Road Scholar Contest Preparation Helpful Information

Contest Preparation Considerations

- Class attendance: expectations should be explained at start of program
- Student commitment: mandatory except for unusual circumstances (e.g., illness)
- Need for weekend sessions (depending on coaches’ availability and school’s permission)
- Students should take notes and/or coaches should provide handouts (maybe a journal)
- What topics should be covered, and in what order (logical flow)
- Class schedule: allow enough time to cover adequately all topics
- During school day (special class) or after school
- Each student should be looking at the same maps (easier to point out features, and so on)
- May need to cancel sessions (special activities, snow days); allow adequate time
- Coordination among coaches (divide up topics among coaches; variety in presentations)
- Time delay in obtaining maps
- Area covered by maps (enough features to practice PLSS, bearings, and so forth)
- Up to two teams may compete, but alternates should be available
- Student selection (volunteer, math/science test scores, intra-school competition)

Recommended Study Materials

- State-Issued State Highway Map (Official Highway Map)
- USGS Quadrangle map (7.5-minute series)
- USGS Quadrangle map (15-minute series)
- Topographic symbol sheet
- Ruler
- Protractor

Useful Websites

- http://www.soinc.org Science Olympiad homepage
- http://www.missouri.olympiad.edu Mo. Science Olympiad homepage
- http://mcmcweb.er.usgs.gov/topomaps USGS sites for ordering topographic maps
- http://store.usgs.gov (1-888-ASK-USGS)
- http://geology.isu.edu/geostac/Field_Exercise/topomaps/index.htm On-line tutorial about various aspects of maps, but useful
- http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/geology/leveson/core/linksa/profile.html Construction of profiles from contour plots
- http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/geology/leveson/core/linksa/comp.html Azimuths, bearings, and their interrelationships
- http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/geology/leveson/core/linksa/maptop.html Excellent website by Prof. David Leveson of Brooklyn College, CUNY (New York) containing informational links about azimuths, bearings, contours, gradients, and profiles
- http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/Private/PLSSTut/plsstut1.htm Step-by-step tutorial on PLSS
- http://www.fairview-industries.com/gismodule/PartOne.html History and description of PLSS; includes information on metes-and-bounds