

# PLAN NOW TO COME TO THE VGS GEOGRAPHY FAIR

**APRIL 24-25, 2009**  
**Cameron Elementary School**  
**3434 Campbell Drive**  
**Alexandria, Va. 22303**

**Coordinators:**

**Mike Mayhue**  
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## **SCHEDULE**

**April 24: 4-8pm: Set up projects**  
**April 25: 8-9am: Set up projects**  
**April 25: 9-11am: Judging**  
**April 25: 11-12pm: Public Viewing**  
**April 25: 12pm: Awards Program**  
**Removal of projects after awards**

Note: Times are subject to change  
based on the number of projects  
entered in the fair.

## **PROJECT CATEGORIES**

**Models**  
**Displays**  
**Maps/Globes**  
**Graphs/Charts/Posters**  
**Booklets/Dictionaries**  
**Games**  
**Audio/Video**  
**Computer**  
**Research Papers**

**Reminder: The Virginia Geographic Alliance provides financial backing for the VGS Fair, so there are no entry fees. Please use good judgment in selecting the projects to be entered. They should be of high quality and meet the criteria for entry. Each project will need 3 copies of the entry form – 2 copies attached to the project and 1 copy turned in at registration.**

**Directions from Richmond to Cameron Elementary School:**

**I-95 North to 495 North**

**Exit right at Telegraph Road**

**Turn right on East Drive**

**Turn right on Campbell Road and follow to school**

**Lodgings:**

**Holiday Inn near school**

**Harbor about 10 minutes away**

# VGS STATE GEOGRAPHY STUDENT PROJECT FAIR GUIDELINES

## General guidelines and information for all projects

1. The VGS Geography Fair is a contest, not a competition. Projects are judged based on a fixed set of standards of excellence rather than against each other. Therefore, it is possible that there may be no winners at one level of award and several winners at another level. Prizes are awarded on the basis of merit. The decisions of the judges are final.
2. All projects, whether they win an award or not, will receive a certificate of participation. Group and class projects will receive one certificate and/or award only. Teachers may purchase additional certificates, ribbons, or plaques from the VGS.
3. Projects must clearly demonstrate their relationship to one or more of the 5 Themes of Geography. It is strongly advised that this relationship be stated on the project entry form in the appropriate section. Projects may be submitted from any discipline or course as long as the relationship to one or more of the 5 themes is present.
4. Projects must clearly show student effort appropriate to the grade level in which the projects are being judged.
5. Projects must include a bibliography, annotation, or description of the research sources used.
6. Each project must be accompanied by 3 copies of the entry form. One copy should be turned in at registration and the other two copies should be securely attached in a visible location to the project on display.
7. Projects must be displayed in the correct location of the judging area. Signs are posted indicating grade level, division, and category.
8. Teachers and students may not be present during judging. There is a public viewing after all judging is completed.
9. Teachers, and students and parents if they wish to attend, should arrive promptly for the awards ceremony. If a project wins an award and there is nobody there to accept it, the VGS is not responsible for mailing that award to the winner. Please check with the contest coordinator for the awards ceremony start time.
10. Projects must be collected and removed from the fair site after the awards ceremony. The VGS will not take responsibility for any projects left at the site.

## Category guidelines

1. Games and Models:
  - A. Games are clearly designed to be played or participated in by the viewer with a clear winner.
  - B. Models are single piece, three dimensional representations, such as a fort, castle, pyramid, battle, etc.

- C. Games should be accompanied by a concise explanation of purpose, instructions for use, and desired outcomes.
  - D. Game information and data should be accurate and neatly presented.
  - E. Models should accurately illustrate in scale and appearance that which they represent.
  - F. Models should have the parts correctly and neatly labeled and be accompanied by a concise explanation.
2. Displays:
- A. Displays are large, multifaceted, multi-piece presentations containing a theme or objective that is clearly illustrated by all the component pieces. For example, a display may include an illustrated backdrop(s) with separate related pieces or displays.
  - B. Displays should have all the components correctly and neatly labeled.
  - C. Displays should be accompanied by a concise, accurate explanation.
3. Maps, Globes, Graphs, Diagrams;
- A. They should be functional and authentic in content.
  - B. They should have a clear and meaningful title.
  - C. They should accurately portray size, shape, distance, and direction.
  - D. They should include a complete legend suitable to the grade level.
  - E. They should be neat and easily interpreted.
  - F. Graphs, charts, and diagrams should include a statement interpreting the information, tell a story, or identify a relationship, and use symbols to help the viewer interpret the information.
4. Posters, Pictures, Bulletin Boards:
- A. They should have a message, tell a story, or develop a theme.
  - B. They should accurately present a region, industry, crop, etc.
  - C. They should portray a relationship, such as human-environment interactions, movement ( interactions between people), etc.
  - D. They should have a meaningful title and appropriate labels.
  - E. They should include a statement describing the relationships depicted.
  - F. They should be presented in a neat and orderly manner.
5. Booklets, Scrapbooks, Dictionaries, Atlases:
- A. They should have a single major theme or topic.
  - B. They should be clearly and concisely organized.
  - C. They should include visual examples with captions where possible.
  - D. They should contain accurate information.
  - E. They should have the pages securely fastened together.

- F. They should contain an explanation of the theme or topic presented.
6. Audio/Visual ( VHS tape, DVD, CD, Podcast)
- A. They should have a single theme or topic.
  - B. They should show organization and/or the progression of a story.
  - C. They should incorporate good quality filming and/or sound.
  - D. They should include a written script with the entry.
  - E. They should be accompanied by a brief statement concerning the purpose and potential use of the presentation.
  - F. While not required, the addition of maps or resource displays to supplement the presentation is encouraged.
  - G. Any special equipment not normally found in a school setting that must be employed to view the presentation should accompany the entry.
7. Computer
- A. They should have a single theme or topic.
  - B. They should be clearly organized and present accurate information.
  - C. They should accurately show some geographic, historic, or social component (skill or concept).
  - D. They should be accompanied by a brief description of the program and its potential uses.
  - E. They should include a written set of operating instructions.
  - F. Any special software not normally found in a school setting that must be employed to view the presentation should accompany the entry. ( Teachers – many fair sites may employ only PC's or only Mac's. If you are unsure, contact the fair coordinator. You may need to bring a laptop with the entry.)
8. Research Papers:
- A. If the paper is over 10 pages in length, it must be submitted to the Contest Coordinator 2 weeks before the fair for judging.
  - B. The paper should clearly and accurately reveal a single theme, topic, or relationship.
  - C. Any conclusions, inferences, or generalizations must be supported by appropriate and meaningful data.
  - D. Real world examples should be used as support where needed.
  - E. The paper should be well written and concise with spelling, grammar, and punctuation suitable to the grade level.
  - F. The paper should have a clearly explained thesis statement and conclusion.
  - G. The paper must be typed and double-spaced with a cover page.
  - H. The pages should be numbered and securely bound together.
  - I. Appropriate documentation of sources must accompany the paper.

# VGS STATE GEOGRAPHY FAIR

## PROJECT ENTRY FORM AND JUDGE'S EVALUATION SHEET

( Attach 2 copies securely to the project and turn 1 copy in with registration)

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level (Circle one): K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 College

Division (Circle one): Individual (1) Group (2-6) Class (7+)

Category (Check one):

\_\_\_\_\_ Games and Models ( single piece)

\_\_\_\_\_ Displays ( large scale, multifaceted)

\_\_\_\_\_ Maps, Globes, Graphs, Diagrams

\_\_\_\_\_ Posters, Pictures, Bulletin Boards

\_\_\_\_\_ Booklets, Scrapbooks, Dictionaries, Atlases

\_\_\_\_\_ Audio/Visual

\_\_\_\_\_ Computer

\_\_\_\_\_ Research Papers ( If the paper exceeds 10 pages in length, it must be submitted to the Contest Coordinator 2 weeks prior to the fair for judging)

Student(s) Preparing Project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(For class projects, list class [grade level or course] and teacher's name)

Teacher(s): \_\_\_\_\_

School; \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Explanation of the project's development and its relationship to one or more of the 5 themes of geography: (If there is not enough space below, a detailed explanation can be written on the back of this form or attached as a separate sheet):

Judge's Evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_ President's Choice \_\_\_\_\_ First Place

\_\_\_\_\_ Second Place \_\_\_\_\_ Third Place \_\_\_\_\_ Honorable Mention