1056-20-77 **Michelle Bowser*** (bowserml1@gcc.edu), Grove City College, Number 1780, 100 Campus Drive, Grove City, PA 16127, and **Trevor Partridge** and **Kirsten Rodgers**. *The Strong Symmetric Genus of Small D-type Generalized Symmetric Groups.* Preliminary report.

For each positive integers m and n, the generalized symmetric group $G(n, m)$ is defined to be the group generated by all $n \times n$ permutation matrices and all $n \times n$ diagonal matrices with entries in the m^{th} roots of unity. The D-type generalized symmetric group $D(n, m)$ is the normal subgroup of $G(n, m)$ generated by all $n \times n$ permutation matrices and all $n \times n$ diagonal matrices with entries in the m^{th} roots of unity that have determinant 1. The strong symmetric genus of a finite group G is the smallest genus of a closed orientable topological surface on which G acts faithfully as a group of orientation preserving symmetries. We obtain the strong symmetric genus of each group $D(n, m)$ where $n = 3, 4,$ or 5. This project was supervised by Dr. Michael A. Jackson. (Received July 22, 2009)