



## 2010 Middle & High School Competition

### Rules and Guidelines

If you have any questions about the rules and guidelines, please contact Angela Brady at 207-255-1214 / [giscenter@maine.edu](mailto:giscenter@maine.edu).

#### Rules for project entrants

- Entries may come from teams or individuals at Maine schools, youth organizations or home schools.
- The projects may be done by teams or individuals, which will have separate categories in the competitions.
- The project presented must represent the work of one or more students—teachers, parents and group leaders may help with guidance, transportation, instruction, acquiring materials, printing, etc., but students must do the work and create the materials for display.
- Project topics may be any geographic inquiry or map-making activity in any discipline (Not sure if your topic is appropriate? It probably is appropriate, but contact event organizers to discuss your idea!).
- Student entrants (at least one per project entered) must attend the competition and be prepared to stand by their project to discuss it with judges and the general public during the judging session. Entrants in the virtual competition will be required to hold a conference call or teleconference with judges to discuss their work.
- Student entrants must be in 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> during 2009-2010 school year.
- There will be three winning projects for each category with first, second and third places. In addition, there will be special sponsored categories and judges' honorable mention awards.
- A student may enter only one project in an individual category and may also be part of one team project. Other students may be part of up to two team projects. Each project must be presented by a separate individual during the project session. In other words, the same student cannot present two projects in the competition.
- Parents or guardians of students under 18 years of age are asked to sign permission slips (included with registration form) allowing the Maine Community College System and the University of Maine System to use images of students and their work in documentation and promotional materials. Teachers and group leaders, please inform event organizers if permission has not been obtained for any students.
- Projects will be judged by a panel of GIS professionals on a point system. In the event of a tie, judges will consult to choose the champions.
- Judges will consider the age and grade level of the students when evaluating projects.
- Scholarships and prizes are awarded to all entrants listed on the project

#### Exhibit content, materials & media

Students may present their projects in any way and in any allowable media that most effectively explains how they conducted their project and what they accomplished, as long as the exhibit has the required content and adheres to the guidelines below.

- Exhibits MUST include at least one map in electronic and/or printed format made using any GIS software
- Exhibits MUST include written materials in electronic and/or printed format (content requirements are listed below). Printed text must be 12 point or larger, though we encourage you to use larger font and ensure it can be read from at least four feet away. Make sure any text to be viewed on a screen is large enough to be seen from at least four feet away. Keep written portions very short and concise.

- Exhibits may include printed materials, hand drawn materials, props, electronic equipment (such as laptops or GPS units), field samples, or other materials that are not prohibited below.
- Exhibits may include projected images or video. Power (at least one outlet) will be provided for exhibits—if power is requested on the entry form. However, entrants must provide or arrange to borrow computers, projectors, screens and power strips. Make sure any projected images are bright enough to be seen in a well-lighted room.
- Exhibits may include sound, but the audio must be directly related to the project, and volume must be kept at a level low enough to allow conversation in the vicinity of the exhibit. Entrants must provide their own audio equipment.
- Students presenting may wear costumes and/or perform activities as part of the exhibit, but such costumes and activities must be directly related to the project, remain within the size limits of the display space, and allow conversation in the vicinity of the exhibit. Students must also be able to respond to judges' questions.
- For printed materials, we encourage you to use a large-format color printer. If you don't have access to a large-format printer, please contact event organizers in advance for help finding a place to print.

### **An electronic version of the project must be submitted on CD or uploaded**

- Scholarship checks will not be processed for winning projects until electronic versions are submitted.
- Instructions for uploading electronic versions are available on the MEGISChamps.org website
- The electronic version **MUST** include at least all maps and written materials, however, entrants are encouraged to include photos and other relevant materials
- Projects will be exhibited on the competition website
- The form of the electronic version may be one or more of the following:
  - poster in PDF format
  - slideshow (Powerpoint, Impress or Keynote)
  - web-based map project (such as Google Earth or Google Maps)
  - downloadable map project (ie ArcMap, ArcExplorer or qGIS maps with data)
  - video (Quicktime, MP4 or Flash format)
  - website with all required files included

### **Project text must include the following (derived from work by Molly Schaffer and Margaret Chernosky):**

1. **Title:** Eye-catching and informative titles are specific and should characterize the main theme of your project.
2. **Introduction & Motivation:** Set the stage for the geographic questions you are asking or the features you are mapping, and give an overview of why you are doing this research. Describe the context of your project (i.e. observations that led you to the project or other relevant information) and present general description of your site.
3. **Methods:** Describe specifically what you did to accomplish your research goals. List the specific tools, software, the analysis methods and other relevant information. Pictures of students doing the project can be helpful in illustrating your methods.
4. **Results:** Show what you came up with. This is usually most effectively done using maps with brief summaries in text. If appropriate, you may include graphs, diagrams or tables, too. Don't explain or interpret anything here, just show what happened in a way that can be read easily. All figures and tables should have a caption that makes the figure self-explanatory.
5. **Discussion & conclusions:** What do your results mean in terms of your original motivation? How confident are you in the accuracy or precision of your maps or results? What are some possible explanations for results that didn't come out as you expected? Were there any surprises? What new questions do your results raise?

6. **Possible future work:** What could be mapped or investigated next? What actions can be taken based on the results of your project?
7. **Literature review and citations:** Cite the sources of all data, ideas or information you got from prior work in MLA format (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>).
8. **Credits:** List the names of all student participants, teacher/leader, school/organization, date, and name of service client (if applicable). It's a good idea to include the names and logos of any sponsors and a note of thanks to anyone who helped you.

#### **Size limits**

- Exhibits may attach to walls, sit on a table and/or stand on the floor
- Exhibits may be up to 60 inches wide and may extend up to 60 inches from the wall
- Tables are provided, if requested, and will be approximately 30 inches across
- The height of the exhibit may be no more than 7 feet from the floor
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#### **The following materials are prohibited and may not be included in any exhibits**

- Live animals
- Potentially harmful microorganisms
- Temperatures in excess of 50°C (120°F)
- Open flames of any kind
- Exposed batteries in an electrical circuit
- Exposed live wires (AC or DC)
- Liquids of any kind, UNLESS the exhibit does not use electricity or computer equipment, in which case the exhibit may include only liquids that are non-toxic and non-corrosive

#### **Judging rubric and scoring sheets available at**

[http://www.megischamps.org/rubric\\_scoring\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.megischamps.org/rubric_scoring_sheet.pdf)

**For more information about the Maine State GIS Championships, visit**

<http://www.megischamps.org/>

**Questions, comments or ideas? Please contact us: [angela@megischamps.org](mailto:angela@megischamps.org) / 207-255-1214**