

# PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon

## STATE COMPETITION Teams Advancing to State Competition

**CONGRATULATIONS!** Your team has qualified for State Competition! After the initial excitement, you settle into the reality that now you must prepare your team for the next level of competition. Thoughts about arrangements, raising money, scheduling transportation and the idea of traveling with 9 teenagers may distract you. The following information is intended to help answer questions you may have so you and your team will get the most from this challenging and rewarding experience.

### TEAM REGISTRATION

An information packet will be available to you via our website [www.pageinc.org/gad](http://www.pageinc.org/gad). This packet will have all the information you need to plan for participating in the State Competition. (*See sample packet in this section.*) This packet will contain general information, a competition schedule, forms, area and school campus maps. **It is important to register your team, complete, and e-mail, fax or mail all forms in a timely manner.** The due date is early in February. It is important that forms are accurate and received on time (e.g., student registration, GPA worksheets, transcripts). A fee of \$75 will be charged for teams participating in State Competition. This fee is designed to cover the cost of Georgia's USAD National representatives' competition registration fees.

### HOTEL

Hotel reservation information will be included in the State Competition information packet. If parents, administrators and others plan to attend the State Competition, send them copies of maps and hotel information as soon as possible. There is a group rate for Academic Decathlon, but you are responsible for *making your own reservations by the deadline*. If you need an early check-in time, request that when you make the reservation.

When checking in, have tax-exempt forms and confirmation numbers or copies of the room reservation form available. Expect a certain amount of delay at the time of check-in, so plan for 1 coach to handle check-in and the other coach to be with the team members.

Some things for the coach(es) to think about would be to request that outside calls be made from the coaches' rooms only. Room service to students' rooms should be on a cash basis and pay television to students' rooms should be turned off, if possible. These steps should prevent any unwelcome surprises at checkout time.

PAGE will work with the hotel to see that the highest level of security is maintained while students are in the hotel.

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## **STATE COMPETITION** **Teams Advancing to State Competition** *(continued)*

### **MEALS**

Meals usually provided for team members and coaches during State Competition include dinner on Friday (deli tray), hotel breakfast on Saturday (verify serving times at hotel check-in), lunch on Saturday (pizza and salad), and snacks during the day. Additionally, tickets for the awards banquet may be reserved at no charge for up to nine team members and two coaches. You may purchase tickets for alternates, additional coaches and other guests. All tickets must be purchased/reserved in advance and no one will be admitted to the banquet without a ticket. **Nine team members and two coaches can be seated together at the same banquet table. If complimentary banquet tickets are requested and NOT used, the team will be charged for the price of the meal.** We will make every effort to seat additional team members and guests close to the team table but we cannot guarantee it.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Teams are responsible for their own transportation to and from the competition site.

### **TEAM IDENTIFICATION – TEAM MASCOT**

Some teams like to have team uniforms (t-shirts, blazers, etc.). This is up to the team members and coach(es). However, apparel selected for state competition cannot be distracting to other decathletes.

Selecting a team mascot is up to the team and coach(es). Team mascots must be safe (presenting no potential hazard to themselves or other decathletes) and should be no longer than an official football.

### **GENERAL**

At the state competition, when students are not scheduled for competitive events, their time can be used for last minute studying, practicing speeches and interview techniques, or meeting and making new friends. Students and coaches will look back on their trip to the state competition as one of the highlights of the school year.

# **PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon**

## **Code of Student Conduct**

The PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon expects all team members to conduct themselves in a proper manner while attending Academic Decathlon events. This includes travel, hotel, sightseeing time associated with Decathletes' participation in the PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon, and all of the state competition events.

Appropriate conduct of team members is the sole responsibility of the team coach who has legal responsibility as chaperone for his/her team members at all times. Students should be under the supervision of the coach during all excursions, activities, and in the hotel. All students are expected to be in their rooms by 11:00 pm on Friday night of the competition. If behavior in the hotel is disruptive, an earlier curfew may be called either by the GAD State Director or by the hotel management. It is the responsibility of the team coach to be available and to enforce such a curfew and any other regulations determined necessary by PAGE GAD officials.

Inappropriate conduct includes, but is NOT limited to:

1. being in possession of any weapon;
2. damage to or vandalism of any property;
3. appropriation of memorabilia from the hotel or competition site premises;
4. use of alcohol or illegal drugs by students, regardless of age;
5. use of water pistols, water balloons or any other projectile at the hotel or competition site; and
6. fighting, loud noise, or any other behavior which is disruptive to others at the hotel or competition site.

Financial liability for all damages incurred by actions of a team member shall be the sole responsibility of that team member and his/her parents. Failure to comply with the Code of Student Conduct may result in disqualification from the event, the entire competition and the awards ceremony.

Appropriate conduct includes academic honesty. It is the expectation that all decathletes will compete fairly and honestly. This extends to and includes all forms of plagiarism in essays, prepared speeches or any other submitted work. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to

- Direct quotation without use of quotation marks and appropriate citation
- Using any published or unpublished source without appropriate citation
- Paraphrasing materials or ideas without identifying the source.

Any findings of academic dishonesty may result in disqualification of individual decathletes or possibly an entire team.

The decision of the PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon State Director is final.

# PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon

## Dress Code

Appropriate attire for **Speech and Interview**, and the **Awards Banquet** is described below. Distracting apparel of any kind is considered inappropriate for all competition events.

The following are suggested and acceptable student dress standards:

Boys: sport coat, shirt and slacks; sweater, shirt and slacks or jeans without torn or ragged edges. Shoes must be worn.

Girls: Dress or skirt and blouse; blouse and slacks, or dressy jeans without torn or ragged edges. Shoes must be worn.

For all competition events, team uniforms for both boys and girls are optional. Excessively tight, baggy or revealing clothing is inappropriate. Pajama pants are inappropriate.

Distracting apparel, **including hats** of any kind and sunglasses, are considered inappropriate. (Any student who wears head apparel or sunglasses for religious reasons or other approved reasons will be exempt from this rule. However, the coach must list the student on the Request for Special Needs/Consideration form by the published deadline.) If violations of the dress code are observed by the test proctor or PAGE GAD officials, the student will be given the opportunity to comply with dress standards prior to the event. Once a student has been allowed to compete in an event, he or she may NOT be disqualified based on dress standard violations but permitted to comply with the dress standards.

Failure to comply with dress standards may result in disqualification from the event, the entire competition and the awards ceremony. The decision of the PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon State Director is final.

# **PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon**

## **STATE COMPETITION**

### **General Rules**

#### **IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS**

All test materials pertaining to an individual contestant must contain his/her identification number for scoring purposes. (*See the page "Identification Numbers" to see how ID's are assigned.*)

#### **LEAVING THE TEST AREA**

If a contestant must leave the testing area for any reason, he/she must secure permission from the proctor, and the time lost may NOT be made up. The student may not reenter the testing area until time for the next test to be given.

#### **SUPER QUIZ**

This event is held before an audience; therefore, spectators are requested to remain quiet during the questioning in each round in order to give each contestant an equal opportunity to respond. **NO** books or notes are permitted in the contestants' area or on the competition floor. Seating is assigned for all teams. Coaches will sit at the back of their team's assigned area.

#### **TARDINESS**

Contestants are responsible for being in the proper test location at the proper time. If a contestant is tardy, he/she will NOT be allowed to make up the time lost. Contestants are not permitted to leave the competition site during the competition event.

#### **TEST MATERIALS**

Test proctors will supply all materials necessary for taking the various written tests with the exception of calculators. Decathletes are permitted to use calculators for the math test only; however, calculators must meet the specifications of the USAD Calculator Policy. No other study materials, equipment, or personal items are permitted in the testing rooms.

#### **TEST SCORES**

Complete score reports will be emailed to the team coach following the completion of the Awards Banquet.

#### **STARTING/STOPPING**

Students who fail to start or stop when instructed to do so will receive a score of zero for that particular test.

#### **CHEATING**

It is the expectation that all decathletes will compete fairly and honestly. If a proctor finds a contestant involved in any unauthorized communication or using any type of crib, the proctor must report the incident to the competition manager.

Academic honesty extends to and includes all forms of plagiarism in essays, prepared speeches or any other submitted work. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to

- Direct quotation without use of quotation marks and appropriate citation
- Using any published or unpublished source without appropriate citation
- Paraphrasing materials or ideas without identifying the source.

Any findings of academic dishonesty may result in disqualification of individual decathletes or possibly an entire team. The decision of the PAGE GAD State Director will be final.

#### **APPEALS**

Only coaches may register an appeal. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the state director by 4:00 pm on the final day of the competition. Appeals will be reviewed by: competition event coordinator, state director, and PAGE director assigned to Academic Decathlon.

## **PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon**

### **STATE COMPETITION – IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS**

Following receipt of team registration for state competition, each team is assigned a team number (01-50) that becomes a part of each decathlete's identification number on his/her name badge. Each member of the decathlon team is also assigned a number (01-09). The three Honors team members are assigned the numbers 01, 02 and 03. The three Scholastic team members are assigned the numbers 04, 05 and 06. The three Varsity team members are assigned 07, 08 and 09. The complete identification number for each decathlete has two parts; the team number followed by the student number for that team.

For example: Richmond County may be assigned a team number of #18. John Doe, who is a Scholastic team member may be assigned #05 for his team. John Doe's identification number is #1805.

This unique identification number is used throughout the competition on all test answer forms, for Super Quiz Relay scoring, and for Speech, Interview and Essay judging forms.

On the sample Interview schedule on page 43 and the sample Speech schedule on page 59, judging teams are identified in the column on the right (Team IA or SA, IB or SB, IC or SC, etc.). The letter I refers to an Interview judging team while the letter S refers to a Speech judging team. The judging team rooms are also color coordinated to match the decathlete's assigned colors. Signs will be posted outside of the competition rooms with the judging team letter and color.

The numbers inside the grid are the assigned student identification numbers for each decathlete. These samples show the time each decathlon team is scheduled to participate in the Speech and Interview events. (Teams should be prepared to report to the appropriate holding area at least 15 minutes prior to the times listed on the schedule.) You can see that decathlete #05 on team #11 (Identification #1105) is scheduled to participate in Interview at 8:05 pm and Speech at 6:55 pm.

At the state competition, the rooms where Speech and tables where Interview take place will be identified by the judging team letter (A, B, C, etc.) and a color. Student volunteers will escort decathletes from the North and South Speech holding areas correct competition rooms. Decathletes will be lined up for Interview so that they can easily find their assigned table.

Decathletes should know their ID number, assigned competition room/table and color so that they can double check that they are competing in the correct location. All of this information will be printed on the competition name badges. All assigned competition rooms/locations/tables will be printed in the competition handbook.