



**27 January 2021**

## **Become a SAGTA GEOMENTOR**

At the GISSA FOSS4G Conference hosted at St Johns in June 2017, a discussion was held about the need for GIS specialists becoming part of a programme for geomentoring. The need for geomentoring in Geography is wider than only supporting the teaching of geospatial skills in the schools.

Mentoring is a synergetic relationship between two or more people, engaged in a support and guiding process that achieves more than each could alone. In 2020, we received a number of requests for this kind of support, especially during lockdown. We also believe that the interaction with another facilitates the process of metacognition – a reflective process of thinking about one's learning. In essence both mentor and mentee benefit from the conversations and experiences.

Becoming a SAGTA GEOMENTOR means volunteering your skills, time and expertise to pass on knowledge and skills in IT, GIS and all Geography matters.

### **What can we do?**

We can assist in the following ways:

#### **Teachers in training (PGCE)**

- Accept a Geography Student for teaching practice.
- Make sure you pass on the skills and knowledge to enable them to become a competent teacher.
- Make sure you show them how to introduce IT and GIS in the classroom.
- Help and support a distance learning student from time to time (not only UNISA students now).

#### **Teacher training and mentoring**

- Mentoring of new teachers.
- Help, support, guide those colleagues in under resourced schools, where they may not have the resources you have in your classroom.
- Assisting with resource sharing in rural and deep rural areas; developing resources.

#### **Peer mentoring**

- This works at pupil to pupil, teacher to teacher and student teacher levels.
- Set up a peer exchange – invite a group of geography pupils to do a workshop in your school computer laboratory/classroom. Create a twinning relationship with the teacher and their pupils.
- The virtual platform even makes this peer mentoring easier to support.
- Set up a peer tutoring system where Grade 12s help Grade 10-12s from a twinned school.

## Other possibilities:

- Mentoring those teachers who run ONE person departments and need assistance with moderation and with accessing resources.
- GIS mentoring – helping with upskilling in GIS – can use GIS practitioners here or link with GISSA; but many of our members can assist here too.
- SANSa and Remote Sensing – geomentoring in Remote Sensing –promote the value of Geography as a science as well; create Science and Geography Clubs to promote GIS, Astronomy and Remote Sensing.
- Academic mentoring – those who want to write for journals and have papers published (work with tertiary institutions and SSAG).
- Geo mentoring in Problem-based Learning; join the SAGTA PBL forum and help with resource development.

## Volunteering for Geomentoring services

### Terms and Conditions (T's & C's)

1. You must be a member of SAGTA to be a GEOMENTOR or request a GEOMENTOR.
2. This is a volunteer system.
3. Remuneration is not the focus of this support service.
4. Complete the Google form to register yourself as a SAGTA GEOMENTOR  
Link: <https://forms.gle/iBxBjx5A2Se9SyDS6>
5. We will allocate you to a mentee or school which requests mentoring in Geography.
6. Update your mentoring service records regularly.
7. Permission to be featured as a SAGTA GEOMENTOR volunteer in the biannual Newsletter.
8. We will award GEOMENTOR badges biannually.

## Requesting Geomentoring services

### Terms and Conditions (T's & C's)

1. You must be a member of SAGTA to request a GEOMENTOR.
2. If you would like to be put in touch with a SAGTA GEOMENTOR please complete the request for a SAGTA GEOMENTOR form.  
Link: <https://forms.gle/WQiBPnSjdp2JiKcX7>

Yours sincerely



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