audubon.org>.

Two limited scholarship funds are available: one for teachers of color as part of Audubon's Diversity Inclusion initiative, and one open to all teachers. Email psalmansohn@audubon.org for information on diversity funds.

For more information, contact camp Program Manager Eva Matthews at hogisland@audubon.org.

Apply Now for a \$5,000 Barron Prize!

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes invites applications for its 2017 awards. The Barron Prize celebrates inspiring, public-spirited young leaders ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive impact on people, their communities, and the environment. Every year, 15 winners each receive \$5,000 to support their service work or higher education. The application deadline is **April 15, 2017**. For more information and to apply, visit <http://www.barronprize.org/>

KAMP Now Accepting Submissions for 2017 GIS Conference

KAMP is now accepting proposals for presentations during the 2017 KY GIS Conference; September 5th - 7th, 2017 in Louisville, KY.

This is a great opportunity for our GIS, mapping and geospatial community to showcase their work, educate others and share professional experiences. Presentations should be approximately 30 minutes including time for Q&A. Vendors and consultants are also encouraged to send proposals.

Click [here](#) for more information, or to submit.

Space Archaeologist Launches GlobalXplorer

Dr. Sarah Parcak, a space archaeologist, has officially launched [GlobalXplorer](#), a citizen science and archaeology platform that is enlisting people around the world to discover sites unknown to modern archaeologists.

Dr. Parcak is the 2016 [TED Prize winner](#), a [National Geographic Fellow](#) and professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. GlobalXplorer is the result of Dr. Parcak's TED Prize, which is generated each year to one exceptional individual, offering them \$1 million and the resources of the TED community to create a world-changing project. Dr. Parcak wanted anyone with an Internet connection to "discover and protect the millions of unknown archaeological sites across the globe."

GlobalXplorer was built in collaboration with the TED Prize, National Geographic, satellite imagery and analytics firm [DigitalGlobe, Inc.](#), and platform developer [Mondo Robot](#). While GlobalXplorer has ambitions to span the globe, it is launching in Peru, where [Sustainable Preservation Initiative](#) (SPI) will serve as the on-the-ground partner.

Engage Students in a Walk Around the World

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Paul Salopek is literally walking around the world, retracing the broad migratory pathways of our ancient human ancestors and slowing down to tell stories of people's lives that might otherwise remain untold. Check out inspiring photos, maps, videos, and exquisite writing at the [dedicated Nat Geo website](#) for Paul's Out of Eden Walk.

[Out of Eden Learn](#), an initiative of [Project Zero](#) at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, also offers curriculum materials. In addition, they have developed a companion online learning community to promote thoughtful cross-cultural exchange, with thousands of school-age students from over 50 countries having taken part so far. Classes are clustered in diverse groups to follow "learning journeys" that invite them to: (1) slow down to observe the world carefully and to listen attentively to others; (2) exchange stories and perspectives with one another; and (3) make connections between their own lives and bigger human stories. Go to their website to register classes of all ages for [Learning Journey 1](#).

In addition, Out of Eden Learn is seeking high school classes to participate in its new [Stories of Human Migration](#) curriculum; [email](#) them if you are interested.

Travel Opportunity for Educators

Travel the world affordably, earn professional development credit, and bring global understanding into your classroom!

Founded in 2007, Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO) is a non-profit organization that has sent more than 1,600 teachers abroad on adventurous travel programs. With GEEO, educators can earn professional development credits and optional graduate credit while seeing the world. GEEO's trips are 7 to 21 days in length and are designed and

discounted to be interesting and affordable for teachers. In addition to amazing tour leaders, many of the programs are accompanied by university faculty who are experts on the destination. The deposit is \$250 for each program and then the final payment is due 60 days before departure.

GEEO also provides teachers with educational materials and the structure to help them bring their experiences into the classroom. The trips are open to all nationalities of K-12 and university educators, administrators, retired educators, as well as educators' guests.

GEEO is offering the following travel programs for 2017: Bali/Lombok, Bangkok to Hanoi, China, Costa Rica, Eastern Europe, the Galapagos Islands, Greece, Iceland, India/Nepal, Bhutan, Ireland, Armenia/Georgia, Italy, Multi-Stan, Morocco, Myanmar (Burma), Peruvian Amazon, Peruvian Andes, Southern Africa, Vietnam/Cambodia, and the Balkans. The registration deadline is **Thursday, June 1, 2017**, but space is limited and many programs will be full well before the deadline.

Detailed information about each trip, including itineraries, costs, travel dates, and more can be found at www.geeo.org. GEEO can be reached 7 days a week, toll-free at 1-877-600-0105, 9 AM-9 PM EST.

Seeking Teacher Coordinators

We at the KGA are always seeking educators who wish to play a role in enriching students' lives through geography by becoming an Education Coordinator. If you have interest in helping the KGA in this way, contact us at kga@wku.edu, or by phone at 270-745-5978.

Traveling Map

The KGA is always willing to hear from those of you interested in utilizing the Giant Traveling Map of Kentucky for your school or classroom. The KGA is able to deliver the map to you for your use. If interested in the Traveling map, please feel free to contact us at any time.
