

## STATE OF CONNECTICUT G.I.S. COUNCIL

# GIS Day 2009 Thematic Map Contest

### What is "GIS"?

**GIS** is an acronym for **Geographic or Geospatial Information Systems**, a computer program used to store different types of information and link that information to a specific geographic location. It allows for analysis and display of information on maps and charts within a geographic context.

### What is "GIS Day"?

**GIS Day** is part of the National Geographic Society's Geography Action, a year-long initiative encompassing key educational achievements such as GIS Day and Geography Awareness Week. GIS Day is playing a powerful role in creating geographic awareness throughout our world. GIS Day provides an international forum for users of GIS technology to demonstrate real-world applications that are making a difference in our society.

### What is the "Thematic Map Contest"?

We are inviting school students from around the State to create and submit a colorful thematic map, one per class, that shows something interesting or unique about the State of Connecticut (i.e. towns by population change, precipitation amounts, etc). The theme can be any of your choosing, as long as it pertains to the entire state. The paper color map must be at least 24" x 36" and be accompanied by supporting documentation like a spread sheet showing the data shown on the map and a 1 page explanation of the project and the map. The maps will be judged for content, originality, and creativity with points for cartographic correctness and presentation.

### Is there a **prize** to win?

**YES!** Aside from prestigious bragging rights, the winning class will be recognized and asked to present the map at GIS Day to the State GIS Council! In addition, the winning class will take home the "Teaching Geography" education package from the American Association of Geographers - chock full of great classroom presentations, a set of student activities, and materials showing connections between spatial thinking and learning in math, science, and history!

### Who can I contact for more information?

E-mail Thad Dymkowski at [tdymkowski@newingtonct.gov](mailto:tdymkowski@newingtonct.gov) or call (860) 665-8592.