



Teenagers Go High-Tech for a Good Cause

It's 8:00 a.m. on a Tuesday and eight teenagers are walking the streets around their high school campus to record the locations of graffiti and damaged sidewalks, and to measure the reflectivity of street signs.

They are led by three teachers and equipped with high-tech gadgets—one retroreflectometer on loan from the City of Highland Public Works Department and three iPads loaded with a customized data collection survey built using Survey123 for ArcGIS®.

The teens are students from San Andreas High School in San Bernardino, California. As part of the school's Career Technology Academy, they're learning how to use geographic information systems (GIS) technology from Esri including Survey123 and ArcGISSM Online, Esri's cloud-based mapping platform.

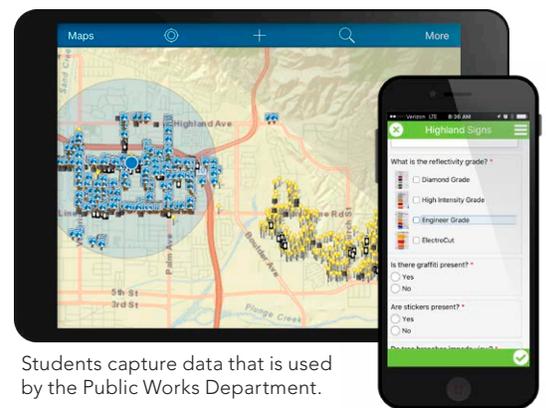
The City of Highland, whose jurisdiction borders the school, enlisted help from the students to collect data about street sign reflectivity and blight. Using the simple, intuitive, and form-centric data gathering Survey123 app, students can easily input information and photos whether online or offline. The data can then be shared, mapped, and analyzed by city staff.

It's a true win-win situation. Students benefit by learning to use GIS technology—possibly the first steps in a career path. And, the City of Highland benefits from all the data collected which can be used to improve traffic safety and neighborhood livability.

"It gives us a sense of responsibility," said Nick Morales, a senior at San Andreas High School. "We are collecting data for the city so they can make it safer for everyone else."

To make the data collection project a success San Andreas selected Survey123 for its ability to work even when disconnected from the Internet. San Andreas teacher Alissa Blackburn watched a YouTube video about how to set up surveys, and in one evening was able to get the survey up and running.

"The students are learning lifelong skills that they can literally leave high school and get a job," Blackburn said. "GIS is everywhere. It's changing the students. It's changing who they are. Their confidence increases, and so does their self-esteem."



Students capture data that is used by the Public Works Department.

The reflectivity of street signs is easily documented and reported.

Learn more at esri.com/survey123

