

Subject: Invitation to Participate in the 2025 Northwest District GeoBee

Dear Northwest District Administrators,

We are excited to invite your school to participate in this year's Northwest GeoBee, a fun and engaging event that provides students with the opportunity to test their geography knowledge while connecting with peers across our district! Originally, we had set a tentative date of March 7th, but we are pleased to announce that the event will now be held on May 7th. Please feel free to pass this invitation along to your teachers and staff.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Wednesday, May 7th
- **Time:** 11:00 AM PST (The event may take about an hour, but please be prepared for it to be shorter or longer.)
- **Format:** Virtual (via Zoom). It's best if students have a quiet workspace with a strong internet connection. A camera is required, as well as either headphones or speakers. A microphone is not necessary.
- **Eligibility:** Open to all LCMS Northwest District schools. Each school may send one student to compete via Zoom. While the competition is intended for middle school students, schools have the discretion to select any student, regardless of grade level, to participate. All students will compete under the same rules, as there is no separate competition based on grade level.
- **Proctor:** A member of Zion Lutheran School's staff will proctor the GeoBee and serve as the judge. All proctor decisions are final.
- **Cost:** None; this event is free of charge.
- **Prize:** The first-place winner and the runner-up will receive certificates.

Study Categories for 2025:

Students should prepare by studying the following categories. Questions will focus on major examples within each category, rather than minutiae. We suggest reviewing a variety of books, materials, and websites for preparation.

- World Languages
- World Mountain Ranges
- Weird World Sports
- Current World Leaders
- State Flags
- State Nicknames
- World Religions
- Olympic Host Cities
- Rivers of Africa
- Cities of the Bible

Competition Format:

- Questions will be read aloud by the proctor and displayed on the Zoom screen. Students must have their cameras on at all times. Once the competition begins, contestants will be muted by the proctor, and the Zoom presentation will alternate between displaying full-screen questions and participant views as needed.
- Students write their answers clearly on paper or an erasable whiteboard.
- After 30 seconds, the proctor calls "Display" and all students show their answers to the camera.
- The proctor will record which answers are correct or incorrect.

Preliminary Round:

All students will attempt to answer 18 questions from the listed categories. The two students with the most correct answers will advance to the final round. If there is a tie, the "Closer to the Pin" tie-breaker procedure will be used.

Final Round:

The two finalists will receive 3 additional questions from the categories above. The student with more correct answers after these 3 questions will be crowned the champion. If there is a tie after 3 questions, the tie-breaker procedure will be applied.

Tie-Breaker Procedure:

In case of a tie, the "Closer to the Pin" procedure will be used. The tie-breaker questions will be asked in the same format as the previous rounds, but the answers will be numerical. The student who gives the closest answer to the correct number will win the tie-breaker.

Tie-breakers will be used in the following cases:

1. When three or more contestants are tied for 1st place after the preliminary round, the two students closest to the correct answer will advance.
2. When two or more contestants are tied for 2nd place at the end of the preliminary round.
3. In the final round, when both finalists are tied after 3 questions.
4. If the tie-breaker itself results in another tie.

Note: If two contestants are tied for 1st place after the preliminary round, both will advance without a tie-breaker.

How to Register:

To register, simply email me (Peter Martin) at p.martin@zionls.org by May 1st with the following details:

- Your Name
- School Name
- Student's Name
- Email Address (to receive the Zoom link)

Technology Trial (Optional):

To ensure a smooth experience, we will host an optional Technology Trial on Tuesday, May 6th at 11:00 AM PST. This session allows participants to test their connection and ensure they can properly display their answers.

Why Join the GeoBee?

- It's fun, educational, and encourages excellence.
- It provides an opportunity for students to connect with peers across schools.
- It's a great way to foster academic competitions in the Northwest District community, potentially expanding into Spelling Bees, Bible Bees, Student Council chats, and more!

We hope to see your school represented at the 2025 Northwest GeoBee! Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. (And by the way, 7,164 languages are spoken around the world today!)

God Bless,

Peter Martin
Principal
p.martin@zionls.org
Zion Lutheran School
3923 103rd Ave SE
Lake Stevens, WA 98258
(425) 334-5064
www.zionls.org



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