



Maine State GIS Championships

2010 Undergraduate Poster Competition
February 5th at Washington-York Room, Augusta Civic Center

Rules and Guidelines

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

Rules for poster entrants

- Entries may come from undergraduate students enrolled in any Maine institution of higher education for at least one term or semester between September 1, 2008, and the date of the competition, February 5, 2010.
- The poster presented must primarily represent the work of one or more students—faculty and other non-students may be co-authors, but may not be the first or primary author.
- Poster topics may cover an original project on any geographic question or geographic subject in any discipline employing geographic information systems software and data.
- A PDF (minimum resolution: 96 dpi) file of the poster on a CD or via online upload must be submitted, in addition to the hard copy to be displayed at the poster competition. PDF posters of category winners and honorable mentions will be exhibited on the competition website.
- The poster's primary author must attend the poster session and be prepared to stand by their poster to discuss their project with judges and the general public.
- All posters must be entered in either the *Humanities & Social Science* category or the *Earth, Biological & Environmental Sciences* category (if you're not sure which category is best for your poster, contact event organizers). All posters will automatically be entered in the special awards categories, as appropriate.
- Entrants may present other media in their poster area (video, costumes, audio, etc.), but judges will assess only the posters themselves in the judging.
- A student may be the primary author on only one poster. Each poster must be presented by at least one separate individual during the poster session. In other words, the same student cannot present two posters in the poster session.
- Entrants (or parents or guardians of any students under 18 years of age) are asked to sign a photo permission form and poster release allowing the University of Maine System to use images of students and their posters in documentation and promotional materials. Please contact us to receive the appropriate form for any students under 18 years of age.
- Posters 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 winners.

Poster Guidelines

- Poster must be 48" x 48" or smaller.
- Poster must include text, maps, images, and (if applicable) diagrams
- The poster must include at least one map made by any GIS software
- Required text content is listed below. Text must be 12 point or larger, though we encourage you to use larger font and ensure your poster can be read from at least four feet away. Keep written portions short and concise.
- We encourage you to include pictures of field work, study subjects, or other relevant images.
- We encourage you to print your poster on 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 your poster.
- Remember to check your poster for spelling or grammatical errors.

Poster 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. **Author(s) and institution(s):** List the names of all authors in order of the size of their contribution to the project and poster, along with their institutional affiliations.
3. **Introduction & Motivation:** Set the stage for the questions you are asking 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. List your objectives, which may be educational or scientific or a combination.
4. **Geographic Questions & Goals:** State the specific geographic question you tried to answer or the subject of the mapping work in your project, and what you did with the information you gathered?
5. **Methods:** Describe specifically what you did to accomplish your research goals. List the specific tools, software, the analysis methods and other relevant information.
6. **Results:** Show what you came up with. This is most effectively done using maps, tables and graphics, with brief summaries in text. Don't explain or interpret anything here, just show what happened in a way that can be read easily. For figures and maps, use the form (Fig. 3) or (Map 3) to refer to and label maps, graphs, photos, and any non-tabular graphic. Use (Table 3) for tables. All figures and tables should have a caption that makes the figure self-explanatory.
7. **Discussion:** What do your results say in terms of your original questions? How confident are you in your findings? What are some possible explanations for results that didn't come out as you expected? Were there any surprises?
8. **Implications, conclusions and possible future work:** What implications do these findings have in terms of your objectives? What new questions do they raise? What could be tried next? What is the social, cultural, scientific or educational relevance of your findings?
9. **Literature review and citations:** If any of your methods are drawn from prior work, published protocols or instructions, you should cite the sources in MLA format (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>).
10. **Acknowledgment:** List the names of all people and organizations that contributed to your project and name your service client (if applicable). It's a good idea to include the names and logos of any sponsors.

Important: Make sure that your text represents your original work and that you cite the sources of others' ideas. Text quoted verbatim from other sources must be set apart in quotations and accompanied by a complete citation. If you use images, maps, figures or tables from other sources, cite the source and ensure that use is permitted. For more information on avoiding plagiarism, visit this page from Purdue University Online Writing Lab: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

The poster rubric and judge's scoring sheet can be downloaded at
http://www.megischamps.org/undergrad_rubric_scoring_sheet.pdf

For more information about the Maine Undergraduate GIS Poster Competition, visit
<http://www.megischamps.org/college>

Questions, comments or ideas? Please contact us: giscenter@maine.edu / 207-255-1214