



# Agenda

## Winter Meetup 2026

5-6 March 2026

Monument Town Hall

Monument, Colorado

4 March 2026, Wednesday Lodgers or Campers can arrive and sleep overnight, food on your own.

**5 March 2026, Thursday** [Meetup Presentations!](#), 9:30am-12pm

**6 March 2026, Friday** [GIS Colorado Employment Workshop](#), 9:30am-4:30pm

7 March 2026, Saturday [First Saturday Walk at Palmer Park](#) at the [Yucca Flats Trailhead](#), 9am

### Thursday, 5 March 2026

#### [GIS Colorado Winter Meetup 2026 Tickets, Thursday 8am 5 March 2026 | Eventbrite](#)

GIS Colorado Quarterly Meetup - [Monument Town Hall Council Chambers](#)

If driving, Please park on westside of Dollar Tree's parking lot (655 W Hwy 105, Monument, CO 80132)

Virtual Meetup GISCO Meetup Presentations: <https://meet.google.com/wnu-mqmh-ijfj>

Or dial: (US) +1 682-730-6069 PIN: 174 255 942#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/wnu-mqmh-ijfj?pin=9394669872618>

Live streamed via Meeting Owl/Google Meet distributed later by [GIS Colorado on YouTube](#)

Cost: **\$0** non-members; **\$0** GISCO members

**8:30am to 9:30am** Join us for networking starting at **8:30am**; **presentations** begin at **9:30am**.

**9:30am to 9:40am** Welcome and Announcements (10 min)

**9:45am to 10:05am** **Field Data Collection for Mine Sites**  
*Rich Chamberlain, [Tiffani McClain](#), and [Weatherly Sawyer](#),  
[AECOM](#) (20 min)*

**10:25am to 10:45am** **When the Clock Is Ticking:**  
**Denver's Blueprint for a Rapid Application Upgrade**  
*[Brady Hustad](#), Founder, [ArGIS Solutions Inc.](#),  
[Doug Genzer](#) GISP, GIS Manager, [City and County of Denver](#) (30 min)*

**11pm to 11:55pm** **Southeastern Colorado Jeopardy!**<sup>TM</sup>  
Pikes Peak Geospatial Group (PPGG)  
*[Nathan Tyler Lowry](#), Game Show Host, [PPGG](#) (55 min)*

**11:55 am to 12pm** **Wrap up and Closing**

12pm to 1pm

**Lunch** on your own - explore Monument!



1pm-2pm

GIS Colorado Board Meeting (optional, if a quorum is present)  
Open to GIS Colorado members and the public  
Held at Monument Town Hall's Council Chambers



**Friday, 6 March 2026**

**[GIS Colorado Winter Meetup 2026 Tickets, Friday 9:30 6 March 2026 | Eventbrite](#)**

GIS Colorado Employment Workshop - [Monument Town Hall Council Chambers](#)

**If driving, Please park on westside of Dollar Tree's parking lot (655 W Hwy 105, Monument, CO 80132)**

Town of Monument  
645 Beacon Life Road  
Monument, CO 80132  
[See Location Directions](#)



**Virtual Workshop**

Google Meet joining info:: <https://meet.google.com/osa-wxin-rfq>

Or dial: (US) +1 470-327-0932 PIN: 580 848 011#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/osa-wxin-rfq?pin=8604913300614>

Live streamed via Meeting Owl/Google Meet distributed later by [GIS Colorado on YouTube](#)

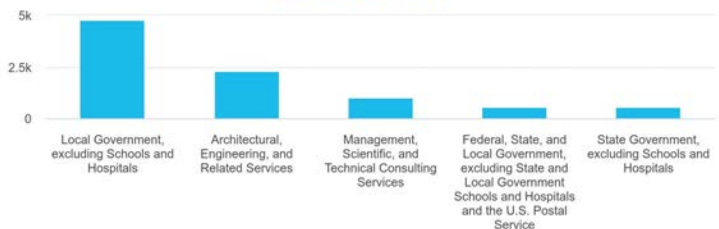
**Cost: \$0 non-members; \$0 GISCO members**

**Abstract:** Join us in Monument Friday 6 March 2026 for an employment workshop for GIS and related geospatial professions in Colorado. We will discuss the landscape of our current job market, the roles of education and training to prepare individuals for these roles, and focus particularly on the skills, tactics, expectations and needs of employers, employees and supporting third parties to equip and qualify individuals for the diverse roles in a challenged job market. We will not only sharpen our abilities to communicate effectively to hiring individuals but also how to retain that employment, including in public service, private sector, academic, non-profit and entrepreneurial environments.

The “low hire, low fire job market”, [coined](#) in June 2025 by Axios and [confirmed](#) by NY Fed President John Williams in August 2025, persists. Not only does political and economic uncertainty make forecasting difficult for employers to in confidence hire new employees, but foreign aid, federal service, and contract employment reductions particularly have strained job markets. When the majority of funding for geospatial and related positions originate from government agencies, whether federal, state or local government direct employment, or funded by way of contracts, grants, or regulatory requirements to the private sector, employment impacts are more severe for these professions.

Let's do something about this, together

**Most Common Industries for Cartographers and Photogrammetrists (by number of employed professionals)**



Source: BLS, 2025

Designed by **Research.com**



Questions?

[questions@giscolorado.org](mailto:questions@giscolorado.org)

8:30am to 9:30am	Join us for breakfast starting at <u>8:30am</u> ; <b>the workshop begins at <u>9:30am</u></b> . <u>Friday Breakfast and Networking sponsored by the <b>Town of Monument!</b></u>
9:30am to 9:40am	Welcome and Announcements (10 min)
9:45am to 10:15am	<b>From Lost to Georeferenced: Your Journey to a GIS Career</b> <u>Jessica Touchard</u> , President, <u>GeoSearch</u> (30 min)
10:25am to 10:55am	<b>Projection Problems? Not Here—How to Prep for a GIS Career</b> (30 min) <u>Dr. Diep Dao</u> , Associate Professor <u>UCCS</u> , GIScience Certificates Director
11:05am to 11:35pm	<b>Leveling Up Your Job Searching Skills</b> (part 1) <u>Emily Trujillo</u> , <u>Human Resources</u> Manager, <u>Town of Monument</u> (30 min)
11:45am to 12pm	<b>Leveling Up Your Job Searching Skills</b> (part 2) <u>Scott Ytzen</u> , GIS Analyst IV and Project Manager, <u>Tetra Tech</u> (15 min)
12pm to 1pm	<b>Lunch</b> on your own - explore shops in Monument!
1pm to 1:45pm	<b>Resume Rescue &amp; Interview Bootcamp: GIS Edition</b> <u>Ben Wittman</u> , GIS Colorado Training Coordinator (45 min)
1:45pm to 2pm	Break
2pm to 2:25pm	<b>Off the Beaten Path: GIS Entrepreneurs Who Drew Their Own Map</b> (part 1) <u>Crystal Childress</u> , CP/GISP/PMP/LSSBB, Co-Founder, <u>RIOT Geospatial</u> (25 min)
2:35pm to 2:50pm	<b>Off the Beaten Path: Open Discussion</b> (part 2) <u>Nathan Tyler Lowry</u> , <u>GIS Colorado Board</u> Member
3pm to 3:45pm	<b>How to Keep Your Job Without Losing Your Sanity (or Your GIS Layers)</b> <u>Jennifer Phillips</u> , Director of Finance, <u>Town of Monument</u> (45 min)
3:55pm to 4:20pm	<b>The Final Layer: Open Q&amp;A, Discussion Time, &amp; Closing Thoughts</b> <u>Connie Drieger</u> , GIS Specialist, <u>Town of Monument</u> (25 min)
4:30pm	<b>Depart!</b>



**Saturday, 7 March 2026**

**Saturday, 7 March 2026**  
9am Lodgers or campers can sleep overnight, food on your own.  
Join the Pikes Peak Geospatial Group for their  
**First Saturday Walk at Palmer Park** at the Yucca Flats Trailhead



## Program Abstracts and Descriptions

### Field Data Collection for Mine Sites

Rich Chamberlain, GIS Practice Leader, Tiffani McClain and Weatherly Sawyer, GIS Specialists, AECOM

AECOM regularly visits mine sites to inspect and review operations and offer feedback to the mine's operator. The GIS team was asked to streamline the collection, management, and review of photos taken onsite. We will present some draft products and tools and will end the presentation with an open discussion with the audience of best methods and tools within ArcGIS Online to review site photos.

### When the Clock Is Ticking: Denver's Blueprint for a Rapid Application Upgrade

Brady Hustad, Founder, ArcGIS Solutions Inc. and Doug Genzer GISP, GIS Manager, City and County of Denver

Many agencies face a familiar situation: a reliable GIS application built on technology that has served them well for years must now be modernized as the ArcGIS platform evolves, and older components are scheduled for deprecation. The City and County of Denver recently encountered this challenge. By leveraging the Colorado Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA), Denver quickly began collaborating with Argis Solutions, a vetted SIPA service supplier, to supplement its team and complete the Addressing project upgrade on schedule.

In this session, representatives from Denver, SIPA, and Argis will share how they navigated the upgrade and how SIPA can help other organizations accelerate GIS projects, streamline procurement, and confidently adopt current ArcGIS capabilities.

### PPGG - Southeastern Colorado Jeopardy!™

Nathan Tyler Lowry, Game Show Host, Pikes Peak Geospatial Group (PPGG)

Join us in person at the GIS Colorado Meetup at the Monument Town Hall OR online on Thursday 5 March 2026 Mountain Time for an exciting and illuminating game of Jeopardy!™ We will be focusing on Answers and responding with Questions about the landscapes, peoples, natural environment, and history of southeastern Colorado, from Leadville to Las Animas, and from Westcliffe to Cheyenne Wells, including all that lovely terrain from which one may view Pikes Peak. Play will be on <https://play.buzzinga.io/> and socialization (cameras, chat, audio) via Google Meet (above).

Some things to remember:

- All answers are germane to southeastern Colorado
- Teams can play together to gang up
- Using the Internet is fair game

ALPHAS AND OMEGAS	WATER	LANDFORMS	BIOLOGY
\$200	\$200	\$200	\$600
THE LAST STOCKPILES OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ARSENAL WERE DESTROYED HERE IN JULY 2023.	ONCE KNOWN AS THE "FONTAINE QUI BOUILLE" 70 MILLION GALLONS OF RAW SEWAGE SPILLED INTO THIS CREEK AT COLORADO SPRINGS DURING A FLOOD IN 1999.	THE NAMESAKE EXPLORER FOR THIS LANDFORM WROTE IN HIS JOURNAL, "THE GRAND PEAK NOW APPEARED AT THE DISTANCE OF 15 OR 16 MILES FROM US, AND AS HIGH AGAIN AS WHAT WE HAD ASCENDED, AND WOULD HAVE TAKEN A	THE LARGEST CONTIGUOUS (THE) WILD ANIMAL REFUGE IN NORTH AMERICA FOR FORMERLY ENCLOSED LIONS, TIGERS BEARS, AND WOLVES STRADDLES THE BOUNDARY OF THESE TWO COUNTIES IN SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO



Questions?

[questions@giscolorado.org](mailto:questions@giscolorado.org)

## Employment Workshop Segment Descriptions

### **From Lost to Georeferenced: Your Journey to a GIS Career**

*Jessica Touchard, President, GeoSearch*

For people looking for a new position in the job market, build your personal network via in-person events, on LinkedIn and elsewhere, with companies that do what you're interested in. Building a local network of people who employ GIS people within your community and surrounding areas, like civil engineering firms, is a really good first step for job seekers. Human connection matters. Apply for a position, then find people within that organization to connect with. Introduce yourself. Explain what problems you can solve. That personal connection brings you to the top of the pile. The geospatial industry is a big world -- be open to positions different from what you thought you were going to do. On-site and even relocation will set you apart. Spruce up your soft skills, presenting yourself and information when speaking with others.

For companies seeking employees, there are some challenges. Artificial Intelligence and other strange things happening aren't always producing genuine applications. It is important for companies to have people within their organization or skilled outside recruiters to talk with people, verify their skills, understand what job candidates are looking for, and find a good fit for their organization. You need to strongly define what you want in that person so you can be more targeted in screening resumes and conducting your interviews.

### **Projection Problems? Not Here—How to Prep for a GIS Career**

*Dr. Diep Dao, Associate Professor UCCS, GIScience Certificates Director*

This discussion session will focus on the role of GIS education in preparing students and professionals for diverse career paths. Participants will explore strategies for tailoring coursework, certifications, and hands-on experience to align with specific job goals across the geospatial field. Practical tips will be shared on selecting relevant electives, building technical portfolios, and seeking experiential learning opportunities that match industry demands. The session will emphasize intentional planning and skill development to help attendees shape an educational pathway that supports their desired GIS career trajectory.

### **Leveling Up Your Job Searching Skills (part 1)**

*Emily Trujillo, Human Resources Manager, Town of Monument*

Essential guidance for navigating the job-search process, offering fundamental principles and practical tips across each stage. It highlights the core elements of effective interviewing, along with the purpose of strong resumes and cover letters that clearly communicate a candidate's fit. This session also introduces helpful strategies for job searching and interviewing, explains the key differences between private- and public-sector application processes, and emphasizes the value of thoughtful preparation before applying or interviewing. Finally, it outlines what HR typically looks for in application materials and the qualities candidates often demonstrate when they are selected for interviews, helping job seekers better understand how to present themselves confidently and competitively.

### **Leveling Up Your Job Searching Skills (part 2)**

*Scott Ytzen, GIS Analyst IV and Project Manager, Tetra Tech*

Scott Ytzen will be speaking on the qualifications and interests of hiring managers, especially the perspectives of those in the private industry supporting Architecture, Construction and Engineering (AEC) consultancies.



Questions?

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**Off the Beaten Path: GIS Entrepreneurs Who Drew Their Own Map** (part 1):

*Crystal Childress, CP/GISP/PMP/LSSBB, Co-Founder, RIOT Geospatial*

As an entrepreneur, Crystal Childress will be speaking from her experience from working for large companies supporting elevation data acquisition and processing for the USGS to spearheading her own business with Cara Nwodu to handle overflow work of larger LiDAR data producers by focusing on quality processes and people.

**Off the Beaten Path: Open Discussion** (part 2):

*Nathan Tyler Lowry, GIS Board Member*

This session introduced participants to non-traditional career paths that use GIS skills in innovative ways. The discussion highlighted opportunities in fields such as business, public health, emergency management, and technology, showing how spatial thinking and data visualization apply far beyond traditional GIS roles. Attendees will leave with a broader understanding of how geospatial expertise can be leveraged across diverse industries.

**How to Keep Your Job Without Losing Your Sanity (or Your GIS Layers)**

*Jennifer Phillips, Director of Finance, Town of Monument*

How do you keep a job? How do you know how to handle difficult even existential moral and ethical conflicts with others? How do you show that you have long-term value and are acting in the best interest of your employer and their investors, your coworkers, or the customers or quite often, the public constituencies that you serve?

### Logistics

**Meeting Location - [Town of Monument Town Hall, 645 Beacon Life Road, Monument, CO 80132](#)**

Let someone else drive by taking public transit! Work, study or play from your devices on a comfy bus!

**From Denver** take [Bustang](#) Southbound [Route 502](#) departing **7:25am** [Gate B4](#) from **Denver Union Station**, 7:35am from 19th and Stout, 7:45am Civic Center at 14th/Broadway, 7:50am Broadway & Speer – Denver Health, **8:05am** [Gate E](#) at **Colorado Station**, or 8:25am Skyridge Station **arriving at the Monument Park-N-Ride at 9:10am** for \$9 one-way or **\$18 round trip**.

- **From Boulder** depart no later than **6:30am** from [Gate 1](#) Downtown Boulder Station take **RTD** Eastbound [Route FF1](#) to arrive at Denver Union Station at least by 7:17am for \$5.50 for an RTD day pass, **\$23.50** for the entire trip to Monument and back.
- **From Fort Collins** Bustang Southbound [Route 603](#) departing **5:40am** from the Fort Collins Downtown Transit Center arriving at Denver Union Station at **7am** for \$10 one-way or \$20 round trip - **\$48** for the entire trip cost to Monument and back.

**From Colorado Springs** take Bustang [Route 517](#) departing 7:20am from the Colorado Springs Downtown Terminal, or 7:35am from the Woodman Park-N-Ride, arriving at the Monument Park-N-Ride at 7:55am for \$5 one-way, **\$10 round trip**. Eat breakfast in Monument, then walk to the Town Hall.

**From Pueblo** take the Greyhound at **6am** from the Transit Center arriving at the Colorado Spring Tejon Park-N-Ride at 7:15am \$12.98 one-way \$25.96 round trip. Eat breakfast at Natural Grocers, then walk northward on South Tejon Street under the I-25 overpass to catch the Mountain Metro Route 10 northbound at **8:11am** to the Colorado Springs Downtown terminal, \$1.25 one-way \$2.50 round trip. From the Colorado Springs Downtown terminal, catch Bustang Northbound [Route 521](#) departing **8:45am**, arriving at the Monument Park-N-Ride at **9:20am** for \$5 one-way, \$10 round trip. **\$38.46** total round trip cost.



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Then **walk one mile** to the Town of Monument Town Hall!: Depart at the Monument Park-N-Ride, turning right (south) on Woodmoor Drive to 2nd Street. Turn right (west) on 2nd street and walk over the I-25 overpass. Continue walking along 2nd Street crossing CO West Highway 105 to Beacon Lite Road. Turn right (north) on Beacon Lite Road, for a half-mile (2500 feet/800m). Town Hall is the last building on the left on the southwest corner of CO West Highway 105 and Beacon Lite Road. Walking distance is one mile (1.6km)

**Dollar Tree's parking lot (655 West Colorado State Highway 105, Monument, CO 80132)**



**If driving**, please **carpool!** - especially from the Denver Metro!:

**From Denver**, drive south on I-25 passing over County Line Road and the Palmer Divide to the Tri-Lakes/Monument Area Exit 161. The exit will loop you northward. Cross 2nd Street after the stop light onto CO West Highway 105 northward. Pass Taco Bell on the right and McDonald's on your left until you pass the Dollar Tree on your left. Turn left on Beacon Lite Road immediately after the Dollar Tree, then right into the Town of Monument Town Hall parking area. Additional parking is available across the street at Dollar Tree.

**From Colorado Springs**, drive north on I-25 passing the Baptist Road exit to the Tri-Lakes/Monument Area Exit 161. Turn left on 2nd Street after the stop light and drive over the I-25 overpass. Turn right onto CO West Highway 105 northward. Pass Taco Bell on the right and McDonald's on your left until you pass the Dollar Tree on your left. Turn left on Beacon Lite Road immediately after the Dollar Tree, then right into the Town of Monument Town Hall parking area. Additional parking is available across the street at Dollar Tree.



Lodging or Camping

[Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites Colorado Springs North/Air Force Academy,](#)

15275 Struthers Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80921

\$87+ person/night, 3 stars, 4 miles south of Monument Town Hall.

[My Place Hotel-Colorado Springs, CO | Extended Stay Hotel](#)

369 Gleneagle Gate View, Colorado Springs, Colorado, United States, 80921

\$69+ person/night, 6 miles south of Monument Town Hall.

[Hotel Polaris at the US Air Force Academy](#)

8989 North Gate Boulevard, Colorado Springs, CO 80921

\$184+ person/night, 6 miles south of Monument Town Hall.

[Colorado Heights Camping Resort,](#) 19575 Monument Hill Road, Monument, CO 80132

RV sites \$56.50-66.50/night, Free WiFi, Fishing Pond, Laundry Rooms, Country Store, Lounge.

[Monument Glamping,](#) 16315 Rickenbacker Avenue, Monument, CO 80132, \$211+ per night

Glamorous camping on private property between Monument and Pike National Forest.

Camping or lodging is not required to attend events.

Cancellation policy:

100% refund 7 days before the scheduled event

0% refund less than 7 days before the scheduled event

Real-time streaming of presentations anticipated for those unable to attend in person!



- Meetup Sponsor
- Platinum
- Silver
- Bronze

Friday breakfast and networking sponsored by

[The Town of Monument](#)



COLORADO  
Governor's Office of  
Information Technology  
Serving people serving Colorado



Questions?

[questions@giscolorado.org](mailto:questions@giscolorado.org)