

## EDUCATION EVENT REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Attendee and Report Writer's Name:  
**Joseph Kerski, Geographer.**  
**Education/GIS, Denver, Colorado.**

Event: 2005 National Geographic Society Geography Bee

Location: Jefferson County Public Schools, Lakewood, Colorado

Event Date(s): January 2005.

Each year for the past 17 years, thousands of schools in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee/index.html>

The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. Schools with students in grades 4 through 8 are eligible for this entertaining and challenging test of geographic knowledge.

At the 2004 NCGE conference, it was a great pleasure to meet the winner of the 2004 Geography Bee, details are on my photo-report on: <http://rockyweb.cr.usgs.gov/public/outreach/reports/ncge04t.pdf>

Alex Trebek was on-hand for the 2004 NCGE conference to host a Geography Bee for the educators in attendance. He also conducted the World Geography Bowl at the 2001 NCGE conference.

After years of telling teachers to participate in the Geography Bee, and working with staff at National Geographic on various geography education initiatives over the years, it was a great thrill for me to run a Bee event for the

second year in a row. I did this at a school in Jefferson County School District, Colorado, the largest school district in the state. I coordinated the events with two parent volunteers, a sponsoring teacher, and the Assistant Principal of an Elementary School.



*I encourage others to get involved with the Geography Bee and with geography education.*



*I was amazed at the difficult questions these students could answer!*

We held a practice session on one day and the Preliminary and Final Competitions on a different day.

For the practice session, I used Matt Rosenberg's Geography Bee Book and created some of my own questions. Some rounds are oral, and some are written. The

winning student takes a written examination, sent to the National Geographic Society, where they are judged to compete in the state event. In Colorado, the state event takes place at the University of Denver and is held in April. The state winners are invited to the national event in Washington DC, hosted by Alex Trebek. The national event offers a \$25,000 college scholarship for the winner and excellent scholarships for the runners-up.



*It was a privilege to work with these excellent students!*



*I distributed USGS and ESRI prizes to the students. Each year, the Bee continues to gather more participation in this school and in others around the country.*



*Championship Round between two students. Last year, the winning student from this school went on to the state competition.*

I would like to thank the Jefferson County Schools for the privilege of working with their students, the teachers for their support not only for this event but their daily commitment to excellence in education, the students for their enthusiasm and participation, the parent volunteers, the National Geographic Society, and the USGS for its support of educational outreach.

I believe that the Bee provides an excellent means to promote geography, and I encourage others to become involved with this event.

\*\*\* End of Geography Bee 2005 Report \*\*\*