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Delaware to Celebrate GIS Day on November 19

Public Invited to Evening Open House

Dover – Delawareans are invited to learn about the digital mapping technology that supports popular internet applications like Google Earth, and makes possible a wide range of public services such as 9-1-1 emergency dispatch, as Delaware celebrates GIS Day on November 19, 2008. GIS stands for Geographic Information Systems, which combine digital maps with database information to create and enhance knowledge.

The Delaware Geographic Data Committee plans a GIS Day celebration at the Air Mobility Command Museum at Dover Air Force Base. There will be a public open house from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Air Mobility Command Museum is at the southern end of the Dover Air Force Base. The entrance is off Route 9. During the morning, fifth-grade students from schools around the state will enjoy field trips to the GIS Day event designed to support Delaware curriculum standards for students who are learning about geography, cartography and the world around us.

“Educators in Delaware Classrooms are using GIS for standards-based projects that promote 21st century skills, such as communication and collaboration, problem-solving using real world data, technology and media literacy skills, and global awareness,” according to Cape Henlopen School District Instructional Technology Specialist Lori Roe.

Visitors will learn about flight simulation, which uses digital mapping to help teach new pilots. They will learn how to find the latitude and longitude. They will learn how paramedics and other emergency workers can quickly find those in need during emergencies. They will enter into the world itself, as they play with, and can go inside, a 20-foot diameter Earth Balloon. And they will see a movie about Jane Goodall and her efforts to help a diminishing chimpanzee population with the use of GIS technology.

GIS Day started in 1987, part of the National Geographic’s Geography Week, as a way to expose society to the tools and opportunities of GIS. The Delaware Geographic Data Committee is a cooperative effort among all levels of government, and the academic and private sectors, to build a Delaware GIS Community and improve the coordination of the use of GIS tools in Delaware. Delaware GIS Day sponsors for 2008 are the Air Mobility Command Museum, GeoDecisions, the Delaware Geographic Alliance, Institute for Public Administration-Water Resources Agency at the University of Delaware, and ESRI.