



International
Geography Bee

2017 Varsity & Junior Varsity National Championships of The United States Geography Olympiad and International Geography Bee Held on April 21, 2017

Press Release

(Ridgewood, NJ – May 1, 2017) The USA's top geography students gathered in Arlington, VA on Friday, April 21 for the 5th annual Varsity and Junior Varsity National Championships of the US Geography Olympiad, as well as the inaugural Varsity & Junior Varsity US National Championships of the International Geography Bee. After three separate USGO exams, and five rounds of buzzer quiz competition in the IGB, the 2017 National Champions were named as follows:

US Geography Olympiad

Varsity: Kyle Yu, Westlake High School, Westlake, Ohio

Junior Varsity: Avi Goel, Merryhill Middle School, Milpitas, California

International Geography Bee

Varsity: Jakob Myers, Naperville North High School, Naperville, Illinois

Junior Varsity: Rohil Bhinge, Frost Middle School, Fairfax, Virginia

Both competitions were held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA. A total of 178 students competed in the US Geography Olympiad (93 Varsity, 85 Junior Varsity) and 157 students competed in the International Geography Bee (82 Varsity, 75 Junior Varsity).

In the US Geography Olympiad, Kyle Yu, last year's Junior Varsity Champion, became the second Varsity student ever to win all three portions of the competition, as well as the overall title. In the Junior Varsity, Avi Goel became the second middle school student to win (the Junior Varsity Division is based on birthdate and includes nearly all 9th graders, and some 10th graders). By virtue of winning the Varsity Division of the US Geography Olympiad, Kyle also earned the right to represent the USA at the 2017 International Geography Olympiad, to be held in Belgrade, Serbia this summer. Other Team USA members include Jakob Myers of Naperville North High School in Illinois, AJ Manning of Bartow IB High School in Florida (a 2016 Gold Medalist at the International Geography Olympiad), and Martin Rakowszczyk of Wootton High School in Maryland. Jakob, AJ, and Martin finished respectively 2nd-4th in the Varsity Division of the US Geography Olympiad.

In the inaugural US National Championships of the International Geography Bee, Myers triumphed in the Varsity Division (he would also go on to win the Varsity Division of the National History Bee later that same weekend), and Rohil Bhinge, the 2016 Middle School Division winner of the US Geography Olympiad, won in the Junior Varsity Division. They each win travel to the inaugural World Championships of the International Geography Bee, to be held in Berlin in July 2018. The prizes are sponsored by USGO and IGB chief sponsor, publisher Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

For more information on both competitions, please see the respective websites at www.geographyolympiad.com and www.internationalgeographybee.com. Full statistics for all competitors are available at www.nhbbstats.com and for further questions about either geography competition, please email info@geographyolympiad.com.