

The Geographers of Sam Houston (G.O.S.H) is an on-campus academic club at Sam Houston State University, with 17 active members. No specific major is required, so it is open to all students interested in Geography. G.O.S.H is advised by Dr. John Strait, a Professor in the Department of Geography and Geology at SHSU. The club typically meets on Wednesdays at 3 pm in the Lee Drain Building, room 327. G.O.S.H allows students to gather, discuss their classes, and form various study groups while maintaining a fun and active club experience. The club's main goals are furthering their education in the geography field, discovering employment opportunities, putting what they learn in the classroom into hands-on activities in the field, and giving back to the community by doing volunteer work.

The G.O.S.H club participates in many hands-on activities throughout the academic year. For example, some members teamed with Stephen F. Austin State University students to restore a fallen WWI Veterans cemetery in Nacogdoches, TX. As a club, they have recently taken on a new project at the Bearkat Community Garden. They planted vegetables in hopes of being able to eat healthier as a club and to share the fresh produce with others at an affordable cost. So far, the club has successfully grown broccoli, mustard greens, and romaine lettuce. G.O.S.H also participates in other events on campus such as the Student Money Management Center Family Feud competition, for which they earned second place and received \$500 for the club.

There are currently 3 G.O.S.H officers for the 2018-2019 academic school year. Deaunte Theall is the President, Jade Mehaffie is the Vice President, and Aaliyah Douglas is the Marketing Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Deaunte Theall is a Human Geography major with a minor in General Business. He has been the President for 2 years and has strived to recruit new members and keep current members active. His advice to potential members is "This organization could be a nice introduction to geography. Few people know how many career opportunities there are within geography or how fun geography can be." The current semester is Theall's last at SHSU and he would like to thank the current members for doing more than he could have ever asked for or imagined. "Being a part of G.O.S.H, to me, means creating a family of Geographers."

Jade Mehaffie is an Environmental Geography major and a Geology minor. She has been an active member for the past 3 semesters and the VP for the last 2 semesters. Mehaffie has been to out-of-town conferences in support of the Geography Department and has even presented her own research, along with maintaining the necessary eligibility requirements for the club. Mehaffie's advice to any potential member is to "Take advantage of having a club that builds camaraderie and gets you the connections within your field, so you will have a network built once you graduate and need job experience or recommendations! The club is what you make of it! It can be a really fun and a worthwhile experience if you just put a little effort into it." To her, G.O.S.H means having a great academic support system, and making connections with faculty, staff, and students to form one large family.

Aaliyah Douglas is majoring in Geography with a concentration in GIS. She has been an active member for 2 semesters and an officer since joining. She currently maintains the club's social media accounts and helps organize fundraising opportunities. Douglas's advice for any students interested in the club is "If you have an interest for talking about different places and regions and learning at the same time, whether you're a geography major or not, I encourage you to join." G.O.S.H, to her, means to always be expanding your knowledge about the things around us, having a study group, and the opportunity to lead a club.

Randy Psencik is a Geography major with a concentration in GIS and a new member of G.O.S.H. He joined because he wanted to be involved within the Geography Department while also being a part of a club that gives back to the community, and G.O.S.H does just that. Since joining G.O.S.H he has made multiple friends that all share his same interests. He enjoys the team aspect that G.O.S.H provides, having fun, and making a positive impact on the campus. His advice to any potential member is "Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. The friendships you make in organizations like G.O.S.H. will last a lifetime."

The future plans for the G.O.S.H club will start with planning a camping trip to the Huntsville State Park and creating a live stream for members who cannot make it to the meetings in person. In addition, Aaliyah Douglas will be the 2019-2020 academic year President.

Be sure to follow G.O.S.H on social media for updates on the Club.

Twitter- @GOSHSHSU

Instagram- @GOSHSHSU

Facebook-Geographers of Sam Houston