ISSF

Independent Schools of South Florida

Phone: 305-962-0299 ~ E-Mail: issfdirector@gmail.com

2025/2026

22nd ANNUAL ISSF "HIGH SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY BEE"

DIVISIONS: **High School Bee (for 9th-12th Grade Students)**
TEAMS: **A maximum of TWO (2) Teams (of five students) - no alternates - per school will be allowed.**
DATE: **Tuesday, November 18, 2025**

SCHEDULE: **8:00 to 9:00 a.m..... Welcome Registration, Training of Moderators and Timekeepers**
9:00 a.m. sharp until elimination *(approximately 2:00 p.m.)*
LOCATION: **Women's Club of Coral Gables**
1001 East Ponce de Leon Boulevard
Coral Gables, FL 33114-5057
Clubhouse Telephone: **305-448-7080**
FEE: **$185.00 per Team *(if registered and paid by September 10, 2025)***
$200.00 per Team *(if registered and paid on or after September 11, 2025)*

RULES & REGULATIONS

1 . TEAMS

- The team consists of five (5) team members who play together at the same time.
- Each team shall designate one team captain who will be the person designated to provide responses to the Moderator. Only the team captain may speak out loud to the adult moderator or timekeeper.
- Each team's captain should be seated in the middle of his or her team with two team members seated on either side.
- If a team gives an answer that is not complete or specific enough, it may be asked to clarify or expand its answer to receive the point.
- When a team is discussing its answer, the other team must be silent, and may not do things that are distracting to the deliberating team, i.e. make faces, gestures, etc...
- A round robin format will be used.
- High schools are allowed two (2) teams per schools.

2. QUESTIONS

- All questions have been prepared and confirmed by social studies teachers.
- Teams will receive the same number of original questions.
- Questions will be asked alternating between the two teams; only the team captain answers the questions.
- The team receiving the first question will be determined by coin toss.
- If Team A misses a question when it is its turn, the other team will be given a chance to answer the same question. Team B will receive a point if it answers correctly. Team B will then receive the next original question. If Team B misses its original question, Team A will get a chance to answer the same question. Team A then gets the next original question.

- Some questions may require more than one answer.
- The questions each team receives depend on the "luck of the draw."
- A question will be read twice for the team receiving the original question.
- If the team misses the question, the question will then be read only once for the other team. Teams must receive the same number of original questions.
- Teams are give 20 seconds to answer the questions, whether an original question or question passed to them through the opposing team giving an erroneous answer.

3. ROUNDS

- Each round will be twenty (20) minutes long.
- If two teams are still competing when the time is up, the team that is ahead will win the game as long as both teams have had the same number of original questions. Timekeepers must keep track of how many original questions are asked of each team. The moderator can determine who received the original question by placing the coin tossed at the beginning of the round near the team who received the first original question. The other team must then receive the last original question of the round. Team members who have completed their rounds are to remain quiet and are not to converse with each other or the opposing team so that the room remains quiet through the completion of the round. Moderators are to instruct teams who have completed their rounds to remain silent for the benefit of others still competing. **Ties will be allowed in the morning rounds; ties will not be allowed in elimination rounds.**

4. MATERIALS.

- **Absolutely nothing** may be written down during the competition.
- Bookbags, books, notebooks, reference materials, electronic devices, smart phones, etc. are prohibited during the hours of the Geography Bee, during breaks and/or during bye rounds. These cannot be inside or outside the ballroom.
- Students that violate any of the above on that day may be disqualified.

5. CHALLENGES.

- Each team is allowed only one challenge during a round.
- If a team has answered a question and has been told the answer is wrong but the team really feels the answer is correct only the Team Captain may "challenge" the question by informing the Moderator. **Team captains must report their challenges immediately, or they forfeit the right to challenge. They may not bring up any issue after a round has been completed, nor send a coach or parent to challenge.**
- Teams do not need to give a reason. The Moderator will mark on the scorecard that the team has used its challenge and it cannot challenge another question during that round.
- A team may use a challenge only when it is that team's turn. It may not challenge the other team's answer, even if it feels an incorrect answer was accepted.
- If a question is repeated in the same round, the moderator must discard the question.
- Disputes will be resolved by the Director of the Geography Bee and will be final and binding.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- **COACHES/TEAMS.** Only the coach is allowed to contact ISSF prior to the event regarding the Bee. Students are not to email/call ISSF for information or for permission to form their own group. The coach will handle all set up communication, including information on the date, group, lunch rules, etc. Each team must have a coach. **If a school sends two teams, the students must remain on the assigned team throughout the entire event, and team members may not change teams.**
- **GUESTS/OBSERVERS.** To eliminate noise and distractions, guests/observers; (including parents, coaches, teachers, etc.) will NOT be allowed inside the ballroom venue at any time unless they are pre-registered as moderators or timekeepers. Guests that attend will be allowed to wait in the adjoining ballroom only. Guests will be welcome inside the ballroom at the conclusion of the Bee when the top three school teams are announced. This rule will be strictly enforced.

- **ALTERNATES.** NO student alternates will be allowed at the event. Coaches need to determine before the event which FIVE of their students will form each team which will be representing their school at the Bee and only these students will be allowed to enter and to compete.
- **PERSONAL BELONGINGS and ELECTRONIC DEVICES.** No cell phones, iPods, iPads, laptops or any other electronic equipment may be brought or used by students during the hours of the Geography Bee, during a break or during a bye round. Coaches are responsible for holding and muting all cell phones for participants until the completion of the Bee; students may use their phones during lunch but must give them back to the coach when lunch is concluded. Students may not use their phones or electronic devices while on a bye round. Use of cell phones or any other electronic device by a team member, at a non-designated time, may result in the disqualification of the entire team.
- **BREAKS.** Breaks may take place in between rounds.
- **LUNCH.** Lunch may be brought from home by participants, or pre-purchased at time of registration for $17.00 per person. The Women's Club has no drinking fountain (but plenty of water faucets), so coaches will need to bring or tell their students to bring a bottle of water to the event. ISSF will have a few bottles of water on site that may be purchased at $1.00 a bottle.
- **RULES OF CONDUCT**
  - TEAM MEMBERS. All participants must portray a spirit of sportsmanship at all times. They are to abstain from disparaging or unsportsmanlike remarks and to abstain from inappropriate facial expressions and/or gestures to opposing teams while they are deliberating their answers. All participants must remain silent while the opposing team is deliberating. A warning will be given the first time a team member is caught talking while another team is deliberating. The second time, the team will be placed on probation. The third time, the entire team will be disqualified and will be asked to leave the premises. A team may be immediately disqualified if it fails to act in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
  - MODERATORS and TIMEKEEPERS must remain stoic and cannot praise a student or comment on the degree of difficulty of a question. They are also to keep the teams from using non-verbal facial expressions and gestures to distract the deliberating team. After listening to a response, the Moderator must only state, "CORRECT" or "INCORRECT." The correct answer must never be provided.
  - ISSF reserves the right to ask any participant to leave the room if they are deemed to be acting inappropriately and/or if they are not abiding by the published rules of the Bee. The directors of the Bee, in their sole discretion, will deem if students are acting inappropriately.
- **APPROPRIATE CONDUCT.** All student participants, parents, and coaches are to portray a spirit of sportsmanship and are to abstain from disparaging or unsportsmanlike remarks to any participant, coach, scorekeeper, timekeeper, ISSF volunteer, etc. ISSF reserves the right to ask any observer or participant of the Bee to leave the room if they are deemed to be acting inappropriately. Failure to abide by the spirit of good sportsmanship, may result in the disqualification of the team.
- **ROOM CAPACITY.** Only the first 26 teams that register will be allowed to participate in this event.

IF YOUR SCHOOL WISHES TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND E-MAIL IT TO:
Teri Logan, J.D., ISSF Executive Director,
at issfdirector@gmail.com as soon as possible.

All checks are to be made payable to ISSF and mailed to:
ISSF
Teri Logan, Exec. Director
200 NW 109 Avenue
Miami, FL 33172

2025-2026 "ISSF HIGH SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY BEE"
REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF SCHOOL:_____

___Yes, our school will be participating in the ISSF HIGH SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY BEE

Name of team coach/school representative:_____

Office phone;_____

Cell phone:_____

Email:_____

Each Team must provide two ADULT VOLUNTEERS to assist with the administration of the Bee.

- **One adult will be a TIMEKEEPER who will be asked to run a stopwatch.**
- **One adult will be a MODERATOR who will be asked to carefully read questions to each team. These volunteers will assist in the Bee with teams other than the one with which they are associated. Schools sending two teams MUST provide three ADULT VOLUNTEERS (the coach and two others) in order for there to be sufficient personnel to run the Bee. If a school has only two adult volunteers, it may ONLY send one team.**

Name of Coach: _____

Name of Timekeeper: _____

Name of Moderator: _____

Names of Team Members

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Names of Team Members

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

LUNCH:

All schools have the option of having students bring their own lunches. Schools not wishing to have students bring their own lunch should include $17 for each student and each adult who wishes to purchase a boxed lunch. Please mark on the registration form if lunches are being ordered or brought.

_____ All students and adults from our school will be bringing their own lunches and beverages
_____ The following students and adults from our school are ordering lunch and we are enclosing a check for $17 a person:

NAMES OF STUDENTS ORDERING LUNCH @ $17.00 per person	NAMES OF ADULTS ORDERING LUNCH @$17.00 per person

Registration Fee (if paid in full before 9/10/25) - $185.00 per team **$_____**

Late Registration Fee (paid in full after 9/11/25) - $200.00 per team **$_____**

Number of persons ordering Lunch - $17.00 x_____=** **$_____

Total Amount Paid: **$_____**

 # Number of Turkey Lunches_____ # of Ham Lunches _____ # of Vegetarian Lunches _____

ALL MONIES PAID ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

AGREEMENT

I have read and understood all the ISSF Geography Bee Rules & Regulations, Policies & Procedures, and hereby agree that my student team members, parents, teachers, volunteers, and/or guests attending will abide by them. I have explained these rules to my student team members and their parents. I understand that the school is responsible for organizing the transportation of the student participants to/from the Women's Club of Coral Gables. I understand that I am to remain with my team members at the Women's Club until all team members have been picked up after the event. I have informed all parents and relatives that no observers will be allowed inside the ballroom during the Bee. I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that all rules are followed by the team members of my school and any guests associated with my school, and that I am responsible to provide an adult to assist me **for each team,** in moderating and/or timekeeping during the Bee should our services be required. I have explained to each volunteer that he or she may be utilized as a timekeeper or a moderator and that he or she will most likely rotate in and out of the Bee. The volunteer(s) understand(s) that they are not to argue about which role they are given, or if that role changes and/or when they are to leave the Bee until needed again. I, and all those from my school, understand that all decisions made by the Bee Director/Bee staff regarding any issues related to the Bee are final.

Signature of Coach/School Representative

Printed Name of Coach/School Representative - Cell Phone Number

Date:_____

Name of School_____