



Auditor Charles E. Walder

Chief Fiscal Officer

The Geauga County Auditor's Office is sponsoring the first ever **Gauga County Map Making Competition** to help celebrate GIS Day 2025. The competition is open to all students within Geauga County and is broken down into the following categories:

Mini Map Makers (Grades K through 3)

Students will design their own map with the theme "The Storyteller's Map". Students can create a map that tells a story, whether it's a treasure map, school playground map, or a fantasy land.

My Map, My World (Grades 4 through 8)

Students will design their own map with the theme "Maps of Geauga County". Students can create a map of the entire County, a Township, a local park, or even just their own neighborhood!

NextGen Map Challenge (Grades 9 through 12)

Students will design their own map with the theme "Maps of the World". Students can create a map of the entire world, a specific country, or a city/landmark of their choice.

All submitted maps will be displayed at the GIS Department in the Auditor's Office for the weeks leading up to GIS Day and will be judged by Geauga County Auditor Charles. E Walder, Chief Compliance Officer Kate Jacob, and GIS Department staff on November 19, 2025. One winner will be chosen out of each age group. The winner from each category will receive a trophy and T-shirt and have their map displayed in the GIS Department office for the following year. The winner's classroom will receive an educational desk globe with world map.

RULES

1. **One entry per student**
2. **Work must be done by contestant only**
3. **Maps can be created by drawing, painting, collage, or any other artistic technique**
4. **Maps should be no larger than 11 in x 17 in**
5. **Entries must be returned to the Geauga County Auditor's Office: 231 Main Street, Suite 1A, Court House Annex, Chardon. Mail entries to:**
Map Making Competition
Gauga County Auditor
231 Main St, Ste 1A
Chardon, OH 44024
6. **Entries must be received in our office by November 17, 2025**
7. **Please list the student's name, school, grade, and contact information on the back of the map or on the template that is used (templates available [here](#))**

For more information on GIS Day, please visit [here](#). If you have any questions please contact Sarah Perry, a GIS Solutions Architect in the Geauga County GIS Department by email at sperry@geauga.oh.gov or by phone at 440-279-1624.

Courthouse Annex, 231 Main Street, Suite 1A, Chardon, OH 44024-1293

Direct Line: (440) 279-1600 FAX: Fiscal Office (440) 279-2184 * Real Estate/Appraisal (440) 286-4359

Web site: <https://auditor.geauga.oh.gov/> Email: auditor@geauga.oh.gov

MAPMAKING GUIDELINES

The following criteria will be considered when judging the maps in the mapmaking competition:

1. Creativity and Originality:

- How imaginative and unique is the map?
- Does it show the child's personal touch or ideas?

2. Accuracy and Clarity:

- Are the elements on the map clearly represented?
- Does the map include appropriate landmarks, symbols, or features?

3. Neatness and Presentation:

- Is the map tidy and visually appealing?
- Is the handwriting or labeling clear and legible?

4. Use of Map Elements:

- Are important components included, such as a title, compass rose (direction), legend/key, scale (if applicable)?
- Are symbols and colors used effectively?

5. Understanding of Spatial Relationships:

- Does the map show an understanding of relative positions and distances?
- Are features placed logically?

6. Relevance to the Theme:

- Does the map address the given theme or instructions?
- Is it appropriate for the age group?

7. Effort and Detail:

- Does the map show care and effort in its creation?
- Are there thoughtful details included?

We are excited to get involved with our local schools and work with the next generation of mapmakers and GIS professionals within Geauga County!

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