# Setting up GPS photo hyperlinks in ArcGIS

1. In order to create a point shapefile with GPS photo hyperlinks, create a table with MS excel. As seen below, the necessary fields include: ID, Name of site, X coordinate, Y coordinate, Bearing, and Photo file location. Notice that you will have to enter the same coordinates multiple times if several photos were taken in one location.

2. Once the spreadsheet is complete, save the file as a dbf file to import into ArcGIS. Other text files may also be used as well, dbf is the native format of the table in a shapefile.

3. Load the new table in ArcMap using the add data button. In the *layers* list to the left, right-click the file name, and choose Open to view the table. Inspect it to make sure there were no errors importing the data.

4. If the table was successfully imported, choose *Tools > Add XY data* to create a point shapefile from the table. As seen in the screen-shot on the next page, choose the x and y fields, and click the *Edit* button to designate a projection. Click *OK* to create the shapefile.
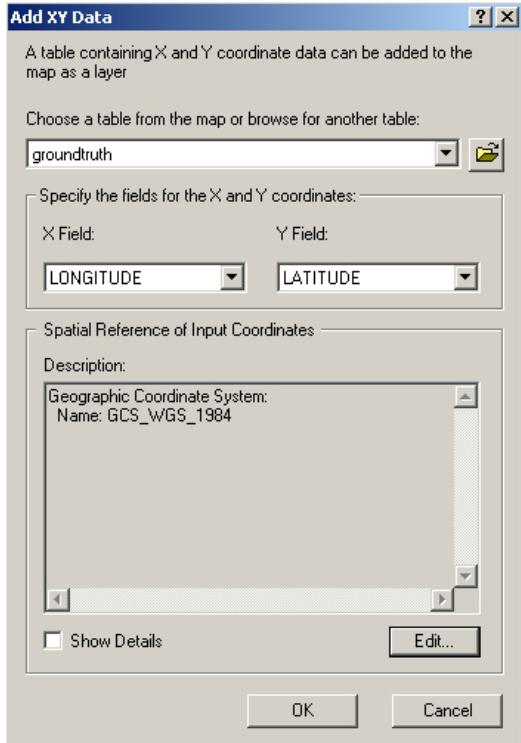
5. Once the file has been created, load it with a base map and inspect for any obvious errors such as points falling completely off the map. Most of the time, these types of errors are due to data entry typos. Make sure that the base map is in the same projection as the shapefile.

6. To activate the hyperlinks feature in ArcMap, right-click the new shapefile, and select *Properties*. In the *Layer Properties* dialog, choose the *Display* tab and check *Support Hyperlinks using field*. In the drop down menu, choose the field that contains the directory and filename of the digital photo. Click *OK* when finished.
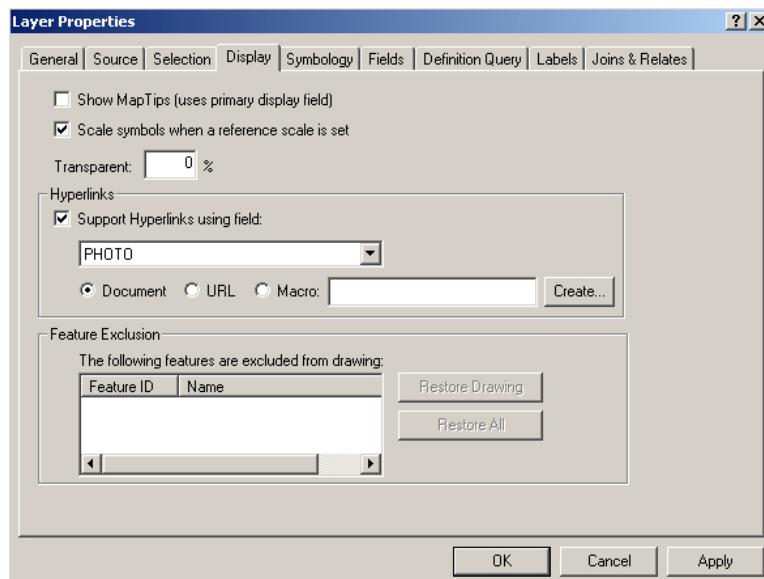
7. Click the hyperlinks button ⚡ to activate this feature. The points will turn blue, click any point with the lightening bolt cursor to view the photo. If more than one photo is available for the point, a list will appear to choose from. Open the table also to view the other attributes such as bearing while viewing the photo.