

RED PLANET

(FINAL DRAFT 3.20.08)

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TEAM EVENT: Division A

ESTIMATED TIME NEEDED FOR EVENT: 45 Minutes

MAX/MIN NUMBER OF STUDENTS NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE: Max of Two (2)

IMPOUND: No

OBJECTIVE(S): Students will be studying topics as they relate to the planet Mars.

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY EVENT JUDGE(S): Computers (if available), geologic specimens, photos, illustrations, diagrams, other miscellaneous visual resources, written descriptions/directions, measurement tools, writing utensils, paper, and/or anything else they see as valuable to the exercise(s)/activities they develop.

B

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EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO BE BROUGHT BY PARTICIPATING STUDENTS: Writing utensil(s), paper, non-graphing scientific calculator, a two-inch participant-produced notebook and up to two (2) reference hand-books.

EVENT PREPARATION: Red Planet students are expected to have general knowledge about the planet Mars. In the event, students will be required to provide written answers to questions regarding such topics as:

- Geography • Geology and geologic history • Atmosphere • Climate • Hydrology & ice caps • Moons
- Orbit & rotation • Exploration: past/current/future missions • NASA / JPL, and use of their web sites
- Life on Mars • Robotics and remote sensing • Mars in human culture: past, present, and future.

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EVENT PROCEDURES: 1) Students report directly to the event location five (5) minutes before the event begins. 2) Event judge(s) will invite Red Planet students into the testing area when ready. 3) Students may be given last minute instructions, a brief description of the event, expectations, or other information. 4) Exercise(s)/Activities prepared by event judges may include:

- Stations through which students will rotate, which may include computer/internet technology.
- Hands-on exercises, in which students examine, test or identify physical specimens.
- Written tests, which may or may not include photos, illustrations and/or diagrams, written problems, or written statements related to Mars.

D

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SCORING: Event judge(s) will assess student response(s) to event materials. Event judge(s) will rank teams accordingly. Ties will be broken by comparing/contrasting [tied teams'] scores on pre-determined questions.

E

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RECOMMENDED STUDY/PRACTICE RESOURCES: National Science Decathlon Message Board on-line student event help and coaches resources for coaches and students: www.sciencedecathlon.com/community.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Event judges, not coaches, parents, tournament directors or any other individuals, are responsible for holding students accountable for abiding by the rules of this event.

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