

### **2026 International Geography Championships – Final Press Release**

The Fourth International Geography Championships were held from July 4-11, 2026 at the JW Marriott Khao Lak Resort and Spa in Khao Lak, Thailand. Organized by International Academic Competitions ([www.iacompetitions.com](http://www.iacompetitions.com)), the International Geography Championships are a biennial event featuring the world's top geography students ages 8-18. Featuring 46 separate medal competitions for Competing Students, as well as numerous field trips, ceremonies, and social events, the 2026 International Geography Championships were attended by 251 students. They competed for 47 separate affiliations, representing 15 independent countries, 29 US states, Hong Kong, Puerto Rico, and Taiwan. Students competed in four separate age divisions: High School (grades 9-12 or international equivalent), Middle School (grades 7-8 or equivalent), Intermediate (grades 5-6 or equivalent), and Elementary School (grades 2-4 or equivalent). Three world championship titles were also awarded at the 2026 International Geography Championships:

#### **International Geography Championships – Overall World Champions**

(Based on best overall performance in the Battery Exam, the Written Exam, the Theoretical and Applied Geography Exam, and the International Geography Bee World Championships)

High School – Manu Cherukumille, California

Middle School – Avahan Gautam, Texas

Intermediate – Aditya Vanka, California

Elementary School – Shamik Mukherjee, California

#### **International Geography Bee – World Champions**

High School – Siddhu Nagarajan, New Jersey

Middle School – Teja Varanasy, California

Intermediate – Aditya Vanka, California

Elementary School – Shamik Mukherjee, California

#### **International Geography Bowl – World Champions**

High School – Team New Jersey A (Abhay Naidu, Naman Belakavadi, Siddhu Nagarajan)

Middle School – Team Texas A (Avahan Gautam, Bolin Zhang, Shreyaan Yadav)

Intermediate – Team California A (Aditya Vanka, Chengyu Ethan Yang, Kirthan Parvathaneni)

Elementary School – Team California A (Kabir Das, Minglang Tu, Shamik Mukherjee)

**The IGC 2026 Medals Table** was won by a wide margin by Team California (68.5 gold medals). New Jersey finished in second place (21.83 golds), and Texas finished in third place (17.33 golds). Fractional medals are due to members competing on mixed-affiliation teams, with the medals won being allocated fractionally based on the number of team members. **The Proportional Medals Table** (where medals are divided by the number of team members to determine the most successful team on average) was won by Poland, followed by Minnesota and Rhode Island. Shamik Mukherjee (California, Elementary School Division) was by far the most successful student in terms of medals won, leading **the Individual Medals Table** with 18 golds. Parents and siblings who were interested also competed in over 12 events through the Family and Friends Program. Colorado was the most successful affiliation among these participants.

**Affiliations represented for the first time** at the International Geography Championships in 2026 were Hawaii, Indonesia, Ireland, Kansas, Nevada, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, and Romania. Of these, Ireland, Nevada, Rhode Island, and Romania won medals. Rhode Island (4 golds) and Romania (1 gold) won gold medals.

The next International Geography Championships will be held in July 2028, likely in Stockholm. Students interested in qualifying are encouraged to explore the IGC website at [www.geochampionships.com](http://www.geochampionships.com). For further inquiries on the 2026 International Geography Championships, please email [igc@iacompetitions.com](mailto:igc@iacompetitions.com). For other queries pertaining to International Academic Competitions, please email [help@iacompetitions.com](mailto:help@iacompetitions.com).