

For Immediate Release

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Brendan Killian Wins St. Michael Parish School Geographic Bee
Moves One Step Closer to \$25,000 College Scholarship

January 20, 2011 - Wheaton, Illinois – Brendan Killian an eighth grade student at St. Michael Parish School, won the school-level completion of the National Geographic Bee in January and a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship. The school-level Bee, at which students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the twenty-third annual National Geographic Bee.

The kick-off for this year's Bee was the week of November 15, with thousands of schools around the United States and in the five U.S. territories participating. The school winners, including Killian, will now take a written test; up to 100 of the top scorers in each state will be eligible to compete in their state Bee on April 1, 2011.

The National Geographic Society will provide an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., for state champions and teacher-escorts to participate in the Bee national championship rounds on May 24 and 25, 2011. The first-place national winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the Society, and a trip to the Galapagos Islands.

"Jeopardy!" Host Alex Trebeck will moderate the national finals on May 25. The program will air on television. Check local listings for dates and times.

The National Geographic Society is one of the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations. Founded in 1888 to "increase and diffuse geographic knowledge," the Society's mission is to inspire people to care about the planet.

Sample Questions

Which state has a climate suitable for growing citrus fruits—California or Maine?

California

Which country has the world's largest Muslim population—Indonesia or Mexico?

Indonesia

The North Atlantic current brings warm waters from the tropics to the west coast of which continent?

Europe

What is the term for a part of an ocean or sea that cuts far into the bordering landmass and may contain one or more bays?

Gulf

Which Canadian province produces more than half of the country's manufactured goods?

Ontario

To visit the ruins of Persepolis, an ancient ceremonial capital of Persia, you would have to travel to what present-day country?

Iran

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