Introduction of Geo-spatial Technologies: GIS in Secondary Education  
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ABSTRACT TEXT: In an increasingly closer global community, geographic literacy upon the general population is paramount. Geographic education should start early and be reinforced throughout the K-12 educational process. Freely available technology can be incorporated into existing curricula to allow students to actively participate in exploring the world around them and collecting their own data. This promotes a spatial awareness among students. This presentation will focus on the apps available and a general exercise that can be adapted for use along the spectrum of early-, middle-, and secondary education.

GIS Day Savannah: How We've Introduced GIS to 1000s of Students  
Lara Hall, GISP, GIS Director, Chatham County Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, Savannah, GA  
Thomas Jeanquart, Senior Systems GIS Analyst, City of Savannah, Savannah, GA

ABSTRACT TEXT: This presentation will discuss how GIS Day Savannah has grown over the past 12 years to include more than 500 participants annually. Organized by a committee of local GIS professionals, each year around 400 8th graders spend two hours rotating through hands-on activities, including an outdoor Compass Course, Online GIS class, and the GIS Gallery. Representing local universities, businesses, engineering firms, public safety and regional government agencies, sponsors setup booths in the GIS Gallery to demonstrate to visitors how GIS is used in their career field. A GIS Student Poster competition is also held to engage regional middle, high school, and college students.

The Urban Scene – Student Exploration of Town Using Survey 123  
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ABSTRACT TEXT: Providing students with meaningful educational experiences can be difficult, particularly in courses involving technology. To illustrate the use of a GIS application and the online environment, a survey was developed that allowed students to visit areas of interest in downtown Ruston, LA, and record information about a variety of places of interest to students (dining, entertainment, etc.). This information is archived over successive terms so that students can expand upon previous work and provide a more robust series of options for new students. They also learn to analyze data, select places of interest, and communicate using maps.