

Hillcrest's Buroker Places Sixth in State GeoBee Competition

Miles Buroker, a seventh-grade student at Hillcrest Middle School, placed sixth in the 2009 Connecticut National Geographic Bee on April 3 at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. The competition was won by Robert Chu of New Haven's Hopkins School.

The winner of the Hillcrest's GeoBee in January, Buroker was among 100 Connecticut middle school students who scored highest on a written exam following their local-school triumphs. This marks the fourth consecutive year that Hillcrest's GeoBee champion has qualified for the state competition.

A state-wide forum to allow students to showcase their knowledge of map literacy, world cultures, and current events that is sponsored by the National Geographic Society, the Connecticut champion went on to join those from other states to compete in the 21st National Geographic Bee in Washington, D.C. on May 19-20. Eric Yang, a 7th grader from The Colony, Texas, won the event, earning a \$25,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society, and a trip to the Galapagos Islands.

Editor's Note: The Trumbull ACE Foundation's grant funded Hillcrest's registration fee to enable all of the school's students to participate in this competition in their thirty-five Social Studies classes followed by the school-level competition involving the top ten finalists.