

Ronald Reagan Elementary Student Earns Spot in Wisconsin National Geographic State Bee

New Berlin, Wis. - Braden Maas, a sixth-grader at Ronald Reagan Elementary School, is a semifinalist eligible to compete in the 2016 Wisconsin National Geographic State Bee on Friday, April 1, in Madison.

This is the second level of the National Geographic Bee competition, which is now in its 28th year. School bees were held with fourth- through eighth-grade students throughout the state to determine school champions, who then took an online test. The National Geographic Society has invited approximately 100 of the top-scoring students in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Department of Defense Dependents Schools and U.S. territories to compete in the state bees.

"We're extremely excited for and proud of Braden," Ronald Reagan principal Brady Reinke said. "He's worked very hard to get to this point of the competition, and no matter what happens at the state bee, he and his family should be proud of what he's accomplished."

The state champion will receive \$100, the National Geographic book "The National Parks: An Illustrated History" and a medal, and will journey to Washington, D.C. to represent Wisconsin in the National Geographic Bee Championship at National Geographic Society headquarters, May 22-25. The national winner receives a \$50,000 college scholarship and lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society.

How did Braden Maas and other contestants get this far? Some sample questions at school bees included:

- To fish in Lake Winnepesaukee and ski near Franconia Notch, you would travel to which state - New Hampshire or South Dakota? (New Hampshire)
- Sea kayakers can explore hundreds of islands off the Dalmatian coast of which European country south of Slovenia? (Croatia)
- For centuries, the Chinese emperors lived in seclusion in the Forbidden City, which is located within what present-day city? (Beijing)

For more information on the state bee, visit <https://sites.google.com/site/wisconsinstatebee/>.

About the National Geographic Society:

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