

The American Geographical Society

WHAT IS AGS DOING ON eBAY?

AGS depends upon its members for the vast majority of its financial support through your membership dues, revenues received from our top quality publications, as well as more market-based opportunities like our world-class travel programs offered through AGS Travel. As a Councilor of the AGS, I can tell you we are constantly watching our costs on behalf of our members, and we continually look for creative ways to raise funds to support the vital mission of the AGS. As a small, non-profit scholarly society, having sufficient financial support is a constant challenge for us. AGS is proud to announce an additional way that its members, and others who support the AGS and geography, can help the AGS, without having to reach for their checkbooks. AGS is now an approved non-profit of eBay Giving Works. eBay Giving Works is a fundraising platform for nonprofits that offers buyers and sellers the opportunity to support their favorite causes (the AGS!) through trading on eBay. MissionFish is the provider of The Giving Assistant™, the listing for items posted on eBay in the eBay Giving works program.

What does this mean to you and to the AGS? Well, the AGS leadership is convinced the AGS has some of the world's most interesting and well-traveled (not to mention generous) people as its members and supporters. eBay Giving Works allows you to list items on eBay, and direct a portion or all of the proceeds to be donated to AGS, while providing you documentation of your donation for tax purposes, all in a very efficient, low hassle way. So whether it's junk in the garage that others would find of value, or unique items, geography related or not, that you've collected over the years that might be worth a lot more to collectors, you can convert some or all of that item's worth into financial support for the AGS. We think this is a creative way to extend your ability to support the AGS (check out www.ebay.com/givingworks or www.missionfish.org, as well as the AGS website at www.amergeog.org for more information).

This is how it works...

Step 1. Prior to posting an item for sale, log onto www.missionfish.org and register for free. You'll need to have a valid eBay account setup to do this.

Step 2. If you are a casual seller on eBay (less than 10 items ever), or a first time user at eBay, once you are signed up on Missionfish, please email AGS@amergeog.org and request that you be placed on our Buddy List to sell an item on eBay for the AGS. The AGS will need a brief description of the list and,

most importantly, your eBay login name (not your password) to pre-approve you and your item, adding you to the AGS's Buddy List.

Step 3. You log in to Missionfish.org and pick a non-profit (The American Geographical Society) from the Missionfish menu.

Step 4. The menu will take you through selection of how much as a percentage (1-100%) of the proceeds from your item will be a contribution to AGS, and completes the listing with The Giving Assistant™ process (works just like listing on eBay).

Step 5. If you're not on AGS's Buddy List of approved sellers, we're notified of the new item listing and are given one business day to review and approve its participation in the item for sale, otherwise it's automatically posted to eBay.

Step 6. It is listed for sale on eBay based on the schedule and choices in pricing, shipping, etc. you decided upon. There is only a nominal increase in the "fee" charged on eBay to cover the administrative cost of Missionfish administration of the donation. Your item appears in eBay with an eBay Giving Works icon featuring AGS and the percentage donation indicated in the item description.

Step 7. When your listing ends, and the buyer pays you, AGS's portion of the sale goes to Missionfish, which holds it in escrow until the refund period ends (typically one month after the month in which the item is sold, plus 15 days).

Step 8. After the escrow period, Missionfish then pays AGS, and sends a receipt to you for the tax-deductible donation via email.

Step 9. You feel really pleased to have helped out the AGS!

We hope that this will be a program that all those who support the AGS will consider to increase their support of the Society!

Chris Duncan

Councilor, AGS