

GISCORPS

<http://www.giscorps.org>

The Park Ridge, Ill.-based Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) GISCorps launched its new Web site, which includes information about the history of GISCorps, strategic and operational plans, a volunteer application form and contribution opportunities.

GISCorps is a volunteer-based GIS professional entity to provide short-term GIS expertise to less-developed countries and communities worldwide. Although assistance may be offered in the United States and Canada, the focus will remain on communities in developing countries.

GISCorps volunteers will provide GIS expertise in areas such as humanitarian relief, environmental analysis, sustainable development, economic development, community planning and development, aboriginal issues, and health- and education-related applications.

In October 2003, the URISA Board of Directors unanimously endorsed GISCorps as an initiative under URISA's auspices. Following the endorsement, a Core Committee

Welcome to URISA's GISCorps
GIS = Giving International Service?

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GISCorps Home [At the heart of volunteerism are the seeds of service and solidarity and the belief that together we can make the world a better place](#)

About Us [...But far away from the spotlight, there are millions of generous individuals who, around the clock and around the world, roll up their sleeves and volunteer to help in any way they can.](#)

Our Structure/Our Goals/Our Mission/Our Objectives/Our Vision [Volunteers do not ask, "why volunteer?", but rather "when?", "where?" and "how?" These dedicated and courageous individuals are important partners in the quest for a better, fairer and safer world!](#)

Get Involved [Interested in going back to the community, or paying forward the generosity of mentors and teachers? Interested in helping to break down the digital divide that separates communities and hemispheres? Read on, and see if GISCorps' newest initiative, the GISCorps, excites you!](#)

Become a Friend of GISCorps [GISCorps is the idea of longtime URISA member Cheryl Ethans. The basic premise is to form a volunteer-based GIS professional entity with the goal of providing short-term GIS expertise to less developed countries and communities around the world. Although assistance may be offered in the US and Canada, the focus will remain on communities in developing countries. GISCorps is a volunteer based, non-profit organization of GIS professionals committed to assisting developing countries and communities in need. GISCorps volunteers will seek to enhance the well being of less-developed communities by providing GIS expertise in areas such as humanitarian relief, environmental analysis,](#)

Support Info

of six individuals was formed, and URISA's board endorsed a Strategic and Operational Plan in February 2004.

The committee currently is seeking donations and contributions, and it plans to conduct the first pilot project during summer 2004. The first unofficial project already was implemented. Martha Lombard, URISA past president and GISCorps committee member, assisted a World Bank

mission in the Sacred Valley of the Incas in Peru to evaluate existing GIS capabilities.

As of July 2004, 83 GISCorps volunteers had signed up. Due to additions and revisions in information, GISCorps redesigned the application form at http://www.giscorps.org/info_for_volunteers/signup.php.

Applicants should note that membership confirmation doesn't guarantee that they will be recruited, which depends on a rigorous screening process. After screening and selection, the partner agency and volunteer will be in direct contact, and specific project information will be provided to the volunteer.