



GEO-
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The Geo-Institute
of the American Society of Civil Engineers
Presents
the Rules for the National GeoPoster Competition
GeoCongress 2026

Rules published	September 29, 2025
Abstracts and electronic posters due	December 07, 2025 (by 11:59 PM EST)
Finalists notified and invited	January 18, 2026
Final versions of electronic posters due	February 06, 2026
Poster presentations for the public (all invited posters)	March 10, 2026
Final competition: Poster presentations and interviews of finalists only	March 10, 2026

GeoCongress 2026

<https://www.geocongress.org/>

GeoChallenge Official

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

TOPICS AND CONTENT – For the 2026 competition, the subject of the posters should be within geotechnical and/or geo-environmental engineering areas. Some examples of acceptable poster topics include but are not limited to senior design projects, classroom design projects, and 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 well understood that the project or research is completed under the direction of a 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 no more than two students (in addition to faculty advisors). In the matter of two members, one must be undergraduate if the other member is a graduate student. Else, two undergraduate members can form a team.

ELIGIBILITY – To be eligible, the student(s) must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program for the Spring/Winter 2026 term. Multiple teams or individuals may apply from each school; however, same student/s may not participate on multiple GeoPoster teams. Each student can submit only one abstract/poster.

SUBMITTAL – All submissions will be made using an electronic form at this provided link ([Click Here](#)). The following will be collected electronically:

- 1) submission form, including submitter name, university/college, major, faculty advisor(s), expected degree, poster title, poster category, and coauthors.
- 2) a copy of the poster in PDF format (5 MB limit). Note that the upload portion of the form requires the use of a Google account. Students not wishing to use a Google account may submit their files to Nancy Ingabire Abayo via email (ingabirn@lafayette.edu).
- 3) an audio abstract recorded by the author/s that is 3 minutes or less in length. The audio abstract should focus on the key points of the poster and serves to introduce the reviewers to the poster content.
- 4) GeoPoster 2026 will follow **blind submission** rules - even for final submissions. As such, the students are advised not to put their name/contact information, faculty advisor's name/contact information, school logo, any other identifying information in the poster and abstract. Only the title of the poster at top would suffice. In the audio abstract, no student introduction is required, only a description of the research. Any identifying information about the author/s and school in the audio abstract and poster would disqualify the participant.

Forms, posters, and audio abstracts submitted by **December 07, 2025 at 11:59 PM (Noon) EST** will be considered; late submittals will not be accepted.

Rules and Regulations
Student Design and Research Poster Session & Competition
GeoCongress 2026, Salt Lake City, UT, USA

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 A). The selection will be performed by a panel of geotechnical professionals from academia and industry. Up to 25 submissions may be invited to participate in a Student Poster Session held in conjunction with GeoCongress 2026. Selected poster presenters will be notified by **January 18, 2026**.

PRESENTATION – Each individual should be able to clearly present their project/research to interested people within a few minutes and be able to answer questions about their work. In cases where the poster is co-authored, only one presenter is allowed for the day of the competition. Additionally, only the student listed on the submission of the poster can present (i.e., no substitution). Presenters should dress appropriately for a professional presentation.

JUDGING – The judging will be separated into two rounds in two categories (graduates, undergraduates): **Round 1**) judging of the abstracts and electronic versions of the posters, at which time the invited presenters will be selected and the eight finalists (four graduates, four undergraduates) will be announced, and **Round 2**) a final judging based on oral presentations of the eight finalist posters. Judging of the eight finalists will take place during the conference (**March 10, 2026**). The competition aside, the authors whose posters ranked outside the finalist 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.

In case a team is comprised of a graduate student and an undergraduate student; it will be considered in the ‘Graduate’ category. In order to be considered in the undergraduate category, either the individual or both members (team) should be undergraduate students.

The initial judging will be based on the “2026 GeoPoster Competition: Abstract and Electronic Poster Judging Rubric” (Appendix A). For the eight finalists, the score will be zeroed out prior to the final round. During GeoCongress 2026, the eight finalists will compete through an oral presentation to a group of six or seven judges, based on the “2026 GeoPoster Final Competition Judging Rubric” (Appendix B). In the event of tie scores, the GeoPoster Directors and/or judges’ discretion will determine the rank of the poster. The time and schedule for this phase of the competition will be communicated to the finalists before the conference.

AWARDS – The student author(s) of the top two from graduate and undergraduate category each ranked posters will receive awards commemorating their accomplishment. As such, there will be a total of 4 awards from this category.

Rules and Regulations
Student Design and Research Poster Session & Competition
GeoCongress 2026, Salt Lake City, UT, USA

APPENDIX A
GEOPOSTER ABSTRACT JUDGING RUBRIC

GEOPOSTER 2026 COMPETITION: ABSTRACT AND ELECTRONIC POSTER JUDGING
RUBRIC

An electronic form version of this rubric will be used to judge all posters in Round 1. At least three judges will evaluate each poster.

*As GeoPoster 2026 is following **blind submission**, students are advised not to include any specific site location name in the poster. For example, if the research is conducted in field scale in Ames, Iowa; mention 'one suitable geographic location' in the poster instead of the actual location. This applies for the final poster submissions as well.*

Judging Criteria	Points Awarded	Points Possible
Title is representative, descriptive, and succinct		5
Rationale 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)		5
Logical presentation - ideas flow in logical progression, content is presented clearly and accurately		10
Methodology is clearly stated and understandable		10
Research has reached an appropriate time for presentation (Research is mature enough)		10
Research Societal Impact		5
Audio abstract is clear and complements the poster		5
Aesthetic appeal and professionalism of the poster		5
Key references and Acknowledgement		5
Total Score:		100

APPENDIX B
GEOPOSTER FINAL COMPETITION JUDGING RUBRIC
(to be conducted during GeoCongress 2026)

Rules and Regulations
Student Design and Research Poster Session & Competition
GeoCongress 2026, Salt Lake City, UT, USA

Finalists will present their posters during GeoCongress 2026 in Round 2. Each finalist will be evaluated based on the rubric shown below.

Technical Content	Excellent (5 pts)	Good (4 pts)	Fair (3 pts)	Poor (2 pts)	Insufficient (1 pt)
Title is descriptive and representative of objectives					
Outline and objectives are well defined with focus narrowed to key points addressed by the research					
Appropriate balance between to motivation, methodology, and results/discussion					
Arguments or ideas flow in a logical progression					
Hypotheses or research questions are identified					
Discussion engages deeper and more complex considerations and broader implications					
Research Societal Impact					
Subtotal (out of 35):					
Poster Design	Excellent (5 pts)	Good (4 pts)	Fair (3 pts)	Poor (2 pts)	Insufficient (1 pt)
Graphics support the contents and are referenced					
Figures are concise and clear with succinct captions					
Poster is visually engaging					
Text is clear and effective					
Aesthetic appeal and professionalism of the poster					
Visual tools are used effectively					
Quality of writing (Grammar, spelling, units)					
Subtotal (out of 35):					
Oral Presentation	Excellent (5 pts)	Good (4 pts)	Fair (3 pts)	Poor (2 pts)	Insufficient (1 pt)
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 properly					
Presenter answers questions professionally					
Presenter is conversant in the subject area and clearly articulates the limits of their knowledge, if necessary					
Subtotal (out of 30):					