



**The Geo-Institute**  
**of the American Society of Civil Engineers**  
**Presents**  
**the Rules for the National GeoPoster Competition**  
**at Geo-Congress 2020, Minneapolis, MN**

Rules published .....	October 7, 2019
Abstracts and electronic posters due .....	November 18, 2019 (by 11 pm EST)
Finalists notified and invited .....	January 10, 2020
Final versions of electronic posters due .....	January 20, 2020
Travel grant recipients notified .....	January 24, 2020
All invited posters need to be in place .....	February 26, 2020, Time TBD
Poster presentations for the public (all invited posters)	February 26, 2020, Time TBD
Final competition: Poster presentations and interviews of top six finalists only	February 26, 2020, Time TBD

**GeoCongress 2020 - Vision, Insight, Outlook**  
<https://www.geocongress.org/>

**GeoChallenge Official Information Website:** <http://www.mygeoworld.info/groups/profile/61033/geochallenge>

## Rules and Regulations

Student Design and Research Poster Session & Competition  
Geo-Congress 2020, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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**TOPICS AND CONTENT** – For the 2020 competition, the subject of the posters should be within geotechnical or geoenvironmental engineering. Some examples of acceptable poster topics include senior design projects, design class projects, or student research experiences. Posters should present original work by the student(s) but may contain content based upon work conducted under the direction of a professor.

**AUTHORSHIP** – It is understood that the project or research is completed under the direction of faculty. Please include your faculty directors/mentors as co-authors on the poster. Independent of how many authors there are (see Teams below), the faculty member(s) should be the last author(s).

**TEAMS** – Students may participate individually or as a team consisting of two students. However, if the poster is selected for a travel grant, the grant will be made to the primary author only.

**ELIGIBILITY** – To be eligible, the student(s) must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program for the Spring/Winter 2020 term. Multiple teams or individuals may apply from each school; however, students may not participate on multiple GeoPoster teams. Each student may submit only one abstract/poster. **Students must make their submittals using their school “.edu” email account.**

**SUBMITTAL** – Submissions require three components:

- 1) a **single** file submittal consisting of an abstract of up to **350** words detailing the topic and one graphic with caption, sent to [dvandenberge@tntech.edu](mailto:dvandenberge@tntech.edu) as a PDF file (preferred) or MS Word file;
- 2) a submission form (see Appendix A), and
- 3) an electronic submittal of the poster in PowerPoint or pdf (pdf preferred for large files).

All submittals will be acknowledged within 48 hours of their receipt. If you do not receive an acknowledgement, please contact Dr. Daniel VandenBerge right away. Abstracts submitted by **November 18, 2019 at 11 pm EST** will be considered; late submittals will not be accepted.

**SELECTION** – Invited posters will be selected from the abstract and electronic poster submittal based on the following criteria: technical content, compliance with rules and regulations, and professionalism (see Abstract/Poster Judging Rubric in Appendix B). The selection will be performed by a panel of geotechnical professionals. Up to 25 submissions may be invited to present in this Student Poster Session (however, not all will receive travel grants). Selected poster presenters will be notified by January 13, 2020. Only the primary authors of the highest-rated posters will receive travel grants to Geo-Congress 2020.

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Student Design and Research Poster Session & Competition  
Geo-Congress 2020, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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**PRESENTATION** – Each individual or team should be able to clearly present their project/research to interested persons within a few minutes and be able to answer questions about their work. Presenters should dress appropriately for a professional presentation.

**JUDGING** – The judging will be separated into two parts: **Part 1**) judging of the abstracts and electronic versions of the posters, at which time the invited presenters and travel grant recipients will be selected and the top 6 finalists will be announced, and **Part 2**) a final judging based on oral presentations of the top 6 finalist posters, which will be done at the conference. The competition aside, the authors whose posters ranked in the top 20-25 from the abstract round will be invited to present at the conference in this student poster session. Only posters that meet the submission guidelines will be considered.

The initial judging will be based on the “2020 GeoPoster Competition: Abstract and Electronic Poster Judging Rubric” (Appendix B). For the top 6 finalists advancing to the on-site competition, the scoring will be zeroed out prior to the final round. On February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the top 6 finalists will compete through a formal oral presentation to the judges, based on the “2020 GeoPoster Final Competition Judging Rubric” (Appendix C). In the event of tie scores, the session chair and/or judges’ discretion and will determine the rank of the poster. During the final oral presentation (February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020), the judges will focus only on the top 6 finalists. The time and schedule for this phase of the competition will be communicated to the finalists on or before January 13, 2020.

**AWARDS** – The student author(s) of the top three ranked posters will receive awards, certificates and cash prizes.

**MATERIALS** – Each invited project will be provided space in a poster stand at the session. Teams or individuals from each school are responsible for printing and transporting their posters. Posters may not be larger than 42 inches wide by 36 inches tall (landscape orientation).

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT** – It is expected that a select number of students submitting abstracts/posters will be considered for travel grants to help cover a portion of their travel costs to attend the conference and/or student conference registration. Students may enter more than one GeoChallenge competition but may receive financial support from only one competition. For the top-rated posters, a travel grant may be provided for the primary author only.

**Rules and Regulations**

Student Design and Research Poster Session & Competition

Geo-Congress 2020, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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**APPENDIX A:****GEOPOSTER ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM**

**Rules and Regulations**

Student Design and Research Poster Session & Competition  
Geo-Congress 2020, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM**

Student Design and Research Poster Session & Competition  
Geo-Congress 2020, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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**Name (first author):**

**University/College:**

**Major:**

**Faculty Research/Project Advisor (may also be listed as a co-author on the poster):**

**Degree expected (e.g., BSCE, MSCE, or PhD):**

**Poster title:**

**University email address (must be .edu):**

**Career Goals:** fields in which you will pursue employment (rank in order of preference 1-4, with 1 being the highest)

- Academic
- Construction
- Consulting
- Government
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**List your Awards/Honors/Certifications (if any):**

**List the co-authors of this poster with their degrees and affiliations:**

**Rules and Regulations**

Student Design and Research Poster Session & Competition

Geo-Congress 2020, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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**APPENDIX B:**

**GEOPOSTER ABSTRACT JUDGING RUBRIC**

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Student Design and Research Poster Session & Competition  
Geo-Congress 2020, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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**2020 GEOPOSTER COMPETITION: ABSTRACT AND ELECTRONIC POSTER JUDGING RUBRIC**

Author(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Project/Research \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Judging Criteria</b>	<b>Points Awarded</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>
Title is representative, descriptive, and succinct		10
Need for the study is introduced and conveyed		10
Technical content is complete		10
Graphics support the technical content		10
Results are summarized		10
Quality of writing (Grammar, spelling, units), ideas flow in logical progression, content is presented clearly and accurately		15
Aesthetic appeal and professionalism of the poster		5
Research approach is sound		15
Research is mature, appropriate timing for publication		10
Overall quality of the abstract and poster suggests a quality poster presentation will follow		5
	<b>Total Score:</b>	<b>100</b>

**Rules and Regulations**

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Geo-Congress 2020, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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**APPENDIX C:****GEOPOSTER FINAL COMPETITION JUDGING RUBRIC**



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Geo-Congress 2020, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Poster #: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2020 GeoPoster Final Competition Judging Rubric

Judging Criteria	Points Awarded	Points Possible
Technical content		30
Ability of the poster to clearly convey technical information		30
Aesthetic appeal and professionalism of the poster		5
Conclusions adequately supported by data		10
Finalists Only – Presentation Quality		25
<b>Total Score:</b>		<b>100</b>

### *To assist in your score of Technical Content:*

Content of Poster	Excellent (5 pts)	Good (4 pts)	Adequate (2-3 pts)	Insufficient (0-1 pt)
Outline is well defined				
Objectives are clear				
Title is representative of objectives				
Arguments or ideas flow in a logical progression				
Hypotheses are identified				
Discussion engages deeper and more complex considerations				

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***To assist in your score of "Ability of the poster to convey technical information"***

<b>Appearance of poster</b>	<b>Excellent (5 pts)</b>	<b>Good (4 pts)</b>	<b>Adequate (2-3 pts)</b>	<b>Insufficient (0-1 pt)</b>
Title is descriptive				
Graphics support the contents				
Graphics are appropriately referenced				
Poster is visually engaging				
Text is clear and effective				
Visual tools are used effectively				

***To assist in your score of "Presentation Quality" (For Finalists only)***

<b>Presentation delivery</b>	<b>Excellent (5 pts)</b>	<b>Good (4 pts)</b>	<b>Adequate (2-3 pts)</b>	<b>Insufficient (0-1 pt)</b>
Delivery is smooth (did you practice?)				
Delivery is lively and engaging				
The project/research is delivered in a logical order that refers to the poster as a presentation tool				
Presenter is dressed appropriately				
Presenter answers questions professionally				