



# DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

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## *Exploration*: the theme for this fall's Geography Awareness Week

Geography Awareness Week will be celebrated across Delaware and the nation, November 16-22, 1997. This year's theme, **Explore the World! Geography Takes You Places**, is perfect for teaching the Delaware geography standards at all grades.

Explorers always communicate their travel with maps [standard 1]; comparing old explorer maps by 16th century Europeans with modern world maps is a great way to get inside the explorer's mind and world view, as well as improve a student's own mental map.

Conditions of the physical environment [standard 2], affected the routes explorers followed. Consider Columbus' voyages. The outward journeys followed the north-east trade winds that spiral from the south side of the North Atlantic high pressure cell. This environmental condition determined that his landfall would be in the Caribbean islands.

All explorers seek knowledge of new and different places [standard 3]. Witness the journey and reports by Marco Polo whose travels may (or may not) have taken him to China (for more information, see *National Geographic Magazine*).

And many explorers report on new regions [standard 4], clusters of places with similar language, culture, environment, or economies. The explorers of the African sub-continent, of the Amazon basin, and of Antarctica come to mind.

Kids can also be their own explorers, discovering information about places near their home, school, or within their state. Exploration, after all, is discovery for the explorer, not necessarily brand new knowledge no one has ever heard of before. When Pizarro explored Peru, it was a discovery for him but not for the Incas who

### ALLIANCE WORKSHOPS FOCUS ON EXPLORER THEMES

The Delaware Geographic Alliance will offer two workshops on the theme: *Explore the World! Geography Takes You Places*. Both workshops will be held **Tuesday, October 28, 4:00-7:30 p.m.** at **Lewes Middle School**, Lewes, and **Glasgow High School**, Glasgow, and will include demonstrations of K-12 teaching strategies related to the Explorer theme and the state standards. Workshops carry 1/5 in-service credit from Delaware Dept. of Education. See more information and registration flyer inside this newsletter.

Additional workshop sessions on this theme will be presented at the fall **Social Studies Conference, October 18** at **Smyrna High School**.

occupied the land and already had a pretty good idea of the place they occupied.

To help teachers apply this theme during Geography Awareness Week, or indeed at any time during the school year, a **packet containing lesson ideas and teaching materials for all grades is available free**. Produced by NGS, the packets, which include colorful posters, are being distributed through Alliance workshops, by Alliance teacher-consultants, and are being sent to school offices. If you still can't get your hands on this free teaching resource, contact the Alliance office at 831-6783 or e-mail [mataylor@udel.edu](mailto:mataylor@udel.edu).

### **EXPLORER'S FOLDERS FOR ALL DELAWARE GRADES 4 & 5**

As part of Geography Awareness Week, the Alliance is producing 10,000 **Explore Delaware** folder kits for all students in grades 4 and 5 throughout Delaware. The kits come with a bumper sticker to affix a title and map to the front of the folder, and ideas for filling the folder with information about the state. Teacher guides with suggested activities will be included, and will be tied to the four state geography standards. This project, produced by Delaware teachers under the leadership of **Ann Neubauer**, Redding Middle School, can be used throughout the year to support students' personal exploration of knowledge about the history and geography of Delaware. Watch for delivery of the kits to your school, or contact the Alliance for a sample.

### **WATCH FOR OTHER GAW ACTIVITIES**

Geography Awareness Week will be noted on State paychecks to be issued November 1, and also look for displays celebrating GAW in Borders and B. Dalton bookstores. There will also be a K-3 competition **Mapping My Small World**, developed by **Pat Killalea** (Welch Elementary) that is described in a flyer in this newsletter. Finally, since one of the national sponsors of GAW is Motts Inc., a huge banner, which can be hung in the cafeteria, is available from Motts if the cafeteria orders one case of Motts Apple Sauce. Food service departments are urged to participate with special "geographical" meals for GAW. More details are available on the back of the "Explore the World" poster in the GAW teacher packet described on page 1 of this newsletter.

### **LATEST WORD ON AP GEOGRAPHY**

The College Board recently affirmed that the AP Human Geography exam is on-track and will be offered for the first time at the end of the 2000-2001 school year. High school course implementation will be in Fall, 2000, with the Acorn book issued in the winter, 1998. Of all the AP subjects presently examined, the Human Geography program will be the only one that will have a global and inclusive, multi-cultural perspective.

Interest is already considerable. When the most recent AP examination, psychology, was added to the list, the College Board received inquiries from over 700 schools, regarded as a significant level of interest. Already, over 2000 schools have made inquiries regarding the geography exam.

This summer, a national institute was held for teachers at Macalester College, Minnesota, July 6-25, where a draft AP course outline and sample lesson activities were developed. Attending from Delaware were Alliance TCs **Bill Maroon** (Caesar Rodney High School), **Dianne Beck** (Dover High School), and **Tom Quann** (Delcastle High School). For more information, contact any one of these teachers. Additionally, take a look at the results of the institute and lesson materials already developed at [www.macalester.edu/~geography/apgeog/](http://www.macalester.edu/~geography/apgeog/)

### **SUMMER REPORT: GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS SPAN THE GLOBE**

It is now a common item in the fall newsletter issue to observe the far-flung activities of Alliance teacher-consultants. **Ann Neubauer** (Redding Middle) and **Thom LaBarbera** (Concord High School) represented the Alliance at a National Geographic Society national workshop in Washington, D.C., July 9-24, and returned with many plans for this fall's GAW program. **Patsy Warner** (Redding Middle) attended an advanced institute in the Allegheny National Forest, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Geographic Alliance, July 6-11. If you want to know the last word on forest geography, check with **Patsy Woody Curtis** (William Henry Middle) was the

Alliance representative at a tri-state Delaware Estuary Education Institute, July 13-19, that traced the Delaware from source to estuary. **Carole Wilkinson** (Burnett Elementary) and **Cheryl Morton** (Burnett Elementary) presented a geography workshop at the International Social Studies Conference in Sydney, Australia, July 6-9, and then went on to "OSAE" in other parts of the country as well as New Zealand.

Closer to home, **Renée Gracon** and **Laurie Molin** (Wilmington Christian) led a successful geography camp with 24 participants at Ashland Nature Center in August. And the Alliance offered six sections of *Teaching Geography: Standards and Assessment* in Newark and Georgetown to a total of 45 Delaware teachers. Each section, oriented to a particular grade cluster that matched the standards (K-3, 4-5, 6-8,9-12) were offered through the UD geography department for graduate credit and lasted all-day for an intense two weeks. Instructors, all seasoned alliance teacher-consultants, were: K-3: **Pat Killalea** (Welch Elementary), **Pat Harris** (Seaford Central Elementary), **Judy Purcell** (Banneker Elementary), and **Barbara Duffin** (Banneker Elementary); 4-5: **Gene Modelewski** (Bancroft Elem), and **Kelli Martin** (Cedar Lane Elem); 6-8: **Mary Alice Aguilar** (Redding Middle), **Joel Glazier** (M.L. King Elementary), **Bill Hutchison** (Central Middle), and **Myrna Newman** (Seaford Middle); and 9-12: **Peter Rees** (Alliance Coordinator). Participants received a heavy dose of geography content, examples of teaching materials that fit the standards, and suggestions for assessment techniques. In addition, they left with lots of teaching materials and a copy of the NGS *Atlas of North America*.

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### GIGI SHUTS DOWN

GIGI (*Geographic Inquiry into Global Issues*), the high school world geography program is being withdrawn by its publisher, Britannica. Before December 1 all the interactive modules, teacher guides, and multimedia laser disks and CD-ROMs, are available at half price. For a complete description, see [www.ebec.eb.com/gigiprod.htm](http://www.ebec.eb.com/gigiprod.htm), or order by contacting Jim Decker-Ward at 1-800-554-9862 ext. 7943.

### TEACHING RESOURCES UPDATE

● USGS has just published another free teaching kit suitable for K-3 students, *Map Adventures*. The kit includes posters, materials and a teacher's guide for seven lessons that center on a story about a little girl, Nikki, who goes on an unplanned balloon ride that gives her, and the students, different views of a park. The lessons focus on teaching basic concepts for visualizing objects from different perspectives and how to understand and use maps. The kit is highly appropriate for the Delaware geography standard one. For a free copy, call the USGS at 1-800-USA-MAPS.

● Microsoft Corp. is developing an educational program to help students understand and assess the quality of computer generated maps. Microsoft will donate software and a hands-on lesson in exchange for high school students willing to become part of a week-long map quality assurance team. For more information, contact Amy Harmala at [a-amyha@microsoft.com](mailto:a-amyha@microsoft.com).

● Two electronic atlases might be recommended for your libraries. *ArcAtlas: Our Earth* (ESRI, 1997) has a large collection of maps and information about the earth - its people, plants, animals, and various environments and economies. Call 1-800-447-9778 for more information, or contact the website: [www.esri.com](http://www.esri.com). Microsoft's *Virtual Globe* (1998) (\$50) is even easier to use. You can zoom from the equivalent of 50,000 miles above the earth down to street level through layered maps of any place on earth, plus search for a map containing any one of 1.2 million place names. Even young children can manipulate this program, which includes selected 3-D sequences of various dramatic landscapes such as the Grand Canyon or the Andes. Highly recommended.

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### PLACE NAME UPDATE

As the new school year begins, sharp geographic minds should note these most recent place-name changes: Kazakstan has added an "h" again, and is now Kazakhstan; Western Samoa is now Samoa; Zaire has become the Democratic Republic of the Congo, (capital Kinshasa) as opposed to its  
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**DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE**

ANNOUNCES A WORKSHOP FOR

**GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK - 1997**

(NOVEMBER 16-22)

***EXPLORE THE WORLD!***  
***GEOGRAPHY TAKES YOU PLACES***

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 4:00 - 7:30 P.M.**

AT

**LEWES MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**AND**  
**GLASGOW HIGH SCHOOL**

Alliance Teacher-Consultants will demonstrate practical lesson ideas for grades K-12 that can be used during Geography Awareness Week and throughout the year. The activities address the Delaware Geography Standards. Topics to be covered include mapping, historical and modern-day explorations, spices and exploration, local and global explorations, world explorers, discoveries of naturalist-explorers, and more. NGS teacher packets will be distributed.

**\*Door Prizes\***

**\*Copies of lesson plans\***

**\*Snack provided\***

**\*\*1/5 In-service credit - Course # 09001682\*\***

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Registration Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE(S) TAUGHT \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose the \$5.00 registration fee (checks payable to "University of Delaware") and check which session you plan to attend. Due: **October 22, 1997**. Your registration will be confirmed.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Lewes Middle School, Lewes**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Glasgow High School, Newark**

Send early via State or U.S. Mail to:

DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE  
% Department of Geography University of Delaware  
Newark, DE 19716 Phone: 831-6783



## FALL WEEKEND WORKSHOP IN GEOGRAPHY

### *The Future of America's Birthplace: Population Challenges in the Greater Philadelphia Region*

**HOSTED BY**      **The New Jersey Geographic Alliance**

**WHERE**          **Burlington Meeting House**  
(Located in Burlington, NJ)

**WHEN**          **November 14 - November 15**

**REGISTRATION**      Friday, November 14th, 4 - 6 p.m.  
**KICKOFF DINNER**    Friday, 6:00 p.m.  
**FIELD TRIP**          Saturday afternoon  
**WORKSHOP ENDS**    Late Saturday afternoon,  
following field trip

This geographic workshop will offer content appropriate for teaching 3rd to 12th grade students about the problems and issues facing one of America's largest metropolitan areas—Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City. During the 8-10 hour session (Friday-Saturday), PRB staff and experts from the Greater Philadelphia Region will present information on the demographic characteristics of the region in relation to the United States and the World. Regional issues featured will include suburban growth, aging infrastructure, transportation, and the conservation and management of the Delaware Estuary. Teachers from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware will share strategies for incorporating population and related concepts into the social studies, geography, global studies, and economic curriculum.

The workshop is limited to 30 participants. Please submit application form by October 25, 1997. A \$15 registration fee is required. Sponsors will provide lodging, meals, and resource materials from the Population Reference Bureau, the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and organizations in the Greater Philadelphia Region.

**Sponsored by the Population Reference Bureau**



# FALL WEEKEND WORKSHOP IN GEOGRAPHY

## *The Future of America's Birthplace: Population Challenges in the Greater Philadelphia Region*

### Application Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s) and Subject(s) You Teach \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ (indicate PA/NJ/DE) Geographic Alliance

I am not a member of a Geographic Alliance

For more information, contact Cheryl Stauffer (cstauffer@prb.org) or Kimberly Crews (kcrews@prb.org) at the Population Reference Bureau, 202/483-1100.

To reserve a space, send the above application with your registration fee, by **October 25<sup>th</sup>** to: Cheryl Stauffer, Population Reference Bureau, 1875 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 520, Washington, DC, 20009.

# WHERE IN THE U.S.A. IS THE WEAR-IN? EVERYWHERE!

## STUDENTS AT REDDING INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

**LOCATION:** 39°30' N; 75°45' W  
**PLACE:** MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE  
**INTERACTION:** SCHOOLS ACROSS THE NATION  
**REGION:** DELMARVA PENINSULA  
**MOVEMENT:** A GEOGRAPHIC ACTIVITY

and

**MRS. CASTRO'S CLASS  
MARIANO ABRIL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
CAGUAS, PUERTO RICO  
18°12' N, 66°01' W**



### Invite you to participate in the 9th Annual National Geography WEAR-IN DAY

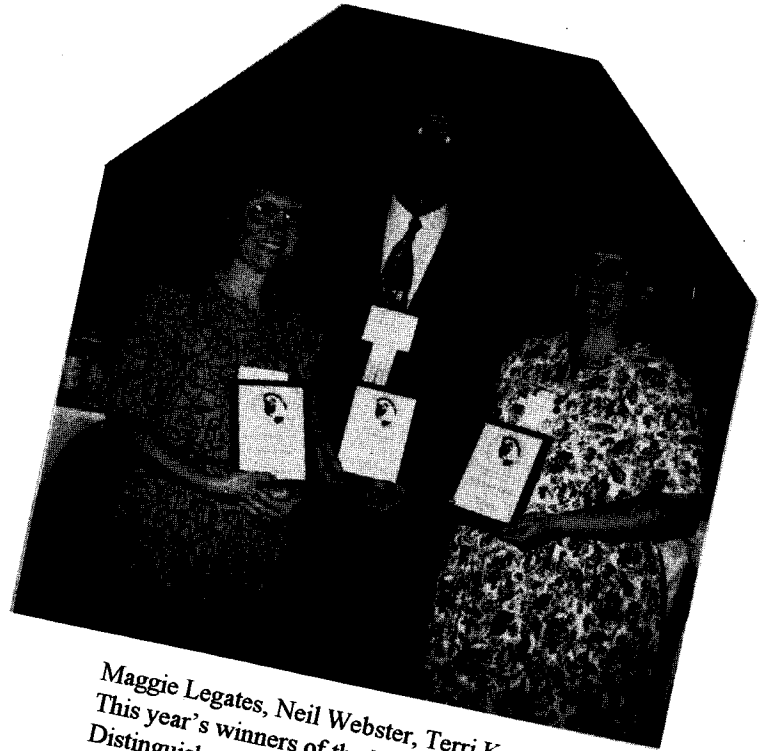
Please extend the invitation to all the students, faculty, and staff in your school to wear a "Geography T-Shirt" on **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1997**. (A Geography T-Shirt is one that has a place on it that can be found on a map, any map.)

Please let us know of your participation by sending a card to Mary Alice Aguilar, Delaware Geographic Alliance, % Department of Geography, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716, and indicate how many students, faculty, and staff in your school participated.

**PICTURE GALLERY**



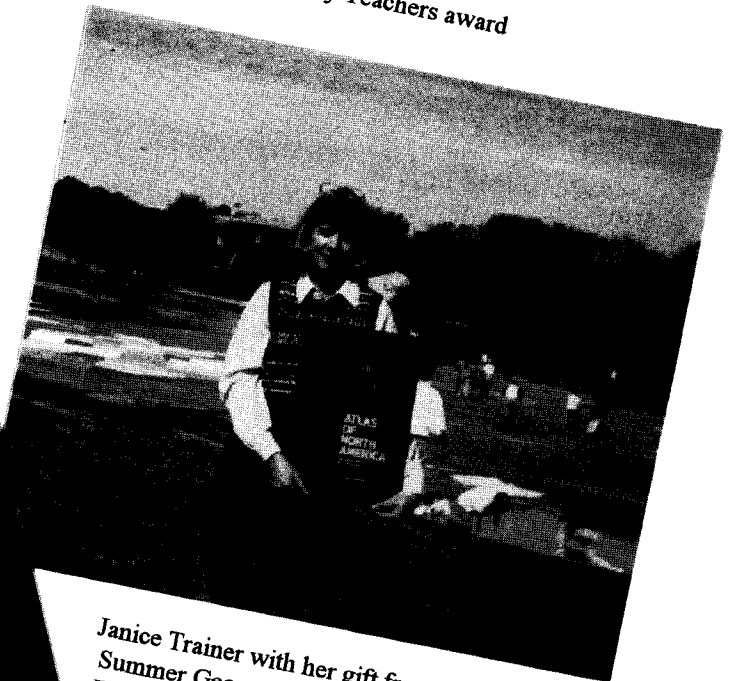
Teacher Barbara Starkey (Talley Middle) receives an Alliance atlas for sponsoring 7th grader Robert Smith as one of 38 national winners of Delta's World Adventure Challenge with Carmen Sandiego



Maggie Legates, Neil Webster, Terri Kopple  
This year's winners of the NCGE  
Distinguished Geography Teachers award



Joel Glazier encounters new Hawaii  
TC Pamela Jayne on the continental divide



Janice Trainer with her gift from the Alliance  
Summer Geography course, in front of Wilson  
Elementary playground map



# **MAPPING MY SMALL WORLD**

**A Contest for pre-K through 3**

**Each child should produce a map of a familiar area, which may be self-chosen or suggested by the teacher.**

## **MAP REQUIREMENTS**

**Size — 8½ X 11**

**Background — any paper or cardboard**

**Medium — any except computer graphics**

**Elements — title, author, date, compass rose, legend**

**Possible additions — grid system, scale**

## **JUDGING**

**Each participating teacher should select the three best maps from his or her class and submit them to the judges.**

**A judging panel consisting of the principal and one or two non-participating teachers will select the winner from each classroom.**

**The principal will notify the Delaware Geographic Alliance at 302-831-6783 of the number of winners. DEADLINE — December 5, 1997**

## **PRIZES**

**Beach ball globes will be provided for classroom winners by the Delaware Geographic Alliance.**

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Deadline December 5, 1997)

TO: DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY  
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE  
NEWARK, DE 19716

FROM: PRINCIPAL \_\_\_\_\_  
(please sign)

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

RE: **MAPPING MY SMALL WORLD** Contest Winners

STUDENT	GRADE	TEACHER

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Each teacher of a class should select the three best maps and submit them to a panel of judges within the school. The panel should consist of the principal (or designee) and one or two non-participating teachers.
2. The panel will choose **one** winner from **each** participating classroom.
3. The principal then fills in the form above and mails it to the Alliance by **December 5, 1997**.
4. The Alliance will send a beach ball globe to each winner. The Alliance may later request to borrow the winning maps for public display.

(continued from page 3)

neighbor, the Republic of the Congo (capital Brazzaville); Bombay, India, is now Mumbai, and Madras has become Chennai. And in 1999, Canada's Northwest Territories will become Nunavut (Inuit for "our land"), still a Canadian territory, with a capital Iqaluit on Baffin Island.

## BAD SCIENCE

UD Geography graduate student John Callahan reports on a homepage dedicated to popular misconceptions being taught about astronomy, chemistry, physics, and meteorology. As John says: "even if you cannot use the information in your teaching it is still an enjoyable read." Point your browser to: [www.ems.psu.edu/~fraser/BadScience.html](http://www.ems.psu.edu/~fraser/BadScience.html).

This topic is reminiscent of the video report: *A Private Universe: Misconceptions that Block Learning* (Pyramid Film and Video, 1998) that asked a sample of Harvard graduates what caused the seasons. A majority responded that it had to do with the differential distance of the earth from the sun in its heliocentric orbit. Even when it was pointed out that the earth was *closest* to the sun in our Northern hemisphere *winter*, and that the real cause is the earth's constant inclination of 23½ degrees to the plane of the ecliptic, these brightest of students refused to change their previously strongly held beliefs. Learning comes slowly, and we may learn but do we accept?

## ALLIANCE STEERING COMMITTEE SETS COURSE FOR 1997-98

Following late summer elections, nine Delaware teachers form this year's alliance steering committee: **Judy Purcell** (Bannecker Elementary), chairperson, **Pat Killalea** (Welch Elementary), vice-chairperson; **Cindy Baker** (Sussex Central Middle); **Nick Foery** (Lewes Middle); **Mike Kijowski** (Frear Elementary); **Maggie Legates** (Milford Middle); **Bill Maroon** (Caesar Rodney High School); **Gene Modzelewski** (Bancroft Elementary); and **Cathy Waller** (Gauger Middle).

The steering committee sets alliance policy and

## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR DELAWARE GEOGRAPHY TEACHER OF THE YEAR, 1998

The Delaware Geographic Alliance will again conduct a competition to select this year's **Geography Teacher of the Year**. The award, open to any Delaware classroom teacher, recognizes exemplary teaching of geography. The recipient does not need to be a designated geography teacher. Rather, the awardee will have demonstrated that in whatever medium or field of teaching, effective instruction of geography and evidence of continuous improvement of geography teaching has occurred. A letter to principals describing the award will be sent by November 14. Nominations may be made by principals, colleagues, or by self-nomination. The deadline for nominations, made in writing to the Alliance, is **December 15, 1997**. Nominees will be sent details of materials to be submitted. Contact the Alliance office for additional details at 831-6783. The winner will be announced at the Alliance's Spring Dinner meeting in March, 1998.

assigns tasks to committees. We urge you to contact any steering committee member if you feel the Alliance can improve the way it serves Delaware teachers interested in advancing geography instruction and learning in our state.

## EXEMPLARY GEOGRAPHY LESSONS REWARDED

Do you have an exemplary geography lesson, one that reflects the current geography standards and presents an innovative or original approach to teaching geography? If so, the George F. Cram Co. offers a \$750 cash award and the opportunity to present your lesson at the 1998 annual meeting of the National Council for Geographic Education. Call the alliance for more details at 831-6783. Deadline for applications: **March 6, 1998**

## DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE 1997-98 CALENDAR

Oct 14	Steering Committee Meeting
Oct 15	Geography Bee registrations due NGS
Oct 18	Fall Social Studies Conference, Smryna High School
Oct 25	Registration due Population Reference Bureau Workshop
Oct 28	GAW Workshops, Glasgow High School & Lewes Middle School
Nov 1	GISHE Conference, Chantilly, VA
Nov 14-15	Population Reference Bureau Workshop, Burlington, N.J.
Nov 16-22	GAW, Theme: "Explore the World! Geography Takes You Places"
Nov 19	GAW T-Shirt Wear-In Day
Dec 1-Jan 9	Geography Bee School Competitions
Dec 2	Steering Committee Meeting
Jan 20	Steering Committee Meeting
Mar 10	Steering Committee Meeting
Mar 19/26	Spring Dinner Meeting
April 3	State Geography Bee
May 19	Steering Committee Meeting
Aug 25	Steering Committee Meeting

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