

CALL FOR STUDENT SUBMISSIONS
to present at the

2026
LOS ANGELES
GEOSPATIAL
SUMMIT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026, @ 8:30 AM—3:30 PM (PT)

USC HOTEL, 3540 S FIGUEROA ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90007

The USC Spatial Sciences Institute announces its 2026 Los Angeles Geospatial Summit, a one-day event for geospatial professionals, students, alumni and faculty of Los Angeles area GIS academic programs to explore emerging geospatial trends. The summit program will include industry panels and use cases, a lunchtime exhibit hall, and a networking reception. Throughout the Summit, you will gain insights into geospatial career pathways and professional opportunities.

Undergraduate and graduate students in GIS, geospatial technologies and related disciplines at Southern California institutions are cordially invited to apply to participate in the LA Geospatial Summit ArcGIS StoryMaps competition and to be selected to present lightning talks in the Summit Lightning talk session.

Students can apply for either the StoryMap competition, the Lightning Talk session, or both.

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submit**



NEXT

ArcGIS StoryMaps Competition

If you are selected to participate in the dedicated ArcGIS StoryMaps Summit session, you will have the opportunity to talk about your StoryMap, presenting it on your laptop, to the Summit participants. Your StoryMap will be eligible to win in one of three categories. Esri will announce the winner of each category and present prizes at the conclusion of the Summit program.

To apply, please submit your abstract using this form

<https://forms.gle/sjX25tg17jhECwwZ7> by COB **Friday, December 5, 2025**, a maximum 200-word abstract and indicate which one of the following categories you are applying for:

1. **Most innovative use of technology**
2. **Most compelling communication using maps**
3. **Most suitably applied analysis methodology**

Only one story per submission. Submissions can be by an individual or a group (**maximum of 3 members in the group**).

If you are submitting a StoryMap that you have produced as part of a course or research with an SSI faculty member, please have that faculty member provide you with an email acknowledging that they support your abstract submission. You can upload this as a PDF or screenshot in the abstract submission form.

The USC Spatial Sciences Institute will notify you by Fri., December 19, 2025 – Sat., December 20, 2025, if you are selected to participate in the ArcGIS StoryMaps competition.

If selected, you are required to:

- Submit a story with two or more dynamic maps, created with ArcGIS StoryMaps, with clearly defined beginning, main, and closing sections; and
- Register for the Summit at the student registration rate of \$25, unless you have an SSI faculty sponsor. To have your student registration fee waived, you must submit an email from an SSI faculty member acknowledging they support your StoryMap. You can upload this in the final submission form that will be provided to you in the notification email.

Your StoryMap must show author information and your submission must be shareable with Everyone (i.e., will be public).

 NEXT

Lightning Talk Session

If you are selected to present a five-minute lightning talk on the Summit main stage, you will have the opportunity to discuss your work with a panel of industry experts and the Summit participants.

To apply, please submit your abstract using this form

<https://forms.gle/sjX25tg17jhECwwZ7> by COB **Friday, December 5, 2025**, a maximum 200-word abstract of your proposed talk.

Submissions can be by an individual or a group (maximum 3 members in the group), but **only one representative of your group will present the talk**.

The USC Spatial Sciences Institute will notify you by Fri., December 19, 2025 – Sat., December 20, 2025, if you are selected to present a lightning talk.

If selected, you are required to:

- Provide your lightning talk presentation one week in advance of the Summit; and
- Register for the Summit at the student registration rate of \$25, unless you have an SSI faculty sponsor. To have your student registration fee waived, you must have submitted an email from an SSI faculty member acknowledging they support your presentation. You can upload this in the final submission form that will be provided to you in the notification email.

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