



The  
Geography Teachers Association  
of NSW & ACT Inc.

The 2024 GTA NSW & ACT

# Young Geographer Awards



**Registration opens June 2024  
& closes Friday 4 October 2024**

The Young Geographer Awards invites students in NSW and the ACT to demonstrate engagement with Geography, the discipline and with the tools and skills of Geography through the creation and conduct of an inquiry-based research project. Although it is not essential, teachers are encouraged to incorporate the research and construction of the project into their teaching programs to help support students.

**Register here:**

Senior  
Entries 

Junior  
Entries 

Teacher  
Entries 

Visit [www.gtansw.org.au](http://www.gtansw.org.au) for more information.

## Prizes

Prizes for the winning entries  
in any category are:



**1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$500**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$250**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$100**

## Award Categories



### Geographical Research Award

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. Category submissions will be judged against entries in the same Stage.

### Geography in STEM Award

This award allows students to demonstrate geographic research on any topic from the Australian Curriculum or NSW K-10 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 Senior Geography Project (SGP) / IB Internal Assessment Award / ACT equivalent project

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

### GTA NSW & ACT Geography Teacher Award

This award is for teachers that inspire 'Young Geographers' and recognises the creativity and knowledge of the implementation of fieldwork within the classroom. Participating teachers are asked to submit evidence regarding how they implement fieldwork into their teaching and throughout the school. This evidence could be an assessment task, fieldwork booklet, teaching program etc. In addition to the evidence, they are to write a 500 word summary that examines how they successfully incorporated fieldwork into their teaching practice by referring to the evidence they have submitted.

## Project 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.

**All award entries must be submitted digitally as either Acrobat PDF files, websites or suitable audio-visual files.**

## Award Timeline



**2024 competition closing date:  
Friday 4 October**

Each school is able to submit a maximum of four (4) entries per category. There is no cost for entry to the competition.

Judging will take place between Term 4 2024 and Term 1 2025. Members of GTA NSW & ACT are encouraged to apply and participate as a member of the judging panel. The judging is a valuable Professional Development event and participation in the judging process, for example SGP marking, will help teachers gain perspective about their own classroom practice and student achievement.

Prize winners will be notified by March 2025. Prizes will only be awarded when suitable entries are available. All competition entrants will receive a YGA Certificate of Participation.



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Criteria	Outstanding	Commendable	Satisfactory	Needs further development
Identifies a relevant and engaging geographic inquiry topic	<p>Topic is appropriate for the relevant syllabus.</p> <p>Topic is highly engaging</p> <p>Topic allows for research which is spatial in nature.</p>	<p>Topic is appropriate for the relevant syllabus.</p> <p>Topic allows for research which is spatial in nature.</p>	<p>Topic is inappropriate for the relevant syllabus.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Topic does not allow for research which is spatial in nature.</p>	<p>Topic is inappropriate for the relevant syllabus.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Topic does not allow for research which is spatial in nature.</p>
Incorporates appropriate primary research for the inquiry topic	<p>Outstanding demonstrations of accurate, well planned primary data collection.</p> <p>Clear and appropriate presentation of collected primary data.</p>	<p>Demonstrations of well planned primary data collection.</p> <p>Clear presentation of collected primary data.</p>	<p>Primary data is collected using appropriate methods.</p>	<p>Little or no primary data is collected.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Primary data is collected using inappropriate methods.</p>
Incorporates appropriate secondary research for the inquiry topic	<p>Outstandingly detailed information and technical vocabulary used consistently throughout the project.</p> <p>An accurate, complete and consistently styled bibliography is presented.</p>	<p>Detailed information and technical vocabulary used throughout the project.</p> <p>A consistently styled bibliography is presented.</p>	<p>Some detailed information and technical vocabulary used in the project.</p> <p>A bibliography is presented.</p>	<p>Generic examples and generic language used throughout the project.</p> <p>No attempt is made to reference sources used.</p>
Quality of geography research	<p>Insightful analysis or discussion is made based on the collected primary and secondary data.</p> <p>Conclusions about inquiry topics are based on analysis or discussion of data.</p>	<p>Analysis or discussion is made based on the collected primary and secondary data.</p> <p>Conclusions about inquiry topics are based on analysis or discussion of data.</p>	<p>Primary and secondary data is used to draw conclusions.</p>	<p>Conclusions are based on superficial, generic or general information.</p>
Communication of geographical information	<p>Geographical information is presented in sustained, logical and well sequenced paragraphs.</p> <p>A variety of appropriate tools (photos, graphs, maps etc) are selected and used to convey geographic information engagingly.</p>	<p>Geographical information is presented in sustained, logical and well sequenced paragraphs.</p> <p>Appropriate tools (photos, graphs, maps etc) are selected and used to convey geographic information.</p>	<p>Geographical information is presented in logical paragraphs.</p>	<p>Geographical information is presented in paragraphs.</p>
Capacity for active citizenship from the project	<p>Evidence of active citizenship is present within the project.</p>	<p>Capacity for active citizenship is articulated within the project.</p>	<p>Capacity for active citizenship is alluded to within the project.</p>	<p>No capability for active citizenship is evident within the project.</p>
Format and presentation	<p>Project is highly engaging and is attractively formatted.</p> <p>3000 words or less or under 10 minutes.</p> <p>Digitally submitted in correct file type and able to be accessed by judges.</p>	<p>Project is attractively formatted.</p> <p>3000 words or less or under 10 minutes.</p> <p>Digitally submitted in correct file type and able to be accessed by judges.</p>	<p>Project exceeded 3000 words or 10 minutes by up to 10%.</p> <p>Digitally submitted in correct file type and able to be accessed by judges.</p>	<p>Project exceeded 3000 words or 10 minutes by over 10%.</p> <p>Digitally submitted in incorrect file type or unable to be accessed by judges.</p>
STEM Award Category	<p>Outstanding, sustained and innovative incorporation of Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Maths to support the enactment, collation and/or communication of the geographical inquiry</p> <p>The contribution and purpose of STEM in the geographical inquiry is clearly and thoroughly explicated.</p>	<p>Commendable innovative incorporation of Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Maths to support the enactment, collation and/or communication of the geographical inquiry.</p> <p>The contribution and purpose of STEM in the geographical inquiry is clearly explicated.</p>	<p>Some innovative incorporation of Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Maths to develop the enactment, collation and/or communication of the geographical inquiry.</p> <p>The contribution and purpose of STEM in the geographical inquiry is explicated at times although mostly inferred.</p>	<p>Little evidence of innovative incorporation Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Maths in the enactment, collation and/or communication of the geographical inquiry</p> <p>The contribution and purpose of STEM in the geographical inquiry is not explicated.</p>