

PRESS RELEASE

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St. Valentine School eighth grader Hayley Dowd has been selected as a semifinalist in the 2009 Pennsylvania Geographic Bee. This state-level competition will be held at Penn State University on Friday, April 3, 2009.

Hayley competed against her fellow students in January to become the St. Valentine School winner. She then took a qualifying test versus other school-level winners. The National Geographic Society invited the students with the top 100 scores in each of the 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, and the U.S. territories, to compete at the state level.

The state winner will receive \$100, the "National Geographic Collegiate Atlas of the World," and a trip to Washington, D.C., where he or she will represent Pennsylvania in the national finals at the National Geographic Society headquarters, May 19 and 20, 2009.

Hayley is the daughter of Blaine Shiff and Donna Dowd.

