

Frequently Asked Questions on NSF Geography Bee Coaching

National Geographic Bee Competition:

1. What is National Geographic Bee?

National Geographic Bee is a competition conducted by National Geographic society every year and it is open for 4th through 8th grade students.

There are 4 rounds of National Geographic Bee: School, State and National. First the student participates in the School round (Normally in mid December). School champions will move to State level after qualifying in written test. Only 100 students get invitation to go to State level (normally April first week). The state champion will represent the state they are from at the National level (normally in May 3rd week). The winner of the national geographic bee gets \$50,000 as scholarship, second place student gets \$25,000 and the third place student gets \$10,000. More information about National Geographic Bee competitions can be obtained from <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee/>

2. How can my child participate in National Geographic Bee competition?

To participate in National Geographic Bee, your child needs to start from the school. Check with your school if they registered with National Geographic Society to conduct the competition. From there he/she needs to advance to State and Nationals.

3. My child's school does not participate in National Geographic Bee, what can be done about it?

You can talk to your school, extend all the help/volunteering to conduct the National Geographic Bee Competition. Sometimes, it may not be easy to convince the school management. Many schools don't like to participate in just one specific competition as only very few kids can participate. Schools want to give opportunity to a large set of students. One way to approach this is to create the awareness of this competition within the school.

NSF Geographic Bee Competition:

4. What is NSF Geographic Bee Competition?

North South Foundation conducts Geographic Bee every year to better prepare the students to appear for National Geographic Bee competition (similar to Spelling Bee) Further details can be found at <http://www.northsouth.org/public/uscontests/regionals/geography/geography.aspx> Junior Geography Bee (JGB) is open for 1st through 3rd grade students and Senior Geography Bee (SGB) is open for 4th through 8th grade students.

NSF GeoBee Coaching:

5. How does the online coaching work?

We will send you an invitation every week to join the weekly online meeting. Students will just click on the link to join the WebEx meeting and dial in to the phone number provided for your class if you don't have the mic/camera in your computer. The first hour of the class will be dedicated to going over homework assignment from previous week followed by discussion of new topics.

6. What materials do we need to have in order to attend the online coaching?

This is an online class. You need a Computer, Computer Audio, Microphone and Telephone (with ability to mute).

7. Is it mandatory for my child to participate in National Geographic Bee competition if he/she attends coaching?

No, it is not compulsory to participate in the competition. If your child is interested to participate, he/she may register through their school and/or NSF. If not, your child can attend coaching just for enrichment and improve their global knowledge.

8. What is the objective of NSF GeoBee coaching?

Several NSF students are winning top places in the Spelling Bee, Geography Bee, Brain Bee competitions year after year. Though there are many kids highly talented and skilled, we want to see more NSF students representing and winning the National Geographic Bee competition. So, we started a systematic coaching for this competition in 2014. We are hoping to see more NSF kids in the Nationals and continue winning the championship.

9. For what grade levels is NSF GeoBee coaching available?

There are two streams of coaching:

- NSF Junior Geography Bee coaching (1st – 3rd grades)
- NSF Senior Geography Bee coaching (4th - 8th grades)

10. What is Junior Geography Bee (JGB)?

JGB is to generate enthusiasm and passion for Geography in kids. Another objective is to prepare 1st through 3rd grade students in geographical terms needed to compete and excel in National competition during their 4th through 8th grades.

11. What are the various NSF MathCounts coaching levels and the criteria to join those levels?

There are three levels Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced under each JGB and SGB. The curriculum is same between these levels but the difference is the pace and the how deep they discuss during the classes.

12. How long are the NSF JGB and SGB coaching?

The coaching is 10 weeks long with 2 hours session each week (with the exception of holidays) starting around October every year.

13. What do they actually learn in the coaching classes?

Please refer to

<http://www.northsouth.org/public/uscontests/regionals/geography/geographySyllabus.aspx>

Geography Bee Coaching Registration Process:

14. How do I register my child for the coaching classes?

Go to our website www.northsouth.org and login as a Parent. Click on “Register for Coaching”. It will take you step by step. You can pick a coach based on your child’s level and the time that best suits you.

15. How do I choose the coaching level and class for my child?

Again, there are three levels Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced under each JGB and SGB. The curriculum is same between these levels but the difference is the pace and the how deep they discuss during the classes. There may be more than one coach available for your child’s level. You can pick a coach with most convenient time that will work for you..

16. What is the cost of NSF coaching?

The registration fee for this coaching is \$100, 2/3rd of which is tax deductible. In financial hardship cases, a waiver will be considered upon request.

17. I cannot afford the registration fee for the course at this time. How can I register for coaching?

Please send an email to nsf.tampa@gmail.com describing the financial difficulty. We will go over your situation and let you know if your fee will be waived.

18. The classes have already started. Can I still register?

No, once the registration is closed, you cannot register. It is first come, first served, so register at the earliest to ensure a seat for your child.

19. If I choose a class for my child but not pay, am I reserving a spot in that class?

No, your registration is not complete until you pay. You will receive a confirmation email after you pay and complete the registration. Just choosing the appropriate class will not guarantee a spot for your child in that class.

Registration Changes:

20. I registered my child, but I haven't yet received any communication...

Your child's coach will contact you few days before the beginning of the class. If you have to contact us on any important issue, send an email to nsf.tampa@gmail.com. Someone will contact you.

21. How can I change class to a more convenient day and time?

Parents can change the classes themselves from the Parent Functions page, using “Change Coach” option, for up to two weeks after the coaching session starts, provided space is available.

If you find another class for the level you want with a convenient day and time, you can go ahead and change yourself.

22. Can I change the class level after I am registered?

Please read the answer for the last question. If space is available, you will be able to change in first two weeks.

23. Change coach is grayed out. How can I change coach?

You are allowed to change the coach from the Parent Functions page up to two weeks after the coaching starts. Subsequently, this option is grayed out.

24. Can I get a refund if I cancel my coaching course?

Two-thirds of the registration fee you pay is tax-deductible and is used as a scholarship to help a poor child go to college in India. Coaching is done by all volunteers who give their time and effort for this noble cause. If you insist on getting a refund of your registration fee, NSF will do so only before the second coaching class. You can request a refund on the “Parent Functions” page after you do Parent Login in www.northsouth.org.

Coaching Classes Related:

25. What do I do if my child is going to miss a class?

Please email your coach and get the materials that will be covered during that class. You can work them out at home. If you have any question in it, you can forward them to your coach and get it clarified.

26. How does class participation work in the online class??

Parents are requested to ensure that their child participates in every class and is respectful of other students. Students should be discouraged from disruptive behavior such as writing on the board or chat window while the coach is teaching. Their phone should be set to mute setting unless they are called upon to speak. Different students are at different levels so don't let your child get overwhelmed or discouraged if some concepts are new to them.

27. Is it okay if I help my child with the homework?

Yes and No. No, do not jump right in and do the work for your child. This will not give a chance for your child to do some deep thinking and be challenged. Yes, when a child is stuck, you can give some hints for the child to do more research and arrive at the answer.

28. I am too busy with my work. Can I rely on the coach to take care of my child?

No. NSF Coaching is a good starting point in the right direction to prepare your child for the Geography Bee competition. As we said earlier, coaches are volunteers and each coach has about 20 children to handle. So don't rely solely on the NSF coaching for your child to win the competition.

Parents Contribution:

29. As a parent, how can I help my child?

You can provide a quiet environment for your child to work every day especially during the online coaching session. Kids will be on the phone and on online session during the class, so a quiet, undisturbed place will help your child a lot. Also make sure you are available during the session and sit along with the child to make notes.