



GeoSphere Guidelines

- **Space:** The GeoSphere is 19.5 feet in height. It is ideal if the presentation space has a ceiling height of 20 feet to accommodate the GeoSphere without obstructions like sprinkler heads, lights, basketball hoops, etc. Please note: sound is amplified inside the GeoSphere. It works best if there are no noisy activities sharing the same space.
- **Class Size:** The GeoSphere can accommodate up to 30 people depending on grade level—up to 30 K-5 participants or up to 25 for Grade 6-12 participants. These figures include teachers and observers.
- **Teacher Participation:** We ask that teachers remain with their class throughout the experience, both outside and inside the GeoSphere.
- **Scheduling:** Every school's schedule is different. For that reason, we rely on the school to provide a schedule of class participation in advance of our arrival.
 - Our programs are generally about 20 – 40 minutes each. The youngest grades (pre-K to 1st) can be as short as 15 minutes each and the older grades can be as long as 50 minutes.
 - Five minutes between each class must be built into the schedule to accommodate passing time.
 - A lunch break of at least ½ hour is required near the middle of the day.
 - A 10-minute break in the morning and again in the afternoon is appreciated, but not required.
- **Special Needs:** To protect the hand-painted globe, we ask that all participants remove their shoes before entering; socks or stockings are advised. We have no problem taking wheelchairs inside the GeoSphere for special needs students.



Geo-Sphere, GIS/GPS, and Giant Map Program FAQ

Q: Who is the instructor?

A: Steve Jansen is an experienced geographer holding an MA in physical geography. He loves to share his understanding of Earth processes with students of all ages. Steve has been working with the Geo-Sphere in various settings for more than fourteen years and for this reason, he is able to teach just about any aspect of the Earth that fits in with your current curriculum. His favorite programs are those that require him to create a unique experience for your students.

Q: What is the Maximum number of classes taught in a day?

A: No more than 12 classes of at least 20 minutes for second grade and up. Younger students can get by with 15-minute sessions.

Q: What is the maximum number of students we can accommodate?

A: Older classes mean bigger students so with anyone 5th grade and above, we recommend no more than 25 students. With younger students we recommend around 30/class. These numbers include up to three teachers. We request classroom teachers accompany students inside the Geosphere. If this is not possible for a particular teacher, another certified employee of the school is expected to join students in the Geosphere. We have no problem taking wheelchairs inside the GeoSphere for special needs students.

Q: Are classes only offered during school hours?

A: Absolutely not. We are available for afterschool programs, fairs, or evening hours for interested parents to see what their kids have been up to. Our instructor is able to accommodate about 6 hours of instruction a day. We prefer to book him in three hour blocks preserving time for him to eat. Time blocks can include two of the three following slots: AM, PM, and/or Evening. After completing a tentative schedule for your day, please send the schedule along to us for edits and guidance. Again, we are totally committed to giving your students the most enriching experience possible.

Q: What is the cost of the Geo-Spatial Program?

A: Generally these programs are funded through NGS Education Awards for schools or enrichment programs. Stipends and funds from educational grants are always welcome. We charge \$50/hour for non-education or grant work.

Q: How can I purchase a copy of the Giant Floor Map?



A: The Giant Floor Map Kit can easily be purchased. The cost is \$639. Let our office know if you're interested!

Q: What kind of material is the GeoSphere made from?

A: The GeoSphere is made of sailboat cloth, a kind of nylon, and it is hand-painted with acrylic paints.

Q: Is there a deposit?

A: Yes. There is a non-refundable deposit of 1/3rd your total booking cost to guarantee the reservation of time for the geosphere.

Q: Do all the grade levels need to have the same program?

A: We prefer they don't. We want your students to have the most meaningful experience possible so we vary length and topics based on your students' age and your curriculum.

Q: What are some examples of previous classes you have presented/offered?

A: GeoSphere Program Offerings

- **Land and Sea** (Grades pre-K – 1)
Is there more land or more water on Earth? We explore the watery planet, discovering where the different forms of water reside and how they interact.
- **The Blue Planet** (Grades K – 8)
How are Earth's waters interconnected? Students will investigate the water cycle by following a water molecule from the ocean, through the atmosphere, onto the land, back to the ocean, into the Gulf Stream, and to the Arctic.
- **Polar Opposites** (Grades 1 - 2)
Why don't polar bears eat penguins? We discover Earth's life zones and the climates associated with their pattern.
- **World Weather Report** (Grades 2 – 12)
Why do climate regions form patterns on Earth? We'll discuss earth's life zones, global climate patterns, the water cycle, and violent weather.
- **Planetary Worries** (Grades 4 – 12)



The Geographic Society of Chicago

Why is our climate changing rapidly? Students will explore global climate change and the cause-and-effect relationships between people and the environment. The current man-made changes will be framed in historical perspective, and solutions will be explored. Similarly, students concerned about tornados, hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes or the like can come to an understanding of these phenomena.

- **Peopling the Planet** (Grades 4 – 12)
How did people get to where they are? Students make fascinating discoveries about settlement patterns, from pre-history to the present. We will explore connections between human migration, and geologic features and climate factors. (Evolution and the out-of-Africa theory are integral to this topic).
- **Traveling Through Geologic Time** (Grades 4 – 12)
Why do mountains and volcanoes form where they do? Students will discover the forces that create these landforms as they investigate topics in plate tectonics and geology.
- **Geometry of the Globe** (Grades 7 – 12)
Students explore the elliptical orbit of the Earth around the sun and discover how the characteristics of the orbit are projected onto the Earth to create seasons. The geometry of our oblate spheroid is discussed through a look at the resulting latitude/longitude grid.

Geospatial Technology Program:

We typically do a Global Positioning System/Geographic Information System (GPS/GIS) workshop in which students collect primary field data which they upload into a GIS for analysis and mapping. One example of our use of GPS/GIS involved students laying waypoints for damaged sidewalk tiles. The students then uploaded the data into the GIS unit and learned about civic engagement by sending the information to the local authorities to get the sidewalk tiles repaired. About 3 hours is typical for a GPS/GIS workshop with a classroom of students. Access to internet-connected computers is required.