



# Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Geography Students Compete for the State Championship at the Eisenhower Library

For the third time since 2002, the top geography students from across the state will gather at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum on March 31 to vie for first place honors at the Kansas Geographic Bee, organized by the Kansas Geographical Alliance. This year's competition began in November with local contests in Kansas schools. Students competing at the state level are required to pass a national qualifying exam. The Kansas winner will advance to the national competition, held at the National Geographic's Washington, D.C., headquarters on May 24, hosted by "Jeopardy!" quiz show host Alex Trebek.

The Kansas Bee will begin with an opening ceremony at 12:50 p.m. in the Visitors Center Auditorium. Andrew Wojtanik, the 2004 Kansas champion, went on to win the National title that year, and then led the 3-person team that won the gold medal at the National Geographic World Championship in 2005. As a result of his experiences, Wojtanik went on to write a book, *Afghanistan to Zimbabwe: Country Facts that Helped Me Win the National Geographic Bee*. Wojtanik will speak at the opening of the Bee and will sign copies of his book during the hospitality break from 2:45-3:15. Five simultaneous preliminary rounds will take place between 1:30 and 2:45 at various locations at the Eisenhower Center and the Greyhound Hall of Fame. The championship round is scheduled for 3:20 – 5:00 in the Visitors Center Auditorium.

The National Geographic Bee is an educational program instituted by the National Geographic Society in 1989 to address a lack of geographic knowledge among young Americans. Students in grades four through eight are eligible to participate. This year's sponsor is JPMorgan Chase & Co. The purpose of the contest is to spark student interest in geography and to encourage teachers to include geography in the classroom curriculum. The Geographic Bee program brings public awareness to the importance of learning about geography. The national finalists, determined in May, will be awarded scholarships in the amounts of \$25,000, \$15,000, and \$10,000.

For further information, please contact Kim Barbieri at the Education Office, Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, 200 SE 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Abilene, KS 67410 or call 785-263-6700 (toll free 877 RING IKE). Ms. Barbieri's email address is [kim.barbieri@nara.gov](mailto:kim.barbieri@nara.gov).

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