

Amy Chisam
achisam@gmail.com
Georgia
State Director Contacted About Submission: Yes
Pilot Test Scheduled: Oct 15-22, 2022 – Georgia Scrimmage (Satellite)

Science in the News

PROPOSED EVENT CATEGORY: Inquiry & Problem Solving

PROPOSED EVENT DIVISION: Division B – Grades 6-9, Division C – Grades 9-12

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS ADDRESSED:

LS1D: Information Processing > Obtaining, Evaluation, and Communicating Information

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/search-standards>

1. **DESCRIPTION:** Participants will complete a written test based on current news within various fields of science.

A TEAM OF UP TO: 2

EYE PROTECTION: None

IMPOUND: NO

APPROXIMATE TIME/EVENT TIME: 50 minutes

2. **EVENT PARAMETERS:** Each team may bring one 8.5” x 11” sheet of paper that may contain information on both sides in any form and from any source along with two stand-alone non-programmable, non-graphing calculators.
3. **THE COMPETITION:** Participants will complete a written test broken into two parts:
 - a. **Part I: Current Events**
 - i. This part of the test will consist of multiple choice, true-false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, or calculation questions.
 - ii. Questions will focus on news developments from the previous three years. For the 2023 season, this means news that has been widely reported/published since May 1, 2020. This may include scientific breakthroughs/discoveries, inventions, scientific awards, studies, and more.
 - iii. The intent of this part is to raise general awareness that science is continually evolving and expanding. As such, questions should not focus on obscure developments or minor details.
 - iv. At least one question from each of the following science fields will be included:
 - (1) Life, Personal & Social Science
 - (2) Earth & Space Science
 - (3) Physical Science & Chemistry
 - (4) Technology & Engineering
 - b. **Part II: Science Communication & Analysis**
 - i. In this part of the test, participants will demonstrate critical thinking and communication skills based on a review of one or more source materials. Therefore, these questions will likely require short answer or essay responses.
 - ii. Questions may result from a focus on one or more activities, such as:
 - (1) Reading an excerpt of a research paper and putting its key information into news article format

(2) Watching a news report and creating an appropriate headline

(3) Comparing two or more articles on the same or related topics

iii. Sources used might include published research papers; news articles from newspapers, magazines, or scientific journals; video or audio clips from online media sources; etc. The source material(s) must be news-oriented and not general science education.

4. **SAMPLE QUESTIONS:**

a. **Part I:**

i. Which telescope was launched by NASA in Dec 2021 to study other universes?

ii. Which of the following groups of people does the CDC recommend receive a COVID-19 booster?

b. **Part II:**

i. Based on the research provided, who is most impacted by the findings in this study?

ii. As a science journalist, what are three follow-up questions you would ask the expert cited in this study?

iii. Which of the following articles best conveyed the findings of this study – and why?

5. **SCORING:**

a. High score wins.

b. Selected questions will be used to break ties.

c. The score will be composed of the following elements: Part I: 50-67%; Part II: 33-50%.

6. **RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:** ScienceNews Explores (formerly ScienceNews for Students), National Geographic, New Scientist, Popular Science, Smithsonian Magazine, as well as numerous field-specific news sources.