

Read the General Rules in the manuals and on [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org) as they apply to every event.

1. **DESCRIPTION:** This event integrates Personal Computing (PC) technology, the Internet, and quantitative data analysis. Teams are presented with a problem that requires quantitative data capture from the public Internet and the organization and presentation of data in a graphical format. Short answer questions related to the problem are also included.

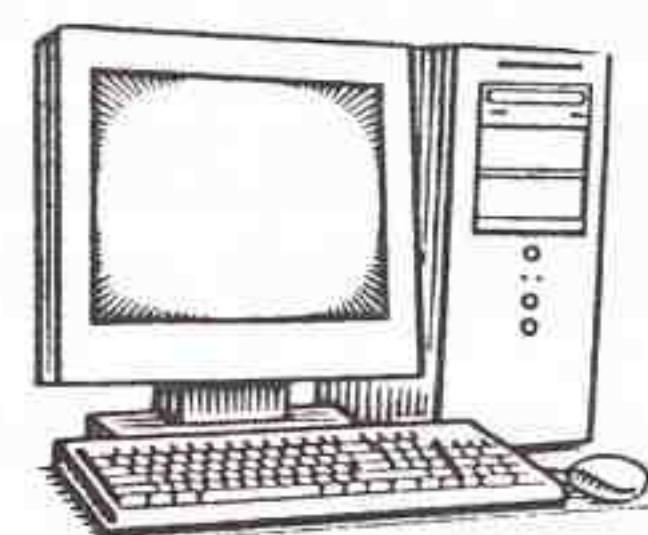
**A TEAM OF UP TO: 2**

**APPROXIMATE TIME: 50 Minutes**

2. **EVENT PARAMETERS:** No resource materials or calculators may be used during the competition. Blank tablet paper and writing instruments may be used to assist teams in organizing their thoughts, if desired. Prior to the event, teams may construct their own publicly accessible (non-password protected) websites to organize URL links and reference information for use during the competition. Teams may also freely access any publicly accessible www site or search (e.g., Google or others) to locate information within the <http://www.usgs.gov/> domain. However, during the event, no external communication is permitted with other individuals via e-mail, chat rooms, or other forms of collaborative computing; the penalty for an infraction of this nature will be immediate disqualification.

3. **THE COMPETITION:**

- a. During the competition, each team will be provided with a single IBM Compatible PC with word processing (MS Word), spreadsheet (MS Excel), WWW browser (MS Explorer), and Internet access. If an Apple/Mac platform will be used, the tournament director will notify teams.



- b. Teams will be given a problem in the area of geological and environmental science, and all required information will be located on web sites within the <http://www.usgs.gov/> domain.
- c. The problem statement will require the capture of quantitative information from the Internet followed by spreadsheet data entry and graphical presentation. A specific chart format (e.g., line chart, pie chart, stacked column chart, etc.) will be defined in the problem statement. All charts must include labeling for each axis (including units of measure) and legends to properly label data within the chart (i.e. elements within a pie chart, multiple lines in a line graph, etc.).
- d. The problem statement will also include up to five (5) short answer questions. Questions may involve analysis of data previously collected or require additional facts to be gathered via Internet search. Where additional searches are required, teams will be asked to list the specific source URL associated with each answer. The URL must be complete and must point to information within the <http://www.usgs.gov/> domain.
- e. Teams will construct an MS Excel (.xls) file that contains the data tables and graphics associated with the problem and an MS Word (.doc) file that contains the answers and URLs associated with the short answer questions. The event supervisor will specify how these files are to be submitted at the conclusion of the event. Teams should include their school name and team number (as appropriate) within both files to ensure proper identification by the event supervisor.

4. **SCORING:** High score wins based on a) Completeness and Accuracy of Quantitative Data Collected-20 Points. b) Completeness, Accuracy, and Format of Graphical Data Presentation-30 Points. c) Answers and URLs Associated with Short Answer Questions-50 Points. The tiebreakers shall be: 1) The number of short answer questions correctly answered, 2) The completeness and accuracy of quantitative data collected, and 3) The overall quality of graphical data presentation.

**Additional information**, sample problems, and supervisor guidance may be found at [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org).