

22nd Annual NJDEP Mapping Contest Rules

The Mapping Contest is an opportunity to share one's work and expertise with colleagues in an enjoyable atmosphere. Refreshments are available as contestants explain and display their work. This contest focuses on the exchange of ideas. Any GIS user, from novice to expert, is apt to learn about an application or technique not considered in the past. The contest also is a good forum to get ideas for layouts and graphic design. Whether to get technical motivation, artistic inspiration, or just a better understanding of GIS, all DEP, state, non-profit, student, municipal, local, and county GIS users are encouraged to attend and participate.

Arrival Times

Map Presenters - If you plan on presenting a map in the contest, please arrive at NJDEP NO LATER than 9:15 AM to receive your contest materials. A digital image of your map will be projected during the one-minute map description portion of the program. Please consider sending a digital image of your registered map prior to the day of the event or a digital photo of your map will be taken when you first enter the main event room and used for projection. (Note: The digital images will be posted on the NJDEP Mapping Contest website after the close of the event.) When you enter the main event room an assistant will help you find the correct location to hang your map.

Observers - If you are coming to the contest as an observer, please arrive at 9:30 AM as the event will begin promptly at 10:00 AM. Arriving early will ensure time available to enjoy refreshments and network with colleagues prior to the beginning of the contest.

Permissible Map Entries

Beginning in 2009, all map entries must include New Jersey based data (use of additional location data is permissible).

Paper Maps – Each presenter is limited to entering a maximum of 2 hard-copy maps in the contest. Each hard-copy entry must be printed on paper and may be attached to a board or some other type of sturdy material for display. Paper maps will be taped to the main event room wall or you may bring an easel. There is no minimum size for paper maps; however, a maximum size of ‘ANSI E’ or 34” x 44” will be enforced. Additionally, each map entered may not comprise more than two sheets of the maximum size paper. Smaller maps may be entered using several pages when necessary. It is also advised to use high quality paper for all maps to avoid any fraying or wrinkling that may occur.

Non-Paper Maps – NJDEP welcomes the use of cartographic elements on non-paper based maps. However, maps must be of a hard-copy nature – no digital maps or documents visible only on computers are permitted this year.

NJDEP-Bureau of GIS reserves the right to disapprove of or disqualify any map(s) deemed unfit for contest or over-excessive by one single agency/presenting group. Once a submission is (dis)approved, the e-mail address listed on the registration form will be notified of the (dis)approval.

Presentation of Entries

Hard-Copy Map Presentation - Each map entered in the contest may officially be presented to the audience during the presentation portion of the contest. In the interests of time, presenters will be timed ONE MINUTE only to describe each map. When the one minute is declared over by the official timekeeper, the presenter must complete his/her description immediately to allow for the next map to be presented. All entries must be left in the main event room after the contest is over. Winning entries may be sent to the ESRI User's Conference Map Gallery, July 13–17, 2009. First place winners will be asked to submit a digital copy of the winning map to DEP-Bureau of GIS at a future date.

Voting Procedures

Hard-Copy Map Voting Procedure – Once all hard-copy map descriptions have been offered, there will be a to-be-determined time slot given for all attendees to vote. The voting categories for the 2009 hard-copy map competition are as follows:

Pre-determined Categories:

- Best Data Integration
- Best Software Integration
- Best Instructional Presentation
- Best Analytical Presentation
- Best Small Format
- Most Unique

Day-of Contest Categories:

- Best Cartographic Design
- Best Overall Map (NJDEP)
- Best Overall Map (Non-NJDEP)
- Newbie of the Year (First-time map entrant)

Each map must be entered in one of the pre-determined categories during the registration process. When at the contest, each map will be posted in a group alongside similar maps in the same category. Attendees must vote for no more than ONE map entry in each of the aforementioned categories. When a ballot is received with more than one vote per category, only the first vote will be counted. Attendees are requested to submit no more than ONE ballot per person.

Vote Count Procedures

Tallying Votes – Votes will be tallied at the contest venue after a given time period and when a significant amount of ballots have been added to the official ballot box(es).

First Place - A map will be considered a first place finisher when it has received the most votes per category. In the event of a tie for first place, both maps with the highest vote total will be considered first place finishers, and both map presenters will be granted certificates, or asked to select prizes simultaneously.

Second Place – A map will be considered a second place finisher when it has received the second highest amount of votes in one category. In the event of a tie for second place, both maps with the second highest vote total per category will be considered second place finishers, and both map presenters will be granted certificates, or asked to select prizes simultaneously

Prizes/Certificates

General Awards – After votes are tallied, first and second place maps in each category will be considered victorious and will receive a certificate each. In the likely event that a certain map wins first or second place awards for more than one category, the map presenter will receive certificates for each category won. However, the presenter of said map will be limited to no more than two certificates for each winning entry.