



# News Release

Contact:

Krista Bergert, Director of Public Information and Community Outreach  
(763) 792-6060; cell (612) 308-2608

---

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

March 14, 2016 (Circle Pines, MN)— **Theo Carlson**, a sixth grade student at Centennial Middle School, is one of the semifinalists eligible to compete in the 2016 Minnesota State Geographic Bee. The contest will be held at St. Cloud State University on Friday, April 1, 2016.

This is the second level of the National Geographic Bee competition, which is now in its 28<sup>th</sup> year. Bees were held in schools with fourth through eighth grade students competing throughout the state to determine each school champion. School champions then took an online qualifying test. The National Geographic Society has invited up to 100 of the top-scoring students in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Department of Defense Dependent Schools and U.S. territories to compete in the state Bees.

Each state winner will receive \$100, the National Geographic book, “The National Parks: An Illustrated History” and a medal, and will travel to Washington, D.C. to represent their state in the National Geographic Bee Championship at National Geographic Society headquarters, May 22-25, 2016. The national champion will receive a \$50,000 college scholarship and a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society. The winner will also travel on a Lindblad expedition to Southeast Alaska aboard National Geographic Sea Lion, including Glacier Bay National Park, in recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service. Visit [www.natgeobee.org](http://www.natgeobee.org) for more information on the National Geographic Bee.

The 2016 National Geographic Bee Championship final round, moderated for the first time by journalist and humorist Mo Rocca, will air on the National Geographic Channel and Nat Geo WILD on Friday, May 27, at 8 p.m. ET, and later on public television stations.

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

- To fish in Lake Winnepesaukee and ski near Franconia Notch, you would travel to which state—New Hampshire or South Dakota? (Answer: New Hampshire)
- Visitors to Biscayne National Park in Florida can go fishing and lobstering along the shore of which kind of habitat—mangrove or desert? (Answer: Mangrove)
- For centuries, the Chinese emperors lived in seclusion in the Forbidden City, which is located within what present-day city? (Answer: Beijing)

###