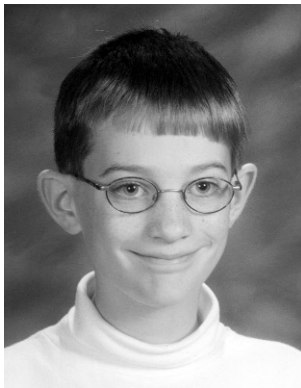




National Finalists: 2001 National Geographic Bee

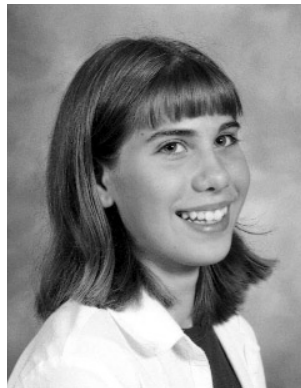
May 22-23
Washington, D.C.

ALABAMA



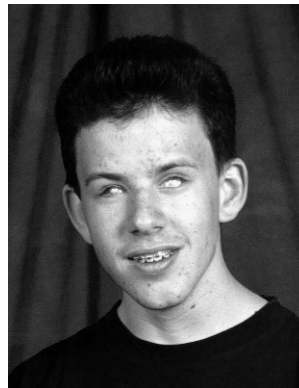
Phillip Graves is 10 years old and in the 5th grade at Daphne Intermediate School in Daphne, southeast of Mobile. He enjoys roller blading and snow skiing. If he ruled the world, he would give everyone an atlas to spark their interest in geography. He would like to visit the sites of Moscow.

ALASKA



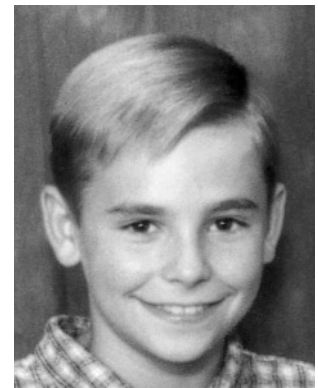
Rachel Schuerger is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Schoenbar Middle School in Ketchikan, southeast of Juneau. She plays the clarinet and enjoys dance, soccer, foreign languages and travel. She would like to be a U.S. ambassador. She is going to Japan as an exchange student this summer.

ARIZONA

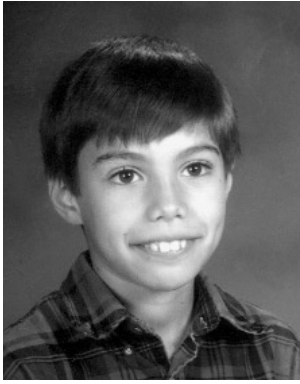


Paul Ruffner is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Granite Mountain Middle School in Prescott, northwest of Phoenix. He has taken part in track and field events in the Braille Olympics for the past four years. He plays the piano and saxophone and enjoys goal ball and listening to World Band Radio.

ARKANSAS



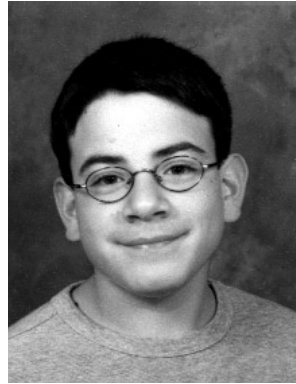
Kyle Macfarlan is a 12-year-old homeschooled 6th grader in Siloam Springs on the north-west border of the state. His dream is to be a Supreme Court justice. He enjoys reading about World War II and would like to visit the Normandy beaches, site of the D-Day invasion.

CALIFORNIA

Fedor Manin is 13 years old and in the 8th grade at J. L. Stanford Middle School in Palo Alto. He composes and plays classical music. The coolest place he has visited is Alaska, and he would like to go to New Zealand and Borneo to see "the beautiful and unusual nature."

COLORADO

Nathan McNew is a 13-year-old 7th grader from Jefferson Academy Junior High School in Broomfield, near Denver. He collects coins and plays violin in a youth symphony orchestra. He would like to be leader of the United Nations. He likes to read and his favorite sport is baseball.

CONNECTICUT

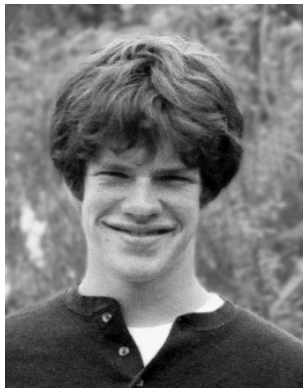
Sam Krumholz is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Elisabeth Adams Middle School in Guilford, east of New Haven. He enjoys playing basketball and golf. He also runs cross-country and track. His favorite travel destination so far has been Granada, Spain, and he hopes to visit Israel.

DELAWARE

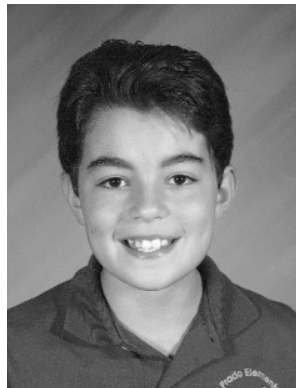
Ramsey Furse is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Lewes Middle School in Lewes, near Rehoboth Beach. He represented Delaware in the 1999 and 2000 National Geographic Bees. If he could be anyone in the world, he would be the U.S. president. He enjoys reading, riding his bike, and swimming.

DEPT. OF DEFENSE

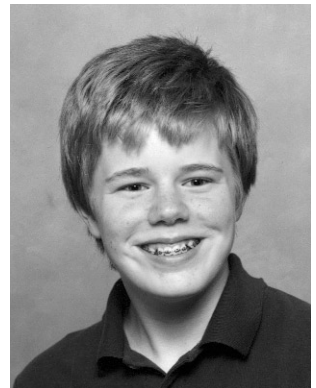
Ryan Felix is 13 years old and in the 7th grade at Naples American High School in Naples, Italy. He loves visiting Rome. He would like to go to the Amazon rain forest in Brazil as he's intrigued by its natural beauty. He enjoys programming computers and playing chess and soccer.

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

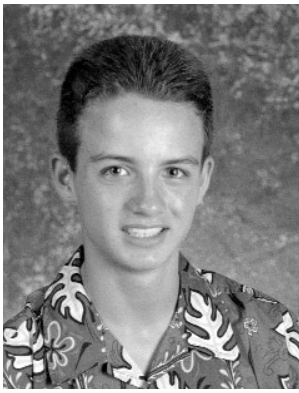
Ben Rothenberg is a 14-year-old 8th grader at St. Albans School. He plays baseball, tennis and hockey, where his position is goalie. Death Valley is the nicest place he has visited, because of its great sand formations. He would like to go to Greece to see the ruins and artifacts.

FLORIDA

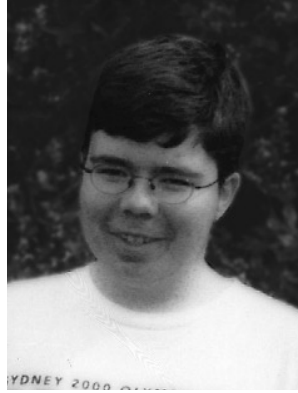
Aaron Kiersh is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Del Prado Elementary School in Boca Raton. He enjoys playing sports and is on a travel basketball team. If he ruled the world, he would give Los Angeles an NFL team. New York, where he watched the World Series, is his favorite city.

GEORGIA

Robert McRae is a 14-year-old 8th grade homeschooler from Barnesville, south of Atlanta. He likes to play music, especially the recorder. Great Smoky Mountains National Park is one of the best places he has visited, and he hopes to go to Europe to explore its historic cities.

HAWAII

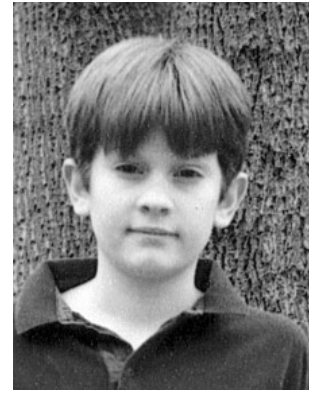
Nick Jachowski is 14 years old and in the 8th grade at Samuel Enoka Kalama Intermediate School in Makawao, Maui. He enjoys rock climbing, water polo, juggling, and yoyoing. He thinks the best job in the world is to be a writer or photographer for the National Geographic Society.

IDAHO

Alex Price is a 13-year-old 7th grader from West Junior High School in Boise. He went to Sydney to watch the 2000 Olympics. He's interested in quantum mechanics. If he could be anyone in the world, he would be Emperor of the World "as I like the idea of being able to do anything I want."

ILLINOIS

David Westlake is a 13-year-old 8th grader at St. Emily School in Mount Prospect, near Chicago. He has visited 38 states, Mexico and Canada, and hopes to travel to Europe. He plays the saxophone and is learning golf. He is a Boy Scout, working on his Eagle rank.

INDIANA

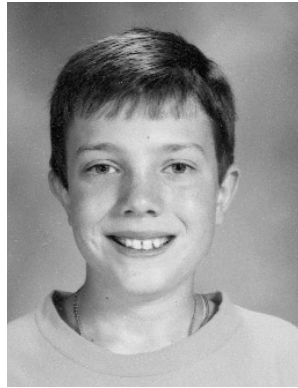
Erik Bolt is a 13-year-old homeschooled 7th grader from South Bend. He will be taking part in the National Spelling Bee this year for the third time. He enjoys drawing, hockey, and playing the cello. He enjoys science fiction and has written some of his own stories.

IOWA

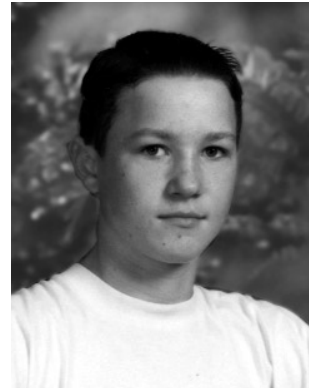
Conor Bresnan is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Indianola Middle School in Indianola, south of Des Moines. He represented Iowa in the 2000 National Geographic Bee. He enjoys acting and his hobby is collecting box office information from around the world. He'd like to visit Italy.

KANSAS

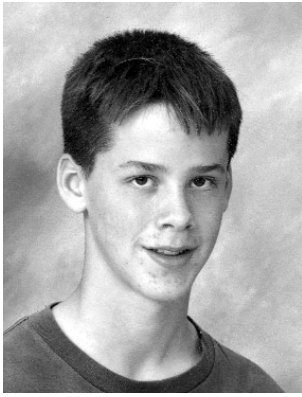
Ben Detrixhe is a 10-year-old 4th grader at Clyde Elementary School in Clyde, northwest of Topeka. If he could be anyone in the world, he would be his dog, "as he has good owners and doesn't have to go to school." If he ruled the world, he'd make weekends longer and school more interesting.

KENTUCKY

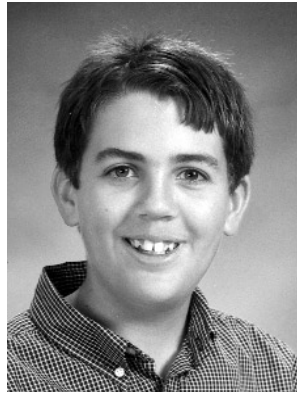
Alexander Morgan is a 13-year-old 8th grader at South Marshall Middle School in Benton in the western part of the state. He likes reading and computer programming. The best place he has visited is Washington, D.C., and he'd like to go to Africa and Australia to see the wildlife and farms.

LOUISIANA

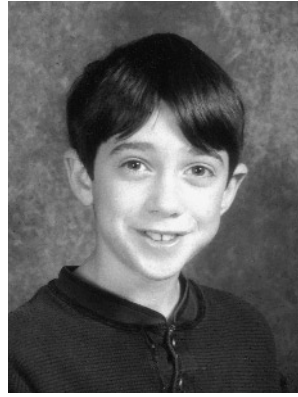
Hank Legan is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Cope Middle School in Bossier City, near Shreveport. He represented Louisiana in the 2000 National Geographic Bee. He finds geography fun, as he enjoys military history and likes knowing where battles took place. He plays golf and soccer.

MAINE

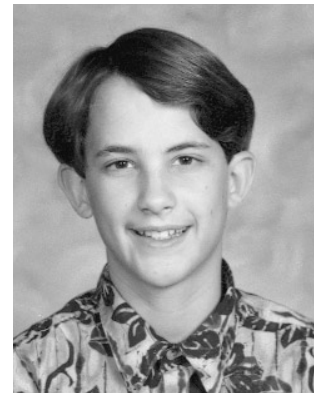
Morgan Kerr is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Islesboro Central School in Islesboro on an island off the Maine coast. He enjoys soccer and listening to rap. He would love to snowboard on Mt. Hood in Oregon, and the person he would most like to be is basketball star Allen Iverson.

MARYLAND

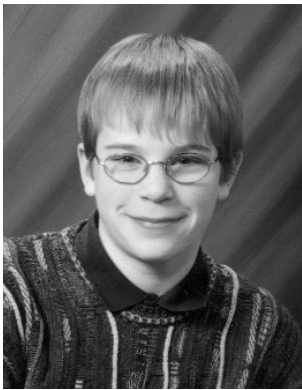
Michael Ruthenberg-Marshall is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Our Lady of Mercy School in Potomac, near Washington, D.C. If he ruled the world, he'd try to alleviate AIDS in Africa. He enjoys writing and acting. Last year he explored London and he'd like to see the rest of Europe.

MASSACHUSETTS

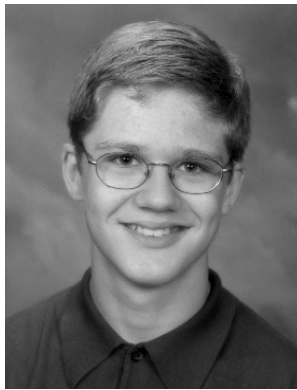
Jay Ben Markson is a 12-year-old 7th grader at George R. Austin Middle School in Lakeville, south of Boston. He is interested in history, especially the Civil War. The best place he has visited is Colonial Williamsburg. He'd like to go to Scotland and Israel. He enjoys playing the piano.

MICHIGAN

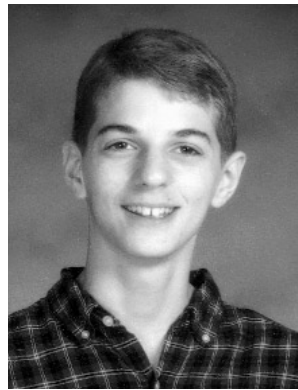
Alex Lane is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Central Grade School in Traverse City. He is a staunch environmentalist, active in the Sierra Club. He is a published writer and poet and enjoys sailing, building Web sites and drawing buildings. He hopes to visit France.

MINNESOTA

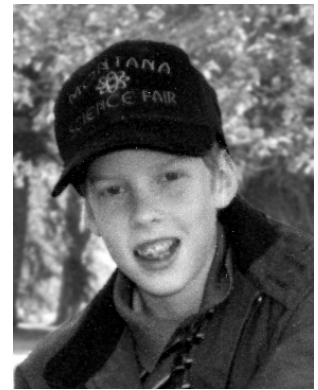
Erik Johnson is 13 years old and in the 8th grade at Lakeview Christian Academy in Duluth. He would like to be a Navy pilot so he can fly fast planes. He enjoys playing soccer and spending time on the computer. His favorite destination is Hawaii and he would like to visit Israel.

MISSISSIPPI

Ford Flippin is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Jackson Academy in Jackson. He has won many awards in speech and debate tournaments. He enjoys baseball, track, music, and kayaking. He likes geography as "it allows my mind to go places I might otherwise never get to go to."

MISSOURI

Tim Schisler is a 13-year-old 7th grader at St. Raphael the Archangel School in St. Louis. He is a Boy Scout and enjoys reading, especially auto magazines. He'd like to be the multi-millionaire owner of a car company. He hopes to visit Hawaii as "I like warm weather all year."

MONTANA

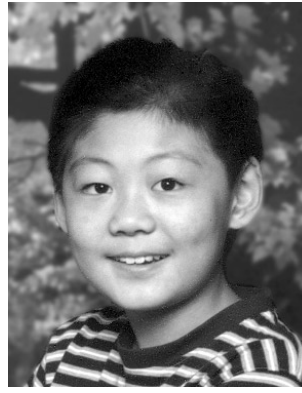
Caleb Harris is a 14-year-old homeschooled 8th grader in Missoula, west of Helena. His interests include computers, swimming, stamp collecting, and the Civil Air Patrol. He won a blue ribbon for photography at the Western Montana Fair. He'd like to go scuba diving in Hawaii.

NEBRASKA

Desereé Johnston is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Orchard Public School in Orchard, northwest of Omaha. One of her main interests is travel, and she has visited every continent except Antarctica. She is the reigning Miss Nebraska National Pre-Teen Queen. She enjoys dancing and reading.

NEVADA

Jim Hoffman is 13 years old and an 8th grader at Helen Cannon Middle School in Las Vegas. He hopes to work with animals when he grows up. If he could be anyone in the world, it would be Bill Gates, "because of how much good I could do with all that money."

NEW HAMPSHIRE

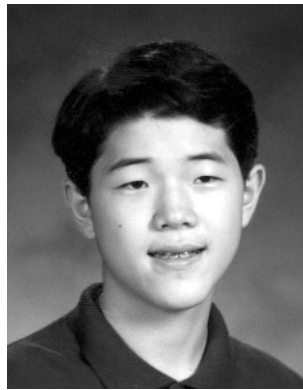
James Lou is 11 years old and in the 6th grade at Bicentennial Elementary School in Nashua in the southern part of the state. His interests include playing the piano, studying elephants, and meteorology. He would like to go to Alaska to whale watch, explore glaciers and see Mt. McKinley.

NEW JERSEY

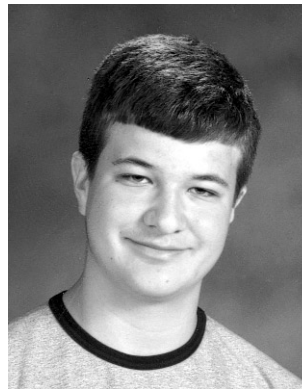
Alex Alferiev is a 14-year-old 7th grader at Charles W. Lewis Middle School in Blackwood, south of Camden. He would like to visit the Indian Ocean island of Kerguelen, with its fjords and glaciers, "as it would be cool to see penguins, seals and whales outside your house."

NEW MEXICO

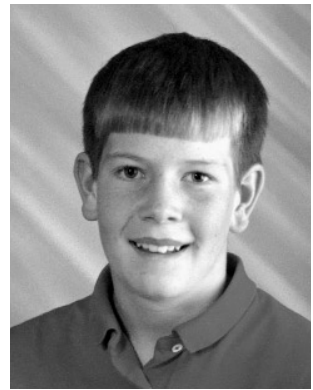
Peter Indall is a 14-year-old 8th grader at St. Michael's High School in Santa Fe. He represented New Mexico in the 2000 National Geographic Bee. He loves reading. If he could be anyone in the world, he'd be director Steven Spielberg, "as I want to own a movie studio one day."

NEW YORK

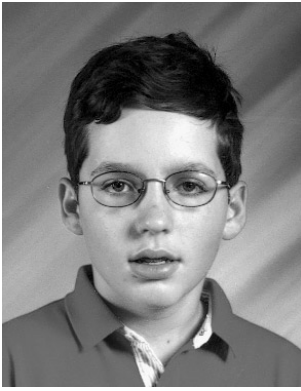
Michael Oh is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Transit Middle School in East Amherst, near Buffalo. He represented New York in the 1999 National Geographic Bee. He would like to be an inventor and "make something useful and absolutely new." He admires Captain Cook and J.R.R. Tolkien.

NORTH CAROLINA

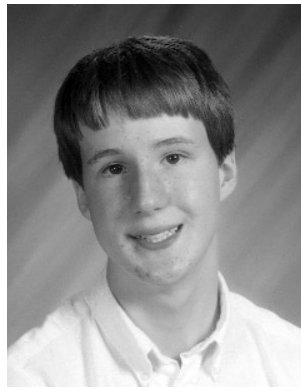
Phillip Golladay is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Weddington Middle School in Matthews, near Charlotte. He represented Alabama in the 2000 National Geographic Bee. He hopes to become a diplomat. He'd like to meet Bill Gates, Colin Powell, and Henry Kissinger.

NORTH DAKOTA

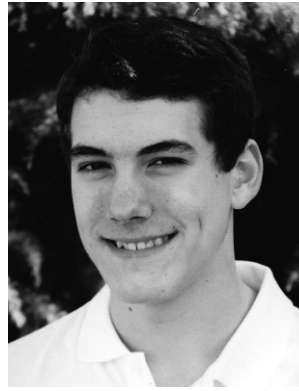
John Rice is a homeschooled 13-year-old 7th grader in Maddock, near the center of the state. He represented North Dakota in the 2000 National Geographic Bee. He likes historical geography and studying World War II battles. He enjoys fishing and hunting and takes part in 4-H competitions.

OHIO

Bill Isaacs is 14 years old and in the 8th grade at Walnut Springs Middle School in Westerville, northeast of Columbus. He enjoys reading and baseball. If he could be anyone in the world, he would be owner of his favorite sports team, the Cleveland Indians.

OKLAHOMA

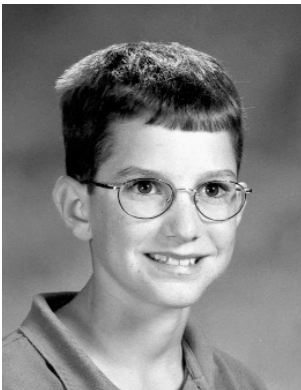
Matt Pargeter is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Monte Cassino School in Tulsa. He represented Oklahoma in the 1998 National Geographic Bee. He is a two-time State Academic Bowl champion and a 2000 National Dance champion. He enjoys acting and cooking.

OREGON

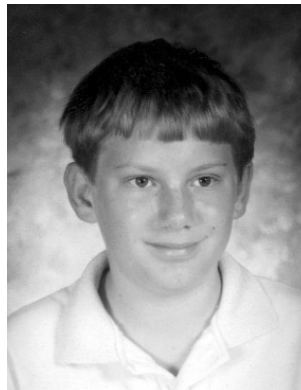
Alex King is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Cal Young Middle School in Eugene. He represented Oregon in the 2000 National Geographic Bee. He would like to visit every country on every continent. He enjoys biking, birding, drawing, and World War II history.

PACIFIC TERRITORIES

Matt Spencer is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Guam South Elementary/Middle School in Santa Rita, Guam. He won an island-wide essay contest, is on a swim team, and enjoys surfing and windsurfing. If he ruled the world, the first thing he would do is ban homework.

PENNSYLVANIA

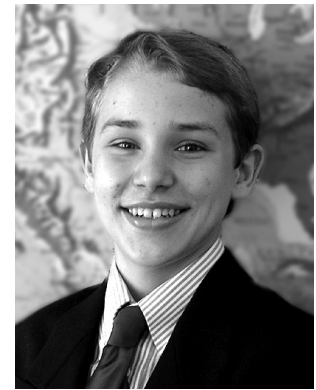
Tom Grant is a 14-year-old 8th grader at St. Joseph the Worker School in Orefield, near Allentown. He hopes to be a Congressional page. He volunteers over the summer at a nursing home. A roller coaster enthusiast, he'd like to visit every amusement park in the world.

PUERTO RICO

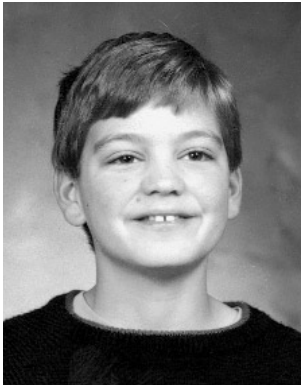
Daniel Beaver is 14 years old and in the 8th grade at Southwestern Educational Society School in Mayagüez. His interests include playing the guitar and computer games. If he ruled the world, he'd put an end to the international arms race and encourage new energy sources.

RHODE ISLAND

Alex Pytka is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Cumberland Middle School in Cumberland, north of Providence. If he could be anyone in the world, he'd be Henry Ford, as he has always liked cars and would like to know how they began. He'd like to hang out with Tiger Woods and Michael Jordan.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Thomas Beihl is a homeschooled 13-year-old 8th grader from Saluda, west of Columbia. His brother David was the 1999 National Geographic Bee champion. His interests include model rocketry and computers. He loved visiting Australia and would like to see the Great Wall of China.

SOUTH DAKOTA

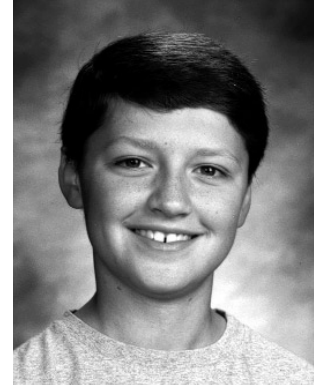
Zack Abrahamson is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Southwest Middle School in Rapid City. He has placed fourth in both the Maryland and South Dakota state chess championships. People he would most like to hang out with are Nelson Mandela, John Lennon, and Alexander the Great.

TENNESSEE

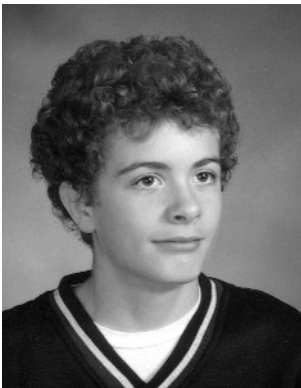
David Bell is a 15-year-old 8th grader, homeschooled in Newport. He enjoys building Lego models and would like to visit Legoland in Denmark. He also hopes to go to Samoa one day. His other interests include history, science and playing chess. He took 4th place in the 2000 State 4-H Horse Bowl.

TEXAS

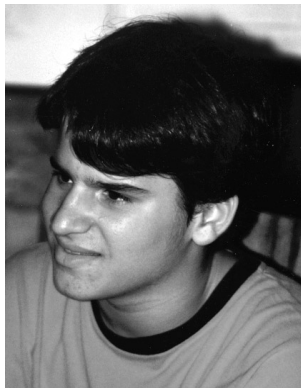
Jason Ferguson is a homeschooled 13-year-old 8th grader from Dallas. He represented Texas in the 2000 National Geographic Bee. He is a Boy Scout and enjoys karate and reading. If he could be anyone in the world, he would choose President George W. Bush. He'd like to visit Japan.

UTAH

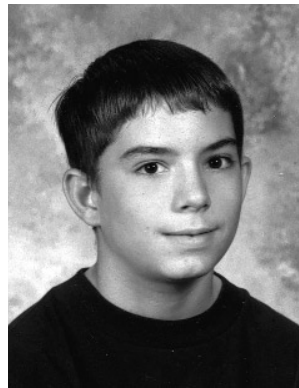
Daniel Blatter is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Wasatch Junior High School in Salt Lake City. He represented Utah in the 1999 and 2000 National Geographic Bees. He plays the trombone in a jazz band. His dream profession is to be a very successful writer. He wants to visit Kenya.

VERMONT

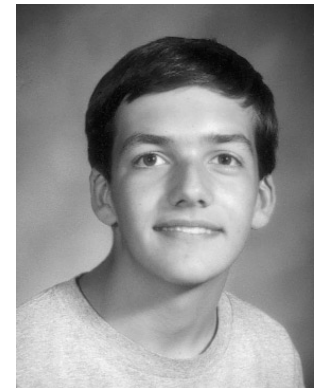
Sean O'Hara is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Rutland Middle School in Rutland, in the central part of the state. He enjoys reading and camping. The best place he has visited is Gettysburg, where he toured the battlefields, and he hopes to travel to Europe and visit historical sites.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Max Hoffman is 13 years old and an 8th grader at Antilles School in St. Thomas. He would like to be Chief Justice of the United States, so he could have an impact on interpreting laws. If he ruled the world, he would promote global literacy. He would like to visit Italy because of its medieval culture.

VIRGINIA

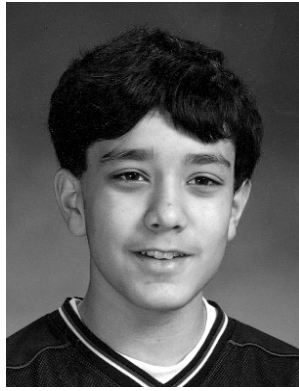
Brad Blomstrom is a 13-year-old 8th grader at Longfellow Middle School in Falls Church, near Washington, D.C. He would enjoy being the U.S. President. If he ruled the world, he would try to find an official language. He enjoys playing baseball. He would like to visit the African jungle.

WASHINGTON

Kyle Haddad-Fonda is a 14-year-old 8th grader at The Evergreen School in Shoreline, a suburb of Seattle. He represented Washington in the 1999 and 2000 National Geographic Bees. If he ruled the world, he'd protect all sites of antiquity. He plays the classical harp and runs track.

WEST VIRGINIA

Paul Volpe is 14 years old and in the 8th grade at St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling. He is part of an Odyssey of the Mind team that will take part in the world finals in Maryland in June. He enjoys playing piano, and he'd like to travel "wherever I can get to, as there is so much to discover."

WISCONSIN

Sean Rao is a 12-year-old 6th grader at St. Hubert School in Hubertus, northwest of Milwaukee. He'd like to be an astronaut and go to Mars. His main interest is history, and he hopes to visit Stonehenge and medieval sites in Britain. Among the people he admires is C.S. Lewis.

WYOMING

Adam Towler is a 15-year-old 8th grader at Laramie Junior High School in Laramie. He represented Wyoming in the 2000 National Geographic Bee. He was born in Australia, and his family raises emus. He enjoys running, sledding, and hiking. He'd like to meet Nelson Mandela.