

• **ENTRIES.** As many as THREE students from EACH GRADE LEVEL (grades 5, 6, 7 and 8) OR ages 10, 11, 12, and 13 by Sept. 1 of the current school year, if in an ungraded school, may be entered in the MAPS, GRAPHS & CHARTS District Contest from each school. Designated adults representing each school will select contestants to represent the campus at the District Meet based on their abilities to research geographical information, read and interpret charts and graphs, and other factors, which are decided upon by each school. Each grade level is judged separately in contest.

• **ADVANCING TO STATE.** 4 must compete in a grade for 2 to advance (See page 8 for complete rules)

• **NATURE OF THE CONTEST.** The Maps, Graphs & Charts contest tests the contestant's ability to locate and interpret information in an atlas or on representative charts and graphs not found in the atlas. Students are expected to know directions and to be able to approximate distances and values. They must also be able to read legends and identify values or specific locations based on those legends. Any combination of bar graphs, line graphs, and pie graphs may be used on the test, so students should be familiar with the formats of all three. Types of maps may range from road maps to topographical or other data-specific maps with legends. The charts or tables may include conditional column or row headings (such as "from-to" ranges). Students may tab their atlases and write in them as they deem necessary. The atlas, a magnifying glass, and a ruler may be brought into the contest. No loose papers or other materials are allowed. Calculators are NOT permitted for use in the contest. The test consists of 50 questions. **All contest materials, other than the test itself, must be supplied by the contestant.**

• **WHAT HAPPENS IN THE CONTEST.** The contest director will announce the time and place that contestants and one adult should report for verification of the scoring of tests. Tests and answer sheets will be distributed to contestants face up, and contestants will be instructed to write their grade levels and their contestant ID numbers in the spaces provided on the front cover of the test and on the answer sheet. Contestants must not open the test until the start signal is given. The contest director will tell contestants their ID numbers, usually during roll call. (Alternates taking the place of absent registered contestants should be sure to let the contest director know as they enter the room to save time in roll call.) No alarm watches or other devices that emit sound are allowed in the contest room. **THE TEST IS MULTIPLE CHOICE.**

TIME ALOTTED. When the start signal is given, contestants will have 30 minutes to use their atlases to

locate information for answers to test questions. Contestants will remain quietly in their seats until the time has expired.

MARKING ANSWERS. Contestants may write on the test paper, but only the CAPITAL letter answer should be written in the answer space on the answer sheet. Any marking in the answer space will constitute an attempt. **Contestants may place an X in an answer blank where an erasure has occurred in order to not have points deducted for that erasure.**

• **SCORING.** Add 5 points for each correct answer. Subtract 2 points for each incorrect answer, or for each answer that was attempted, marked through or erased, and did not result in a correct answer. **No points** are added or deducted for skipped or unanswered test items, **or erased items in an answer blank in which the student has placed an X.**

• **VERIFICATION PERIOD.** No pens, pencils, papers, cell phones, or any other items should be in contestants' area while tests and answer sheets with keys are reviewed. Contestants and ONE coach OR parent OR adult have 15 minutes to check the computation of scores and ask questions about items counted incorrect. If the contest is held before **March 29**, tests must be turned back in to the contest director. (See page 12 for complete rules regarding Verification Period.)

• **MATERIALS.** Last year's PSIA Maps, Graphs & Charts tests and answer keys, plus tests from previous PSIA contests, are included in the PSIA Academic Study Materials Booklets, which may be ordered from the PSIA office. A PSIA Study Materials Order Forms for these booklets are included in the appendix of this handbook. • **PREPARATION FOR CONTEST.** Preparation for the MAPS, GRAPHS, & CHARTS Contest should include student practice researching information in the adopted geographic resource, the *Nystrom Desk Atlas (2003 or newer edition)*. The objective questions will measure the mastery of skills, including using a reference book to locate information, making comparisons, estimating and approximating, using scale, interpreting legends and keys, and other skills used in obtaining information from maps, graphs and charts. Previous years' tests are also helpful in providing practice. Because previous years' editions of the atlas were used to compose these tests, adaptations should be made in the answer keys to coincide with the current adopted atlas resource.

• **ADOPTED ATLAS.** Only one atlas will be the official resource for verifying answers beginning this year: *Nystrom Desk Atlas (2003 or newer edition)*. The atlas may only be purchased through Nystrom: Division of Herff Jones, Inc. Call 1-800-621-8086 if you are unable to locate the order flier included in the membership mailing.

