



Pendergast District Student Named National Geographic GeoBee Arizona State Competition Semifinalist

Malik Johnson of Desert Mirage School to share his knowledge and compete on a statewide level



March 17, 2019 – Phoenix, Arizona – Glendale student Malik Johnson, a 7th grader at Desert Mirage Elementary School, has been notified by the [National Geographic Society](#) that he is one of the semifinalists eligible to compete in the 2019 National [Geographic GeoBee](#) Arizona State Competition. The contest will be held at University of Arizona in Tucson, on Friday, March 29, 2019.

This is the second level of the National Geographic GeoBee competition, which is now in its 31st year. School GeoBees were held in schools with which fourth- through eighth-grade students throughout the state to determine each school champion. School champions then took an online 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 GeoBees.

According to Malik's teacher, Sabine Bachner, "We are extremely proud of Malik and his deep interest in geography. He is an outstanding student and is studying hard for the next level of competition. Geography is such a vital skill in our global society and his knowledge will prepare him for a future career."

This year, National Geographic increased the prize money for all State GeoBees. State champions will receive a medal, \$1,000 in cash, and other prizes, as well as a trip to Washington, D.C., to represent their state in the National Championship to be held at National Geographic Society headquarters, May 19-22, 2019. Students that come in second and third place will receive cash awards of \$300 and \$100, respectively. Each State Champion will advance to the National Championship and compete for cash awards and college scholarships. In 2019, the national champion will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship, \$1,000 in cash, a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society, and an all-expenses-paid Lindblad expedition to the Galápagos Islands aboard the National Geographic Endeavour II; second place will receive at \$10,000 college scholarship and \$1,000 in cash; third place will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship and \$1,000 in cash; and seven runners-up will receive \$1,000 in cash each. Visit www.natgeobee.org for more information on the National Geographic GeoBee. Follow the National competition at National Geographic Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on May 19-22 at natgeoed.org/experiences.