

2016 Rules and Judging Criteria

The US Geological Survey (USGS) National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program (NCGMP) in partnership with The Geological Society of America (GSA), GSA Foundation, Association of American State Geologists (AASG), American Geosciences Institute (AGI), American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG), and the *Journal of Maps* invites students to participate in the Best Student Geologic Map Poster Competition.

This year marks the fourth annual Best Student Geologic Map Competition at the GSA Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado. The competition will highlight student research from around the world that utilizes field mapping and the creation of geologic maps as a major component.

Judging Criteria:

A geologic map is defined as a map that depicts the geographic distribution at the earth's surface of bedrock and/or surficial geologic materials and structures, on a published base-map showing topography, hydrography, culture, cadastral, and other base information. Geologic units are identified by color and correlated to the description of map units (DMU). Geologic structures are shown with symbols that allow the user to visualize the features in three-dimensional orientations.

A geologic map should include the applicable components that sufficiently illustrate the geology of the area mapped, including:

- A clear and legible base (include base map credit and map projection)
- Scale and contour interval
- North arrow and magnetic declination
- Title, authorship, publisher (if published), and date. The student(s) must be the principal author(s).
- Location index map
- Field data or field data stations (strike and dip, coring stations, GPS control stations, etc.)
- Description of map units (DMU)
- Correlation of map units (CMU)
- Explanation of map symbols
- Map unit symbols on map

A geologic map may also include stratigraphic columns, cross sections, and text.

Submitted geologic maps should be at a scale of 1:24,000 or larger. However, 1:25,000 to 1:62,500 scales are acceptable. Reconnaissance geologic maps **are not** acceptable.

Examples of maps that are not considered appropriate substitutes for geologic maps include: structure contour maps, isopach maps, stratigraphic and/or facies diagrams, aquifer maps, gravity or magnetic anomaly maps, and element-distribution geochemical maps. These maps are not eligible and will not be judged if submitted. Additionally, submissions of geologic maps that are digital map compilations or digitization maps are not acceptable and will not be judged.

For your information: A useful website for digital Geologic mapping standards and mapping symbolization can be found at the USGS.

Selection Process:

Submitted geologic maps will be evaluated by a panel of at least 4 judges based on the criteria outlined above. Each map should stand on its own without explanation by the student author. We encourage student participants to be present at this session to network and share information about their maps when judges are evaluating and selecting the top three maps. The award ceremony will take place at the end of this session.

[top](#)

2016 Winners

We will post the 2016 award winners as soon as possible after the contest.

The top three student geologic maps will be selected for recognition and awards at a special judging session at the GSA Annual Meeting. **Students will post their maps (Session Posters) for session T107.** Maps may be placed in this area as early as 9 AM Tuesday, 3 November, but must be removed at 6:30 PM following the session. At the end of the session the top three maps will be selected and awarded.

Awards:

First place awardee will receive a Brunton Compass (sponsored by AASG), along with a limited run opportunity in the *Journal of Maps*. Second place will receive a rock-hammer and hand lens, sponsored by AIPG. Third place will receive a GSA publication (book, field trip guide, or memoir). Additionally, all winners will receive a Certificate of Recognition, along with an offer to publish their map in the Student Edition of the *Journal of Maps*.

The top three student maps will also be recognized and announced on the GSA website, GSA Today and GSA Connection, AGI GeoSpectrum, and the USGS website. The Third place student will receive the honor and a Certificate of Recognition signed by the sponsoring representatives along with a GSA publication (book, fieldtrip guide, or memoir) sponsored by the GSA Foundation.