

Memo

TO: GAD Coach – District-level Championship and Wild Card Teams
FROM: Michelle Crawford, State Director
DATE: January 15, 2020
SUBJECT: State Competition

Congratulations! You are now eligible to participate in the state competition for Georgia Academic Decathlon. This is an event where you will continue the learning process you began last fall; and the learning will take place in an exciting state competition format.

Registering for State Competition

All the forms necessary for registering your team for the state competition of Georgia Academic Decathlon can be downloaded or submitted from the GAD website (www.pageinc.org/gad). Once on the GAD home page, select “State Competition” from the left-side navigation menu. After you have downloaded the forms, please review each carefully. Your Intent to Participate, and Preliminary Roster must be submitted by January 21 (online forms) so that preparations for the online state art and essay competitions can be completed. The remaining forms and the **deadline for registering your team for state competition is FEBRUARY 1, 2020**. It is imperative that we receive your registration materials by this date in order for us to do the preparatory work for the state competition. **You will need to make 9- 12 copies of the Student Registration and Parent Permission Form.** (One copy per team member, include forms for any alternates.) You will receive a confirmation of your team’s registration once we receive your team’s registration packet. (The Student Registration form must be returned for every student travelling with your team, even if they aren’t competing.)

IMPORTANT: USAD has instituted a National Competition registration fee of \$250 (online) or \$600 (face-to-face) to participate in National Competition. In order to assist Georgia's National representatives we require a \$75 per team State Competition registration fee. As soon as our National representatives are identified, PAGE GAD will pay each team’s National Competition Registration fee from the State Competition fees collected. This information is included on the Team Registration Form.

T-Shirts

T-Shirts can be pre-ordered at a cost of \$10 per shirt. You must place your order online by February 1. You can pay online with a credit card or indicate you’ll be paying by check. Shirts will be distributed at State Competition once payment has been received. Cash will not be accepted.

Hotel Reservations

Gwinnett Place Sonesta, 1775 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth, GA 30096, Direct Phone: (770) 923-1775

The Sonesta has included a limited breakfast buffet on Saturday morning that will begin at 6:15 a.m. This is included with your room rate. We want to encourage everyone coming in from out of town to stay at the Sonesta.

Hotel reservations with the Sonesta are not made online. Please follow all instructions on the updated forms. The deadline for making your hotel reservations and submitting a rooming list is February 3, 2020. GAD is not responsible for making your hotel reservations. **Be sure to send us a copy of your hotel rooming list when you submit the rest of your state competition paperwork.** This is the only way we can work with the Sonesta to ensure your rooms are together. Don’t Wait to make your reservations! The hotel has fewer rooms available this year and after February 3, the negotiated room rates are not guaranteed.

Note: If you will be bringing a bus, please park it in the back lot of the hotel – by the ballroom entrance. Not in the front or side lots.

State Wild Card Teams

Any teams receiving a Wild Card invitation must adhere to all deadlines.

Are You Bringing Alternates?

If you are bringing alternates who might be available to act as student volunteers, please let us know as soon as possible. Service hours can be earned.

Team Identification Number

Your team's identification number will be placed on the GAD section of the website ASAP but after Feb. 1. A very important reason for getting your team's registration information in on time is that we will need to know what systems will be participating in the state competition as well as the enrollment of each of the participating schools in order to determine team identification numbers for Division I and II assignments. **Please be sure to include your school's enrollment in the space provided on the Return Cover Sheet.** Be respectful to all participating teams by meeting the registration deadline and making sure that the line requesting the enrollment of your school is filled in.

Competition Schedule

Last year's competition schedule can be found on the GAD website. www.pageinc.org/gad. Once on the website, click on "State Competition" and scroll down. You will also note sample schedules for both Speech and Interview. These are tentative schedules and will likely change once we assign team identification numbers. **Coaches are expected to work with team members and approve speech topic selection, preparation, and delivery.** This is a part of the competition and students should prepare in advance for it. Advanced preparation and practice on delivery will enhance this part of the competition and ensure quality speeches. **The updated 2020 State Competition schedule will be posted ASAP.**

Reminder for Speech and Interview Competitions

In order to facilitate speech competition, we are requiring that each decathlete turn in a written copy of his/her speech. Coaches please collect these and turn them in at the registration table when you arrive at state competition. On site printing will not be available. Based on past experience, the hotel computers are not reliable. **PRINT THESE BEFORE YOU TRAVEL TO STATE.** All medaling speeches will be checked for originality.

Please note that decathletes prepare for Interview by putting together a one-page resume. This should NOT be mailed in with your other registration information but must be brought to the Interview by the decathlete. Each decathlete **must make three copies of his/her resume to present to the judges** at the time of the interview. Should a decathlete forget to prepare or bring his/her resume, the interview will go as scheduled but the decathlete may be at a slight disadvantage. Decathletes will NOT be able to print out resumes on site. Again, do not rely on the hotel computers. **PRINT THESE BEFORE YOU TRAVEL TO STATE.**

Please be sure to print the pages regarding dress code, student code of conduct, academic honesty and plagiarism and familiarize yourself and your team with these guidelines. The students must sign a statement indicating that they've read and will adhere to them.

State Winners and National Representatives

The PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon state competition will have a Division I (large school) and a Division II (small school) championship team. The championship team (either Division I or Division II) with the highest team score will represent Georgia at the national finals in Anchorage AK, April 30-May 2, 2020. (State division population sizes can vary from year to year and will be posted online as soon as state competition registration is complete.)

Division IV is returning for USAD Nationals 2020. Georgia will send the 2nd highest scoring team which is in a different NATIONAL division from the Georgia State Champion as our Division IV representative. Division IV schools will only be competing with other Division IV teams. They will not be competing for the overall title of National Champion. All face-to-face USAD teams will be required to stay at the official hotels at the National competition.

USAD also invites three teams to participate in online national competition. These teams are selected based on student population sizes set by USAD, a small school with population no larger than 650 (Div III), a medium school with population no larger than 1300 (Div II), and a large school with population larger than 1300 (Div I). The highest scoring teams in these population sizes (after the Champion and Division IV teams are identified) will be recognized at the GAD Awards Banquet and will represent Georgia in the USAD Online National Competition which occurs concurrently with the USAD National Competition.

Competition Odds and Ends

State Competition we will again be at Parkview High School. Additional information about parking, bus drop-off, and entrance to the building is posted online. Please familiarize yourself with the DROP-OFF area and the TEAM PARKING areas. Bus drivers should drop the team off in the bus turn-around lane (by the WELCOME banner) and then park the bus in the FARTHEST parking lot (indicated on map on State Competition page of website). No vehicles should go BEHIND the school. There isn't room for a bus to turn around behind the school. If your bus driver has any questions after seeing the maps and instructions, please ask them to call the State Director.

The Art test will be given online prior to State competition, along with the Essay Event.

The Interview event will again take place in an arena format. Instead of students going into separate rooms to conduct their interviews, they will be in one big room with all other students who are scheduled at the same time.

Testing will take place in an arena setting as well. All students will test in one room instead of separate rooms. Seating will be assigned and a diagram will be available in the competition handbook. As soon as you check-in, please distribute the handbooks to your team members. The diagrams for ALL events will be discussed during the General Assembly on Friday.

The Super Quiz will again be a standalone collaborative event and will not count toward overall team scores. There will be three rounds of 13 questions. The first round will be all Varsity students, the second round Scholastic students and the third round Honor students. There will be two questions asked from Literature, Music, Art, Science, Economics, and Social Science and one Math question. Questions will be read aloud by the emcee and shown on the screens. Questions will not be printed out. Answers will be marked by one student on the team's answer sheet. Only team awards will be given for Super Quiz; no individual medals will be given.

Art and Essay Event

The Art and Essay Event takes place online a couple of weeks prior to State competition. The mandatory practice log-in for the online essay art and event is scheduled for February 3-4. This practice log-in is mandatory so that we can make sure you can connect to the testing portal. The Art and Essay Event is scheduled for February 5 or 6. We suggest you attempt to use the first date in case you encounter any problems. More information including usernames and passwords will be sent to you via email as soon as possible. You will need to secure a proctor for the Art and Essay event. Start planning now. Additional information regarding the online Essay writing is also available on the State Competition section of the website www.pageinc.org/gad. Instructions and login information will be emailed to Coaches and District Coordinators prior to the practice.

Testing

Students will not be allowed to leave the testing arena during a block of tests without prior written notice from the coach on the Special Needs/Consideration form. Decathletes are expected to take care of personal needs during the breaks provided. The Math test will be given in the first block of tests.

Awards Banquet

This is the celebration event when students receive medals for outstanding performance in each of the 10 events and teams receive trophies for first, second, and third place standings in Super Quiz and overall in their divisions. **Please note: Complimentary banquet tickets are provided for a maximum of 9 team members and 2 coaches (11 tickets). However, teams will be charged for complimentary tickets that are requested and not used.** There must be at least one responsible adult seated at each table with students. Also, coaches please remind your teams that the awards banquet is a formal event and we expect appropriate dress and the best behavior from each student.

You may order additional banquet tickets. They must be ordered and paid for in advance. We cannot sell ANY banquet tickets at competition or at the door to the banquet. **Tickets will be required for admittance to the ballroom. No refunds will be given for unused tickets and no standing room will be provided.** We have had issues with non-ticketed guests leaning on light-switches during the banquet. We apologize for any inconvenience, but please respect all attendees and notify parents and administrators of this requirement.

ALL tickets must be ordered by February 19.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 404-414-3041, or via email at mcrawford@pageinc.org. We look forward to seeing you and your championship decathletes on February 28-29, 2020 at the PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon State Competition.