

**Texas Charter School Academic & Athletic League
2010-11 Annual Geography Bee**

I. Dates

- The 2010-11 TCSAAL State Geography Bee will take place on December 4, 2010 at the State Capitol Building in Austin, Texas.

II. Rounds

- For the 2010-11 TCSAAL Geography Bee there will not be any regional qualifying rounds.
- For the 2010-11 TCSAAL Geography Bee there will be two (2) age divisions: i) 6th – 8th grades, and ii) 9th – 12th grades.

III. Fees

- Each entry costs \$150 per team and there is no limit to the number of teams representing a specific campus.

IV. Events & Event Rules

- There are two types of entries available for schools: i) *Individual* and ii) *Group*.
- **Every student entered in the *Group* round must also be entered in the *Individual* round.**
- **Only the top five (5) teams entered in the *Group* competition will compete in the group round – *Group* entries competing in the group round will be determined by aggregate *individual* round scores; this qualification process is detailed more extensively within the *B. GROUP* section.**

A. INDIVIDUAL:

1. Preliminaries:

Each individual participant will compete in three rounds: a) written examination, b) map time-trial, and c) identification.

The written examination will test the participants' general understanding of geographical concepts, terms, and locations that are appropriate for their grade/competition level. The tests will consist of fifty (50) questions, and will be an equally divided combination of multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank randomly selected from questions approved by TCSAAL. The total allowed testing time will be one (1) hour for all levels.

Correct multiple-choice answers will be given one (1) point each, up to twenty-five (25) points total. Incorrect multiple-choice answers will be given zero (0) points. Correct fill-in-the-blank answers will be given one (1) point each, up to twenty-five (25) points total. Incorrect fill-in-the-blank answers will be given zero (0) points. Illegible or unclear answers, as determined solely by the TCSAAL, will be given zero (0) points. Misspelled words that result in mispronunciation of the answer will result in zero (0) points, while misspelled words that result in proper pronunciation of the answer will carry the same result as a correct answer. Consequential pronunciation of misspelled words is determined solely by TCSAAL.

The map time-trial event consists of a participant actively attempting to locate twenty-five (25) randomly selected geographical features, locations, and attractions on an expanded map. For each correct location placement, the participant receives two (2) points, up to fifty (50) points total. The map time-trial will be timed, allowing five (5) minutes maximum. Upon completion, the participant will indicate he/she is finished and their completion time is documented. The maps are then scored for accurate placement.

- i) Expectations: Age division 6th – 8th will use a traditional United States map (contiguous combined with Alaska and Hawaii) may be asked to identify states, capital cities, major cities (including Los Angeles, CA, New York, NY, New Orleans, LA, Chicago, IL, Detroit, MI, Seattle, WA, Las Vegas, NV, St. Louis, MO, Memphis, TN, and Houston, TX), major rivers (including the Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio, Colorado, and Columbia rivers), major geographical features (including the Grand Canyon, Mt. McKinley, Death Valley, the Rocky Mountains, the Appalachian Highlands, the Great Basin Desert, and the Everglades), and major bodies of water (including all Great Lakes, the Gulf of Mexico, the Pacific, Atlantic, and Arctic Oceans, the San Francisco and Chesapeake Bays, and Great Salt Lake).
- ii) Expectations: Age division 9th – 12th will all use a randomly selected division-wide continental map that is drawn at the beginning of the tournament. The map will be selected from continental maps of Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America. Participants will be asked to identify countries, capital cities, major rivers (including the Nile, Amazon, Yangtze, and Danube rivers), major deserts (including the Sahara, Gobi, Patagonia, and Arabian deserts), major mountains (including Mt. Everest, Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mt. Ararat, Mont Blanc, and Aconcagua), major mountain ranges (including the Alps, Andes, Himalayan, and Karakoram ranges), all oceans, major seas (including Mediterranean, Adriatic, Baltic, North, East Siberian, Okhotsk, Japan, Black, Caspian, Arabian, Dead, and Yellow Seas), major peninsulas (including the Iberian, Scandinavian, Korean, and Sinai Peninsulas), and additional major bodies of water (including the Biscay and Bengal Bays, the Mexican, Persian, Aden, and Guinea Gulfs, as well as the Strait of Gibraltar). Map Specifications are as follows, and unless otherwise noted, **all continental maps can potentially**

include their respective surrounding or bordering body(s) of water from those listed above:

- a. Europe Map Specifications: TCSAAL will use a Europe map will include the United Kingdom, Ireland, Iceland, Malta, the Republic of Cyprus, and continental Europe, which extends into the east and includes a number of Eastern European nations, as is defined by the United Nations, with the exception of Russia (TCSAAL's Europe map will only include Russia as far east as the other specified nations extend eastward):
 - i. Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan.
 - ii. East Central and South-East Europe Division: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine.
 - iii. Romano-Hellenic Division: Fourteen countries including Belgium, Cyprus, France, Greece, Holy See, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Romania, Moldova and Turkey.
 - iv. Baltic Division: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania.
- b. Asia Map Specifications: TCSAAL will use an Asia map that will include all nations on the Eurasian continent that were both i) not mentioned among the specifically identified European nations detailed in the *Europe Map Specifications*, and are as well ii) east of the specifically identified nations in the *Europe Map Specifications* (with the exception of Russia, which will include all Russian locations previously detailed in the *Expectations: 9th – 12th Grade* section(s), potentially extending as far west as the westernmost borders of completely included Asian nations. The TCSAAL Asian map will extend to all coasts, but will not include island nations unless otherwise mentioned, and specifically will not include Southeast Asian countries outside continental Asia.
- c. Africa Map Specifications: TCSAAL will use an Africa map that will include all of continental Africa as well as Madagascar. Eastern European or Middle Eastern Nations will not be included, with the northeastern-most portion of the African map being the northeastern coast of Egypt.
- d. South America Map Specifications: TCSAAL will use a South America map that will include all of continental South America. Island nations off the coasts of continental South America will not be included.

The identification event consists of a participant attempting to identify random map locations provided to them. The participant will be provided images of twenty-five (25) different political map images and are expected to correctly identify the location indicated. Correct answers will be given two (2) points each, for a total of up to fifty (50) points, while incorrect answers will be given zero (0) points each. Illegible or unclear answers, as determined by the sole discretion of TCSAAL, will be given zero (0) points. Misspelled words that result in mispronunciation of the answer will result in zero (0) points, while misspelled words that result in proper pronunciation of the answer will carry the same result as a correct answer. Misspelling and consequential pronunciation is determined solely by TCSAAL.

The three scores will be weighed equally and added together for a combined total of one hundred and fifty (150) points with the top nine (9) contestants advancing to the semi-final round. The semi-final round will consist of three groups of three contestants. The nine contestants will be seeded in the following format:

1. Semi-Final Round A
2. Semi-Final Round B
3. Semi-Final Round C
4. Semi-Final Round C
5. Semi-Final Round B
6. Semi-Final Round A
7. Semi-Final Round C
8. Semi-Final Round B
9. Semi-Final Round A

This format provides incentive for early-round performance, as the average placement for Semi-Final Rounds A, B, and C, is ~5.3, 5, and ~4.67 respectively. Should a tie for advancement occur between advancing positions, the tie will be broken using the time per correct map time trial answer, and will be determined by the following formula:

(completion time of map time-trial)/(number of correct map time trial responses)

The tied participant(s) with the shortest time per correct map time trial response will advance. Should a tie still exist, the tied participants will compete in a sudden death question and answer session, wherein the respondent with the quickest correct answer will advance.

2. Semi-Finals:

The Individual Semi-Final round will group three (3) groups of three (3) contestants against each other in a trivia-style competition. The groups will be asked ten (10) questions. After each question the first contestant to signal the judge will be recognized, and if the participant provides the correct answer, they are awarded one (1) point. **Points will ONLY be given for judge-recognized responses – answers called out or provided prior to judge-recognition will be ruled incorrect.** Upon the completion of

the ten (10) questions, the participant from each group with the highest score will advance to the finals round. In the event of a tie, the tied participants will continue answering questions wherein each question is treated as a sudden death round. The first contestant to provide a correct, judge-recognized answer will advance to the finals round.

Dependent on facilities the participants' methods of signaling to the judge(s) may include but are not limited to: triggering a buzzer, ringing a bell, or raising a placard.

3. Finals:

The final round will be conducted similar to the semi-final round, with the exception that it will consist of only one (1) group and features the three (3) advancing participants from the semi-finals round. The results of the round will determine placing, and any tie at the end of the round will be handled through additional questions in a sudden death round.

Dependent on facilities the participants' methods of signaling to the judge(s) may include but are not limited to: triggering a buzzer, ringing a bell, or raising a placard.

B. GROUP:

Teams will be decided and submitted prior to competition by the participating school and can have up to four (4) participants. Schools will be required to fill as many complete four (4) person teams as their individual participants will allow (a school with 10 participants, for example, cannot be teamed into 1 group of 4 and 2 groups of 3, but rather, must be grouped so that the school fills as many complete 4 participant groups as possible – the correct and allowed grouping of 10 participants includes 2 groups of 4 and 1 group of 2).

The five (5) top teams will compete against each other in one (1) Team Final Round. The top five (5) teams will be determined by aggregate scores of the team members from the initial 3 rounds. In the event of a tie for qualification, the tie will be broken by awarding qualification to the team whose individuals have the lowest combined aggregate of times per correct map time trial answers.

Teams will be provided ten (10) questions - Each question will be asked and teams will have one minute (60 seconds) to complete each answer. During the one minute (60 seconds) window between the time that the question is completed and the answering window has expired, teams are able to converse amongst themselves in order to confer an answer. During this window, teams are to write answers down on a blank sheet of paper clearly and legibly, as judges will be viewing their answer from afar. Upon the completion of the answering time window, teams will be prompted to hold up their answers for the judge to see. A correct answer will be given one (1) point, whilst an incorrect answer will be given zero (0) points. Misspelled words that result in mispronunciation of the answer will result in zero (0) points, while misspelled words that

result in proper pronunciation of the answer will carry the same result as a correct answer. Misspelling and consequential pronunciation is determined solely by TCSAAL.

Following the ten questions, the teams will be ranked in a descending order based on their score. Tie breakers will be conducted for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places if necessary, and will be done in the same format, with the exception that each question will count as a sudden death question, where the first correct versus incorrect answer will result in a higher and lower ranking, respectively.

Qualification for the Team Final Round is based entirely on individual Preliminary Round performances. The top five (5) teams with the highest aggregate scores amongst members will advance to the group round. Scores from teams with less than four (4) participants will NOT be curved – Complete four (4) person teams will have a significant advantage in qualifying for the group round.

V. Awards

- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place will be awarded to the top three (3) performers in each age division of both the *Individual* and *Group* rounds. Schools will also receive trophies for the top 3 teams.

VI. Upcoming Changes

- i. As of September 2010, there are no scheduled changes for the 2010-11 TCSAAL Geography Bee.