

# Derek Smith

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Derek is the Geospatial Operations Manager for Wilson & Company, and is currently serving as Past President for the ASPRS Heartland Region. He is responsible for the coordination of aerial and terrestrial mapping solutions from a variety of sensors and platforms, and he has experience providing services to a wide range of federal, state, local, and private clients. He graduated from the University of Missouri, Columbia with a degree in Geography focusing on GIS, Remote Sensing, and LiDAR. After college, he was employed by Western Air Maps in Overland Park where he gained hands-on photogrammetric and LiDAR technical knowledge, both in the aircraft and out in the field. In 2008 Western Air Maps was acquired by Wilson & Company and Derek began the progression from Project Manager to Operations Manager.

Derek grew up in the Kansas City Metro Area before attending Mizzou, where he met his wife, and now lives in Overland Park, Kansas. They have a 4-year-old son and enjoy reliving how fun it was to be a kid. They enjoy vacations at the lake and in the mountains, watching movies and their hometown sports teams, and exploring new restaurants and pubs.

Fun fact: In middle school I graduated 8<sup>th</sup> grade with about 200 kids and won the “Sunshine” award (at the time I had no interest in it). Four years later, my sister won it. Four years after that, our youngest sister won it and completed the family sweep. Our mother thinks this is her greatest achievement and displays the awards in her hallway.

Quote:

A smile is a curve that sets everything straight. – Phyllis Diller

My job would be easier if contracts were only awarded as lump sums.