



2017 Illinois National Geographic State Bee Semifinalist Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Student Named Illinois National Geographic State Bee Semifinalist by National Geographic Society

Student's Name: Riley Prowant

Parents' Names: Andrew and Holly Prowant

School Name and Address: St. Peter Lutheran Church and School, 202 E. Schaumburg Road, Schaumburg, Illinois, 60194

Grade Level: 7th Grade

The above-named student has been notified by the National Geographic Society that he is one of the semifinalists eligible to compete in the 2017 Illinois National Geographic State Bee. The contest will be held at Illinois State University on Friday, March 31, 2017.

This is the second level of the National Geographic Bee competition, which is now in its 29th year. School Bees were held in schools with fourth- through eighth-grade students throughout the state to determine each school champion. School champions then took a qualifying test, which they submitted to the National Geographic Society. The National Geographic Society has invited up to 100 of the top-scoring students in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense Dependents Schools and U.S. territories to compete in the State Bees.

Each state champion will receive \$100, the *National Geographic Concise Atlas of the World, 4th Edition* and a trip to Washington, D.C., to represent their state in the National Geographic Bee Championship to be held at National Geographic Society headquarters, May 14-17, 2017. The national champion will receive a \$50,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the Society, including a subscription to *National Geographic* magazine, and an all expenses paid Lindblad expedition to the Galápagos Islands aboard the new *National Geographic Endeavour II*. Travel for the trip is provided by Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic. Visit www.natgeobee.org for more information on the National Geographic Bee.

The National Geographic Channel and Nat Geo WILD will air the 2017 National Geographic Bee Championship, moderated by journalist and humorist Mo Rocca, on Friday, May 19, at 8 p.m. ET. Public television stations will broadcast the final round at a later date. Check local television listings for the air date and time in your area.

How would you fare as a Bee contestant? At the school Bees this year, students had to answer questions like these:

The North Platte and South Platte Rivers meet in which state—New Mexico or Nebraska?
Nebraska

Which landmark in Washington, D.C., was burned by the British in 1814—the Washington Monument or the White House?

White House

Sea otters sometimes wrap themselves in kelp when resting to keep from drifting away. Sea otters can be found near eastern Russia in the Sea of Okhotsk in which ocean?

Pacific Ocean

The island of Mauritius [maw-RISH-uhs] in the Indian Ocean has multicolored sand dunes. It's weird, but it's true! Mauritius lies off the southeast coast of which continent that includes the Kalahari Desert?

Africa

What is the term for an underground layer of rock that holds groundwater—an arroyo or an aquifer?

aquifer

MEDIA NOTE: Prior to the state finals on March 31, press materials with additional information about the state- and national-level contests will be posted at natgeo.org/newsroom. To be notified when these materials are available, or for other inquiries, contact Farley Fitzgerald (ffitzgerald@ngs.org / 202-775-6119) with the National Geographic Society Communications Department. You may also contact the State Bee coordinator, Michael L. Middleton at il.natgeobee@gmail.com, for additional information.

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