

**ENTRIES CLOSE
FRIDAY 16TH
OCTOBER 2026**

2026



Geography Teachers
Association NSW & ACT

**YOUNG
GEOGRAPHER
AWARDS**



PRIZES FOR EACH CATEGORY

**1ST PRIZE
\$500**

**2ND PRIZE
\$250**

**3RD PRIZE
\$100**

GEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH AWARD (K-10)

This award allows students to demonstrate original geographic research on any topic from the Australian Curriculum or NSW K-10 Geography Syllabus. Students will identify an inquiry focus and should conduct both primary and secondary research to investigate this topic.

GEOGRAPHY IN STEM AWARD (K-12)

This award allows students to demonstrate geographic research on any topic from the Australian Curriculum or NSW K-12 Geography Syllabus. However, a significant STEM contribution must be present in the final product and Geography must drive the project. The STEM contribution may be explicitly evident in the collection of primary data, the tools used for analysis of data and/or in the final presentation and communication of the research.

NESA GEOGRAPHICAL INVESTIGATION / IB INTERNAL ASSESSMENT AWARD / ACT EQUIVALENT PROJECT (YEAR 11)

This award recognises excellence in the NSW Geographical Investigation or International Baccalaureate Internal Assessment (IA) Projects. Those who study Geography in the ACT may also submit Geography research projects of a similar scope.

ENTRY SPECIFICATIONS

The projects submitted for all categories should:

- Be less than 3000 words when written or under 10 minutes in an audio-visual format.
- Incorporate appropriate primary and secondary research for the inquiry topic.
- Demonstrate excellent research skills.
- Demonstrate excellent communication of geographical information using a variety of tools and skills.
- Demonstrate the capacity for active citizenship from the undertaken research.

APPLY ON OUR WEBSITE

ENTRY DETAILS

- Closing date: Friday 16th October 2026
- Capacity: Each school is able to submit a maximum of four entries per category. The same project can be submitted in multiple categories.
- Cost: There is no cost for entry to the competition.
- Judging: Will take place in December 2026
- Announcement: Winners will be notified by March 2027.
- Eligibility: All schools that enter MUST be GTA NSW & ACT paying members
- Submission: All award entries must be submitted digitally as either Acrobat PDF files, websites or suitable audio-visual files.

JUDGEMENT CRITERIA

CRITERIA	OUTSTANDING	COMMENDABLE	SATISFACTORY	NEEDS FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
Identifies a relevant and engaging geographic inquiry topic	Topic is appropriate for the relevant syllabus. Topic is highly engaging Topic allows for research which is spatial in nature.	Topic is appropriate for the relevant syllabus. Topic allows for research which is spatial in nature.	Topic is inappropriate for the relevant syllabus. OR Topic does not allow for research which is spatial in nature.	Topic is inappropriate for the relevant syllabus. AND Topic does not allow for research which is spatial in nature.
Incorporates appropriate primary research for the inquiry topic	Outstanding demonstrations of accurate, well planned primary data collection. Clear and appropriate presentation of collected primary data.	Demonstrations of well-planned primary data collection. Clear presentation of collected primary data.	Primary data is collected using appropriate methods.	Little or no primary data is collected. OR Primary data is collected using inappropriate methods.
Incorporates appropriate secondary research for the inquiry topic	Outstandingly detailed information and technical vocabulary used consistently throughout the project. An accurate, complete and consistently styled bibliography is presented.	Detailed information and technical vocabulary used throughout the project. A consistently styled bibliography is presented.	Some detailed information and technical vocabulary used in the project. A bibliography is presented.	Generic examples and generic language used throughout the project. No attempt is made to reference sources used.
Quality of geography research	Insightful analysis or discussion is made based on the collected primary and secondary data. Conclusions about inquiry topics are based on analysis or discussion of data.	Analysis or discussion is made based on the collected primary and secondary data. Conclusions about inquiry topics are based on analysis or discussion of data.	Primary and secondary data is used to draw conclusions.	Conclusions are based on superficial, generic or general information.
Communication of geographical information	Geographical information is presented in sustained, logical and well sequenced paragraphs. A variety of appropriate tools (photos, graphs, maps etc) are selected and used to convey geographic information engagingly	Geographical information is presented in sustained, logical and well sequenced paragraphs. Appropriate tools (photos, graphs, maps etc) are selected and used to convey geographic information.	Geographical information is presented in logical paragraphs.	Geographical information is presented in paragraphs.
Capacity for active citizenship from the project.	Evidence of active citizenship is present within the project.	Capacity for active citizenship is articulated within the project.	Capacity for active citizenship is alluded to within the project.	No capability for active citizenship is evident within the project.
Format and presentation	Project is highly engaging and is attractively formatted. 3000 words or less or under 10 minutes.	Project is attractively formatted. 3000 words or less or under 10 minutes.	Project exceeded 3000 words or 10 minutes by up to 10%.	Project exceeded 3000 words or 10 minutes by over 10%.
Stem Award Category	The contribution and purpose of STEM in the geographical inquiry is clearly and thoroughly explicated	The contribution and purpose of STEM in the geographical inquiry is clearly explicated.	The contribution and purpose of STEM in the geographical inquiry is explicated at times although mostly inferred.	The contribution and purpose of STEM in the geographical inquiry is not explicated