

• **ENTRIES.** As many as THREE students from EACH GRADE LEVEL (grades 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8) OR ages 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 by Sept. 1 of the current school year, if in an ungraded school, may be entered in the MAPS, GRAPHS & CHARTS District Contest from each school. Designated adults representing each school will select contestants to represent the campus at the District Meet based on their abilities to research geographical information, read and interpret charts and graphs, and other factors, which are decided upon by each school. Each grade level is judged separately in contest.

• **ADVANCING TO STATE.** 4 must compete in a grade for 2 to advance (See page 8 for complete rules)

• **NATURE OF THE CONTEST.** For Grades 4/5, the Maps, Graphs, & Charts contest tests the contestant's ability to locate and interpret information in an atlas or data provided in the test itself in the form of maps, graphs, charts, tables, etc. Students are expected to be able to use the map's legend to garner information of importance, including finding distances on the map, locating specific places, structures, and boundaries, and identifying locations of significance. Students may tab their atlases and write in them as they deem necessary. Students should be able to discern data from a variety of other sources, including bar graphs, line graphs, pie charts, tables, etc. as provided both in the atlas and on the test. The atlas, a ruler, and a magnifying glass may be brought into the contest. Calculators are NOT permitted for use in the contest. For Grades 6-8, contestants will be tested on the same material from the Grades 4/5 test. However, contestants will need to know the basic content and themes of several articles from *National Geographic* magazine. The specific articles to be tested will be selected during the Fall semester academic year and posted on the PSIA website. These articles are available free of charge at <http://www.ngm.com>. Students will be asked general geography questions similar to questions presented in the National Geographic Bee. These questions will test the students overall knowledge of geography and, in general, will not be answerable through the use of the atlas. Questions will cover countries of the world, land structures and physical features (mountains, rivers, lake, mineral deposits, etc.), people, geography as it pertains to current events and news, climate, culture, and map terminology, etc. Study resources include the National Geographic Magazine 800 647-5463 and the Geographic Bee website: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee>. Both the Grades 4/5 and Grades 6-8 tests will consist of the same initial 50 questions covering information from the atlas and the various charts and graphs given in the tests. The test for Grades 6-8 will have an additional 25 questions, split up among questions from the readings and the general geography bee questions. The format of both tests is multiple choice. Students will be given 30 minutes to complete the test.



• **WHAT HAPPENS IN THE CONTEST.** The contest director will announce the time and place that contestants and one adult should report for verification of the scoring of tests. Tests and answer sheets will be distributed to contestants face up, and contestants will be instructed to write their grade levels and their contestant ID numbers in the spaces provided on the front cover of the test and on the answer sheet, **plus their names and schools on the test cover.** The contest director will tell contestants their ID numbers, usually during roll call. (Alternates taking the place of absent registered contestants should be sure to let the contest director know as they enter the room to save time in roll call.) **No disqualifying items should be brought into the contest room. See page 10 for details.**

• **TIME ALOTTED.** When the start signal is given, contestants will have 30 minutes to use their atlases to locate information for answers to test questions. Contestants must remain quietly in their seats until the time has expired.

• **MARKING ANSWERS.** Contestants may write on the test paper, but only the CAPITAL letter answer should be written in the answer space on the answer sheet. Any marking in the answer space will constitute an attempt. **Contestants may place an X in the box provided where an erasure, mark-out, or undesired answer has occurred in order to not have points deducted for these errors.**

• **SCORING.** Add 5 points for each correct answer. Subtract 2 points for each incorrect answer, or for each answer that was attempted, marked through or erased, and did not result in a correct answer. **No points** are added or deducted for skipped or unanswered test items, or erased, marked-out, or answered items when an X is placed in the box beside the answer blank.

• **VERIFICATION PERIOD.** See pg. 13 of handbook.

• **PREPARATION FOR CONTEST.** (See Nature of the Contest) Student practice researching information in the adopted geographic resource, the *Nystrom Desk Atlas (2007 or newer edition)* is essential. Previous years' tests are also helpful in providing practice. Order previous years' tests in PSIA Academic Study Materials Booklets (order form in appendix and on PSIA website www.psiacademics.org) Because previous years' editions of the atlas were used to compose previous years' tests, adaptations should be made in the answer keys to coincide with the current adopted atlas resource. *National Geographic Magazine - National Geographic Kids*—800 647-5463 & www.nationalgeographic.com

• **ADOPTED ATLAS.** Only one atlas will be the official resource for verifying answers beginning this year: *Nystrom Desk Atlas (2007 or newer edition)*. The atlas may only be purchased through Nystrom: Division of Herff Jones, Inc. Call 1-800-621-8086 if you are unable to locate the order flier included in the membership mailing.

(Sample revised answer sheets follow)