

Dear Parents/Guardians of AP Human Geography

This year students at our school have the opportunity to participate in a mapping club called TeenMaptivists, which engages with a mapping initiative called OpenStreetMap. Students will learn how to map in OpenStreetMap (OSM), which is an open-source, community based mapping program that allows anyone anywhere to contribute to the map.

TeenMaptivists is a national network of high-school, student-led chapters. We collaborate with humanitarian and geospatial organizations on mapping tasks that respond to development and humanitarian needs around the world. Through guest speakers, field mapping, national map-a-thons, and tailored training workshops, we are instilling the power of community and importance of activism in students. Through publicly available, open-source GIS platforms, students can leverage the power to make a difference in their communities.

If all students can participate in a local community mapping project, they can help influence what is seen on the map and influence decisions made in that region. Having a diverse group of individuals, who tend to be excluded from the mapping process, helps to make maps that represent everyone. Building an inclusive community of mappers as well as those who need their communities mapped is a goal to help build stronger communities. Introducing high school students to mapping in OSM allows them to see how they can be included in the mapping process which ultimately reveals their voices in the map.

This is a wonderful opportunity for students to be introduced to this mapping community, learn digital citizenship (making good edits that help build an accurate map), and acquire leadership skills that could potentially open them up to internship opportunities in college.

When students sign up for an account they need to use a personal email account because their school account will not allow outside emails to come in and in order for students to receive the verification email they must use their outside email account. Once students create an account it will follow them after they leave the class. They can continue to map for as long as they want to map. Students' emails will not be sold to any companies, the only reason they need a personal email is to validate the account they set up and ensure they are not a robot. If you have an issue of your student's personal email address being used, you are welcome to use your email address.

Please fill out the permission slip form for your child to participate in OpenStreetMapping! If you want to learn more about TeenMaptivists, please visit our website where we explain what OSM is and how we will be using this all year to help our community as well as others around the world.

<https://www.teenmaptivists.org/>

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am so enthused to be working with your child and to watch them become more globally aware and involved in helping their world become a better place!

Best Regards,

AP Human Geography Teacher

OpenStreetMap Parent Permission Slip Form

I give _____ (Child's Name) permission to use/participate in OpenStreetMap as a part of TeenMaptivists after school club.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date