

What is the National Society of Professional Surveyors?

NSPS is the voice of the professional surveying community in the United States (and Territories) with more than 15,000 individual members. Through its affiliation agreements with the respective state surveying societies, NSPS has a strong constituency base through which it communicates directly with lawmakers, agencies, and regulators at both the national and state levels. NSPS monitors and comments on legislation, regulation, and policies that have potential impact on the activities of its members and their clients, and collaborates with a multitude of other organizations within the geospatial community on issues of mutual interest.

As the Lead Society for the evaluation of STEM-related college-level programs seeking accreditation through ABET, NSPS is instrumental in assuring that prospective professional surveyors receive an education that is relevant to the role they will play in society as geospatial professionals. In conjunction with its commitment to supporting appropriate education for future surveyors, NSPS offers a robust scholarship program, and sponsors an annual project-based competition featuring teams of students who attend the respective educational institutions. Among other NSPS STEM-related activities are certification programs for Surveying Technicians (Certified Survey Technician (CST)) and Hydrographers, as well as an annual national Trigonometry competition (TrigStar) for high school students.

The licensure of Professional Surveyors is a critical element in achieving the goal of protecting the public's interest, and welfare, as related to the time-honored traditions of private land ownership, and stewardship. NSPS works very closely with the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (known as NCEES) to assure that the examination structures and processes for licensure are accessible, fair, and adequate to address the ever-changing technological advancements which facilitate faster, and often higher-precision, data collection, while at the same time stressing the importance of recognizing the long-standing principles of evidence analysis which is required for the accurate positioning of land boundary monuments and lines.

In furtherance of the goal of providing to its members the tools they need to properly perform their duties, NSPS maintains excellent working relationships with a number of federal agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management, National Geodetic Survey (within NOAA), and U.S. Geological Survey, as well as through representation on FEMA's Technical Mapping Advisory Council (TMAC) and the National Geospatial Advisory Council (NGAC) within the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC).

Overall, NSPS strives to advance the sciences and disciplines within the profession, and to establish and further common interests, objectives, and political efforts to help bind the surveying profession into a unified body in the United States.