What is the Local Map-a-Thon?

The local map-a-thon provides local chapters the opportunity to decide what activity they would like to take on. We suggest that chapters plan an activity that connects with that month's theme. The local map-a-thon, also, was created with the intention that chapters would create mapping or learning activities that engage with their immediate community.

Who Plans the Local Map-a-Thon?

The local map-a-thon should be planned by the student executive board, with the President, Vice President and Training Coordinator taking the lead (with guidance from the Chapter Advisor as needed). If your chapter is yet to create an executive board, the Chapter Advisor will work collaboratively with involved students to decide on a mapping-related activity. One of the goals with the local map-a-thon is to allow students to build up their leadership skills and instill a sense of ownership over their chapter's learning by deciding and executing their own map-a-thon.

If additional support is needed in planning the local map-a-thon, please contact admin@teenmaptivists.org.

Ideas for a Local Map-a-Thon:

- **Collaborate with another school club or activity (eg. French Club or the Soccer Team) to map a project that aligns with both club's interests**
  - Ex. If you were to collaborate with the Spanish Club, you could find a project within a Spanish speaking region; If you found a project mapping houses within the Brazilian Amazon, you create a short presentation or find a video that speaks on, for example, the history of deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest.
- **Work with your Chapter Advisor to find a guest speaker from your local community**
  - For example: an Urban Planner to discuss their career path and importance of GIS in their field or a representative from a nearby park or wildlife conservation refuge.
- **Go on a Field Trip**
  - For example: Visit a local college or university's Geography or GIS Department; Visit a Police, Fire, or Municipal GIS department; Visit a Senior

Center and plan a mapping activity with the residents; Visit an organization that deals with social justice and activism.

- **Plan a short training on a new skill within the open-mapping ecosystem**
  - For example: MapSwipe; Map with AI (RapiD); learning how to tag a new feature in OSM.
- **Map your Local Community**
  - Review what information is already on openstreetmap.org, and see if your chapter can add any additional information. If all the buildings in your town are mapped, can you work on adding the names of restaurants or shops? Many remote mappers map places that they have never been to, so your chapter has the unique opportunity to add your local knowledge of your community to the map!

Best Tips and Tricks for Planning a Map-a-Thon:
- **Make it fun!**
  - Create a collaborative playlist your students can add to and play during the map-a-thon
  - Get snacks and refreshments
  - Start off playing a [GeoGame](#)
- [How to Host a Map-a-Thon: Event Planning Edition](#) (MissingMaps Guide)
- [What is a Map-a-Thon?](#) (HOT, Video)