

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Calling Planet Earth - Space Outreach To The General Public (4)

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YGNSS PROJECT: GNSS EDUCATION BY YOUTHS, FOR YOUTHS

Abstract

The Youth for Global Navigation Satellite Systems (YGNSS) is one of the several year-round projects that are part of the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC). SGAC is an international nongovernment organization with a volunteer membership network that consists of university students, young professionals and space enthusiasts between the ages of 18-35. Through their observer status at various UN committees, partnerships with space agencies and other international organizations, SGAC has provided a voice on space policy from a youth's point of view. YGNSS is a project that aims to promote education and outreach in the application and use of satellite navigation systems to current and future youths.

GNSS, especially GPS, signals have become imbedded and ubiquitous in our everyday lives, and it is necessary for the youths to gain a better understanding of the benefits and applications of the technology, international cooperation, and interoperability and compatibility of GNSS. The aim of this paper is to give a description of the current YGNSS activities, completed projects, on-going activities and an outlook for the future. The activities include the development of a brochure, flyers, wiki-education portal, geocaching events and supporting education curriculum initiatives. In addition, the project supports activities of the International Committee on GNSS (ICG), particularly Working Group C on Information Dissemination and Capacity Building. While YGNSS is a unique peer-to-peer network for education and outreach, the paper will further discuss how it is necessary for the GNSS education to be shared not just within the youth space community and enthusiasts, but to also branch out to share such education with the public, such as GNSS applications in developing countries, including Africa.