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News Release

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Centennial Middle School Student Named Minnesota State Geographic Bee Semifinalist by National Geographic Society

March 9, 2015 (Circle Pines, MN)— **Corey Larson**, an eighth grade student at Centennial Middle School, is one of the semifinalists eligible to compete in the 2015 Minnesota State Geographic Bee, sponsored by Google and Plum Creek, held at St. Cloud State University on Friday, March 27. This is the second level of the National Geographic Bee competition, which is now in its 27th year. Bees were held in schools with fourth through eighth grade students competing throughout the state to determine each school's Bee winner. Larson is the school champion at Centennial Middle School, completing ten rounds of questions without getting one wrong answer.

Larson then took a qualifying test, which was submitted to the National Geographic Society. The National Geographic Society invited the students with the top 100 scores in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Department of Defense Dependents Schools and U.S. territories to compete at the state level.

The state winner will receive \$100, the "Complete National Geographic on DVD" and a trip to Washington, D.C. to represent Minnesota in the National Geographic Bee finals to be held at National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington D.C., May 11-13.

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

- Six-time Super Bowl champions, the Pittsburgh Steelers, play football near the source of the Ohio River in which state—Alabama or Pennsylvania? Answer: Pennsylvania
- Balboa Park, with more than ten museums, performing arts centers, and gardens, is located in which southern California city? Answer: San Diego
- Taylor Swift performed songs from her album Red last summer in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of which Asian country that borders the South China Sea? Answer: Malaysia
- Disney's blockbuster movie Frozen is set in the fictional land of Arendelle, which was largely inspired by the country of Norway. Norway is located on which European peninsula? Answer: Scandinavian Peninsula

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With a mission to inspire, illuminate and teach, the National Geographic Society is one of the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations. The member-supported Society, which believes in the power of science, exploration and storytelling to change the world, reaches over 600 million people each month through its media platforms, products and events. National Geographic has funded more than 11,000 research, conservation and exploration projects, and its education programs promote geographic literacy. For more information, visit www.nationalgeographic.com.

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